

SMALL GREEN PILLS

MARK QUIGLEY

She picks them up
from the pharmacy every
couple of months-
one bottle with about 100
small green pills.

She takes them so
she won't hear voices
or transmissions from the
thoughts of strangers who
walk down the broken
sidewalk in front of
her apartment.

When she doesn't feel
right she says:
"It's like there's a
telephone in my heart
that always rings and
hangs up."

Rings and hangs up.

She smiles while she
says this, then suddenly
becomes ashamed, guilty.

She cries. She is afraid.

The promise in small green pills.