On the Moment of Realization: For Pete

Our history is often brought up in news feed
on scrolling screens that are rarely blank,
but today the social networks are telling me
that my friend is dead. I know that death is not
an unusual thing. The announcement often comes
in moments of the mundane—
in the middle of the day when everything is simple
and normal and still. It comes when, without
realization, you subtly start to move your hips
to the All '80s Countdown. It comes when you're under
a fleece blanket in your favorite underwear while
contemplating masturbating. It comes when your boss
tells you that your cash register drawer is short $3.75
and you're finally about to tell them to shut the hell up.
Even so, the shock in that instant enters the body
in a steady rush, the way an unexpected
cold storms through a suddenly open door
filling the room with the type of chill that numbs
the lungs. Your only option is to breathe deep
hold it in
and hope that you have the capacity for it all.

It isn't just the stain I can
the bottoms of my shoes every ti
though that's one of the reasons I
Carolina clay. You should have ju
richer and darker, and doesn't sta
ground is a little more forgiving to
where your roots started and where
I can still remember one of
had a weekend pass after graduating
to Fort Bragg to become a great
still pumping from jumping out of
be behind the wheel. You were dr
County Road 38, and I was
We were just kids back then, and
Who knew four years down the ro
c was a lot we didn't know would h
All I knew on that day w
you on when we got to that hill in
Church. My heart rate skyrocketed
sixty, seventy, eighty, eighty-five,
narrow back road slope. My knu<
doorknob, and I was positive we
I think we all were, but we made
adventure; like it was in your blo
impossible to ignore. Just like th
that isn't the only reason I hate t
It's hot; too hot, too oft
a drop below freezing more than two
cockroaches the size of small chi
bit colder a little more often those
so tempting, and you would have
seasons would have made you rea