

2004

## Iowa City, 1962

Tad Richards

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*Iowa City, 1962*

Donald Justice playing  
softball, dark shades  
cloaking his courtliness  
like a bandit's mask on an

owl, but he'll not be  
courtly for long  
anyway: a call goes  
against him, and his cheeks flame,

his arm goes up in a  
pumping protest  
against the vagaries  
of wind, spin, fingertips' torque—

the only subtleties  
to elude him?  
I so wanted to be  
like him then, perhaps even

up to and including  
that innocence,  
that wild softball passion,  
that one hapless assurance.

—*Tad Richards*