

## Leaving the Motel by W.D. Snodgrass (1968)

Outside, the last kids holler  
Near the pool: they'll stay the night.  
Pick up the towels; fold your collar  
Out of sight.

Check: is the second bed  
Unrumped, as agreed?  
Landlords have to think ahead  
In case of need,

Too. Keep things straight: don't take  
The matches, the wrong keyrings--  
We've nowhere we could keep a keepsake--  
Ashtrays, combs, things

That sooner or later others  
Would accidentally find.  
Check: take nothing of one another's  
And leave behind

Your license number only,  
Which they won't care to trace;  
We've paid. Still, should such things get lonely,  
Leave in their vase

An aspirin to preserve  
Our lilacs, the wayside flowers  
We've gathered and must leave to serve  
A few more hours;