

*Grant Clauser*  
Suburban Grimoire

Your father passed it to you  
just as his father passed it to him.  
How to tie a necktie straight,  
the proper use of levels  
and ways to bleed a radiator quiet—  
always the right tool for the job,  
wards against winter, insulation  
and the invocations that weather  
demands, like chopping wood  
to release the dryads, mowing  
the lawn as defense against  
the dark stares of demons.  
Equilibrium for the magus  
comes in balancing the checkbook.  
Conjuring takes practice,  
chalk circles, pentagrams,  
the right recipe for chili  
and seven layers of hell nachos  
for Monday night football.  
Some rites are forgotten,  
others best left untouched,  
but the 9-to-5 incantations,  
the daily rituals of boredom  
command respect, deference  
to the damned that went before,  
the keepers of secrets,  
grand masters of tax breaks,  
hidden art of car negotiations,  
charms to keep the furnace running  
are precious to hold, like a chalice,  
a five pointed garden rake, the claws  
of a spell-bound devil  
we call a heart that eventually  
eats its own way out.