**The Pretend Life**

Michelle Brooks

If I lived in the Oak Shadows

Trailer Park, I’d want my trailer

to be the color of a 7Up bottle, I’d

want to be beautiful and young. I’d

want to be loved by someone who

couldn’t live without me. I’d be

tragic, a little dead around the eyes.

I’d live in the space before everything

begins. I’d be no one you know,

a shadow on the concrete, a flash

of color you might see as you drove

by me on your way to somewhere else.