

Et tu Faberge Brut

Stench of the 70s
Brut 33
splash it on all over

Henry Cooper
Barry Sheen
Harvey Smith and me

My auntie Jeanette
gave me a travel-size bottle
for my 16th birthday

3/8 of an ounce of aftershave lotion
though I had nothing to shave
and wasn't travelling anywhere

Aside from school
where the wearing of scent was punishable
by a brutal beating

But I kept it
and I found it
and now I splash it on all over

a small section on the back of my hand

Which takes me back
in a sniffsbeat
to 1971

where I look in the mirror
to see a bumfluff child
staring back

in his bent shirt-collar and his gravy-stained tie
and the glimmer behind the iris
of the early signs of terror