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## In the Bed, Bath, and Beyond Basement---

Jared Harel

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## Harel: In the Bed, Bath, and Beyond Basement---

IN THE BED BATH & BEYOND BASEMENT—

Jared Harel

We spent the morning unloading nose trimmers,  
corkboards, cap-racks and duvets.  
We sliced through boxes, ripping them  
open like the bellies of livestock;

laying them flat, their entrails removed.  
When the new shipment came, we wheeled it  
past the lights, to the Bed & Bath basement  
where our radio plays K-Rock,

*Highway to Hell*, and the swell of sawdust  
endures our brooms.  
Our supervisor, Leo, is soft-tagging toasters.  
Once a banker on Wall Street, now he spends

his lunch breaks at KB-Toys, searching  
for a model of the Porsche he used to own.  
Beside him is Keith who is pounding espresso-kits  
with his plastic price-gun, and who

I am fairly certain hates me.  
Across the table, unpacking packs of a  
Black & Decker cutlery-set, I hate him back, though  
it's nothing personal, just the way things go

when you don't go far;  
the shift-clock stagnant yet somehow running out.