

# AUSTIN HUMMELL

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## HERE'S THE THING

It's no fun to talk to angry people  
cause you never get to talk. Sock puppets  
are not people but better listeners for sure  
than dentists. If someone stuffs a sock  
in your mouth it usually means  
they're mad at you. Sometimes means  
your hands are tied to a chair  
and the guy looking down at you  
has more to talk about. Like a dentist.  
It's his vacation. His problem with insomnia.  
His brand new precision-milled putter. If only  
he could putt he wouldn't grit his teeth  
when he talks. Wouldn't pretend  
that this was his smiling face.

Better him than me  
is not a nice thing to think, I know.  
But every thirty seconds there is somebody  
somewhere with his feet nailed to the floor, thinking  
I want my mullet back, thinking  
for me to cheat it would have to be somebody else's idea.  
I know I shouldn't have eaten the taco.  
Of course it's hard to scream when there's something stuffed  
in your mouth. Here's the thing. Not much scares me.  
Not much can scare a bat either.  
Well, thunder maybe.