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Independence Day

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INDEPENDENCE DAY

Today, I celebrate
an anniversary of Independence.
I've now lived nearly half of my life
in a house inhabited
only by men.
No women.
We don't need them anymore.
We don't remember them anymore.
A house where a father, his two sons, and their birds
live out the lives of ordinary citizens
without the aid of a woman.
We no longer smell the sickeningly sweet
scent of Chanel #5
There are not lace curtains surrounding the windows
of our house.
But, I do not want you to labor
over the misconception
that we're dirty, dirt-covered slobs.
My father's cleanliness is more
complete than any woman I've ever met.
He has learned,
although it was painful at the time,
how to cook and feed his children
with substantial nutrition.
He is not only our father.
but our mother as well,
and today, we celebrate our independence.

Todd A. Merrifield