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Love Bug Love

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Joanne DeTore

Love Bug Love

Take the love bug.
Its only reason for living
is to mate
and die.

It's really so simple.
Any love bug male is
just as good as another
to every female,
and vice-versa.

Once they find a partner,
they get right to it,
stay locked in
to each other
for days.
No wham-bam,
thank you ma'am.

Humans go around searching for partners,
sometimes in groups,
preferring one or another,
for reasons unknown
even to them.

They jump off
and onto their next target,
pretending to be as simple as
our native love bug.

The love bug is not defenseless.
Corrosive acid fills their little bodies,
strong enough to eat the paint off cars,
their only enemy in the wild.
In the human version,
cars are the young male species' friend,
the backseat ready and willing,
can sometimes help the mating process along.
The adult males and females, though, can be toxic,
some hearts spray a corrosive substance,
as soon as they disengage,
when you least expect it.

Yet human or bug, the swarm comes,
optimistically believing that
they'll find their ideal mate
or die trying.

The bug tries for a maximum of 4 days,
the human for much longer.
Each can spend a lifetime
in vain pursuit