My Strongest Man

Robert A. Zordani, Eastern Illinois University
My Strongest Man

Kenny cannot read the warning on the floor jack, does not know what truck might one day crush his legs or upper body.

But Kenny is my strongest man, able easily to spin off even the tightest rust-laden lug from the dirtiest rim in town as if he himself is king of every tire buster here.

Kenny says it is some chore to be stupid but that even a man with smarts like his has lapses, like last week when he didn't tighten the lugs on the rear wheels of my best customer's new Caddy.

And Kenny says he'll never forget how he remembered his mistake as the car eased into traffic, the things that man said when he walked back.

Still shaken, Kenny stares hard into the spin balancer, as if any small weight he is pounding onto that rim will balance out his life, make him roll true.