

“One of Those Things”

He bought the gun out of a friend's trunk
for his wife while he was on the road.

She kept it in a paper bag
in her underwear drawer.

He gave a stag party
for a mechanic at the garage.

Late, everybody drunk, playing cards.
He lost a few, needed to touch his roll.

Couldn't find it. Who'd been there?
One guy left early. Nobody really knew him.

He took the gun, drove to the house
where the guy denied everything, got shot anyway.

In the morning he picked up
his wife and kids at her mother's.

She handed him the money—
hope you didn't need it.

They arrested him at work.
Eight years in jail.

He's just an ordinary guy. A guy
who'll help you move, fix your TV.

He grew up in the neighborhood, no trouble
to anyone. Played first base on my team.