“One of Those Things”

He bought the gun out of a friend's trunk for his wife while he was on the road.

She kept it in a paper bag in her underwear drawer.

He gave a stag party for a mechanic at the garage.

Late, everybody drunk, playing cards. He lost a few, needed to touch his roll.

 Couldn't find it. Who'd been there? One guy left early. Nobody really knew him.

He took the gun, drove to the house where the guy denied everything, got shot anyway.

In the morning he picked up his wife and kids at her mother's.

She handed him the money—hope you didn't need it.

They arrested him at work. Eight years in jail.

He's just an ordinary guy. A guy who'll help you move, fix your TV.

He grew up in the neighborhood, no trouble to anyone. Played first base on my team.

© 1993 Jim Daniels from M-80