An autobiographical sequence of poems captures the richness and the pain, the rebellion and the tragedy of growing up in the South, chronicling the lives of two brothers living in a military family.

My Personal Review:
I picked up Andrew Hudgins' "Glass Hammer" some years ago in a used book store, and since then, it's been one book of poetry I've returned to again and again and again. So much colorful memoir neatly packed into a scant 100 pages of gritty, downscale family history. To some extent, it reminds me of Joe Brainard's skeletal, "I Remember," but with a satisfying amount meat and potatoes on its bones. Though I wasn't raised in the South, Hudgin's childhood experiences are reminiscent of my own in a non-specific, indirect way. In addition to being a wonderful, compelling, return-to read on its own terms, I see it also as a valuable resource for those who want to write memoir. I heartily recommend this rich but spare book.

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