

HARRY THE HAT WALKS IN UNINVITED

My pockets are dripping from grill grease
wiped away by napkins adorned w/ lipstick
smudges the color of villains who don't care
come the third act if their religious critics have
realized they're queer coded / that lime green
color of a cactus so prickly it will nick you if
you look too closely at it's pretty pink flower
petals / maybe that's why I'm drawn to niceties
in the first place / bc I want to touch the
beauty life has to offer & keep it / I have a
sweet tooth I'm not sorry about / I'm only
human / I was the kid who needed to be
warned about strangers in vans handing out
candy bc I was curious / always have been /
somewhere along the way I grew into the con
man standing before you / the magnets up my
sleeves have stolen hundreds if not thousands
from so many rubes I forgot to keep
counting / so if that is what kept me off the
guest list please know that I do regret most of
it / my parents did as much as they could
despite my protests / I could have done better
by my mother / she deserved at least that.