

# **The Lace Remains**

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Sunday, January 1, 2023

## Off Path Diner

the diner hold a mixed crop  
seed caps and ball caps  
denim is common / sheepskin  
above shoulders / work boots  
and the women old or fat  
everything so ordinary  
you wonder what ordinary is  
ketchup / tabasco / the name  
Don't Go This Way

Monday, January 2, 2023

## Rude Warm Place

behind our house  
in my secret clearing  
a tiny pond no bigger  
than a kid's rubber  
lawn pool / its water  
just the water table  
of the swampy area about  
under a thick pine  
near a long boulder  
I built a teepee  
it looked ridiculous  
in it I buried a tin  
with secret stuff  
nothing worth writing about  
but still secret

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

## Eva

gorgeous woman traveling alone  
with her dog down long dirt tracks  
with her camera and drone and 4-wheel  
carrying everything for all outcomes  
she has been everywhere / her looks  
likely invite problems / the lone  
woman alone everywhere

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

## Roadisms

the small task of the walk  
down the road to where my place  
ends / it's a narrow road  
not lyrically paved / the shoulders  
are oiled sand pounded to powder  
almost / there are anthill spots  
on each side a ditch because drainage  
is poor / when you drive by fast  
none of this is noticed / it takes  
special eyes and a kind of torpor  
to see everything / everywhere

Thursday, January 5, 2023

## Merrimac Walks

the rocks / the timothy  
the long lost urges  
I would walk the land  
and even now I walk  
the corridors when bored  
or too worked / the cold  
and damp are on top of me  
the stone walls are still  
high and filled like tacos

Friday, January 6, 2023

## Helen Said

beyond the windows at the Lab  
when I worked all night  
to have more of the machine  
some nights the wind or rain  
or both blew and rattled  
I remember thinking I was not  
much and even though I tried  
to alter that I didn't  
now no longer aspiring to  
bon vivant it's more like  
bon voyage



Saturday, January 7, 2023

## Route 39

strange amount of bad affairs  
and road remarks over  
and over all the same repeating  
I wonder how to write a scene  
that makes you cry without  
sentiment / can thought be  
far behind / I made my mind up  
long ago to skip the niceties  
and still I keep it up  
memories fade and desire

Sunday, January 8, 2023

## Scipio UT

we liked a town in Utah  
though everything about it  
was unpleasant / how to explain  
the houses were just enough  
and the trees worked well too  
I suppose it was real in the sense  
we were searching for / after  
that we decided we didn't like  
each other

Monday, January 9, 2023

## **Alison & Vera**

but that night all this was unknown  
sadly so / Vera did not come back  
not her / not her body / still  
in the crevasse / still roped  
to Alison in her red jacket

months later when we knew / I recall  
walking just before twilight up  
the short slope toward Felt Lake  
and watching / for a while / the fog return

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

## John McCarthy

we chatted a little more  
he grew tired / got properly  
into bed / last time I saw him  
he signed the book at the top  
of page 13 above the definitions  
of eval and apply saying  
I used to understand all this  
I'm sure you can

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

## Writerness

great writers say things  
plainly / little or no  
decoration / but they say  
a lot / and surprising things  
too / it takes a lot of nerve  
to drop the clutter put all  
around to hide your privates

Thursday, January 12, 2023

## Pathways

roads along the river  
same ways / same directions  
trees slumped over roads  
the leaves / we leave  
the ocean is deciding which  
way to go / the bridges  
nearby are thinking of falling  
down / people live here  
they spend the heat and cold  
together / I visit where I  
used to live / driving by slowly

Friday, January 13, 2023

## Her

the restaurant is airy and quiet  
the lights are perfect / she takes  
off her wrap as she sits and her eyes  
go to him and her thoughts to her  
polished skin and lightly made face  
she is wrapped in a fantasy of love  
and a womanly future / while I on  
the other side of the room wrap  
my head in how many days are left  
and what of the cosmos / her  
thoughts seem small at first  
but then on second thought  
mine are

Saturday, January 14, 2023

## After Talking

after our cold sit  
by the river in my rental  
we ate at Rainbow Café  
where the in-room kitchen  
fogged the windows and the place  
was loud with remarks yet  
we sat quietly at a corner table  
eating heavy meat meals  
and sometimes speaking some more



Sunday, January 15, 2023

## **Puffin2**

everything is not working  
at Jan's / my old admin  
and Chris had set it all up  
as a mystery / she can hardly  
talk to me except in riddles  
and private nouns like "Puffin2"  
as if I can understand / but  
150 terrible miles separate us

Monday, January 16, 2023

## **I Want To Be With You**

snow drifts down empty  
covers what ground has laid  
in the room where we have always mingled  
the yellow feeling of dimmed lights  
gathers the way flowers sparkle  
beneath oaks / we pour small drinks  
hot and sip them and sometimes  
we mumble like memes from the past  
later we know we'll tempt the snow  
to record our passing or perhaps more  
will fill in the gaps we've already made

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

## Ely

we never had a simple dinner  
on the backroads / everything  
was too unsubtle maybe brazen  
she was not share-y and I hung back  
once when there was ice outside  
the door I held her hand to keep  
her upright / the only simplicity

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

## Darkening

out the window just after twilight  
as a night of rain gets ready  
the oaks are black rivulets  
the sky is purpling clouds  
the lights / what there are of them  
are spotting yellow and orange  
it's a view that pushes me to think  
where have all the loves gone wrong

Thursday, January 19, 2023

## **Three Lines For A Former Lady**

she walked far ahead  
I stopped to consider  
falling back even more

Friday, January 20, 2023

## Merrimac

Skip's is gone and I'll miss it  
ok burgers / ok fries / but  
good bathroom location and shady  
picnic tables / owners I'll miss  
almost no reason to visit  
just the river and farm / always  
there and a plot of land

Saturday, January 21, 2023

## Islands

I visited what could be  
a favorite place with a woman  
who came to dislike me and she's  
now away / the spiritual tie  
for me between her and there  
puts a smudge on my love  
for the place / I likely cannot  
therefore ever go there again  
and there's no time anyway  
why did she?

Sunday, January 22, 2023

## Spiral

I sit by some moving water  
watch for minutes or hours  
bubbles spiral upward  
eddies make slight sounds  
I choose this over chats  
I choose to write over speaking  
water / moving water



Monday, January 23, 2023

## Storm

a good storm scrubbing branches  
then coating them / streets needing  
sand and plows but packed down instead  
people walking shoulders hunched and eyes  
down tending to slip / the river swallowing  
it all and dumping to sea / my cast iron  
stove showing red

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

## Maples

our swampland filled with maples  
some of girth / my father taps  
them with homemade taps made  
from copper and hooks buckets  
on them in the Spring / with only  
ten buckets he renders it down  
on our potbelly stove in the basement  
and after days we have a pint  
only twice did he tap the trees  
two years in a row / it seemed  
to him a good idea / was it?

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

## Rhododendron

she planted a rhododendron  
when we moved here / small one  
but so far north it grew just  
barely each year and I made a vow  
to stay here with her even when  
hell has loosed / and leave only  
the day when its trunk becomes long  
enough / thick enough for a walking  
stick / & from it made / then I'll walk  
away looking only forward

Thursday, January 26, 2023

## Walking Stick

wintering indoors I lean  
against a bounty of pillows  
while fire frets / hope to see  
my winterlost friend / a poet  
comes toward my stoned up hut  
leaning heavily on his walking  
stick made too far ago from wood  
of a withered tree / as we both

Friday, January 27, 2023

## **Jerky Clouds**

(this minute a cloud)  
I stop my boat's headway  
(next minute a cloud)  
up river by the shore  
the clouds reveal breaks  
in my moon gazing parable

Saturday, January 28, 2023

## So She Left?

stone laird's house  
roof off and floors caved  
all white from winter showers  
snowy mornings / tracks leading  
up to it / no / tracks leading  
away from it to the unplowed road  
leading to the quay where a now  
storm tossed ship makes slow  
headway to a place far

Sunday, January 29, 2023

## Light of Ground

moonlight whitefloors the ground  
I need to go but outside the cold  
is so bright I need to go out outhouse-like  
except to stand by a stunted tree and lap up  
the distance / the presence / the absence  
one of many stillnesses

Monday, January 30, 2023

## Robotic Love

everything around her  
the clouds lifting the distance  
the sea like feathers on a crow  
the timothy wrestling with wind  
the blossoms filled with poachers  
the stone hut built with past passion  
her bed an empty womb just waiting  
the robe loosely placed on her shoulders  
and me standing over there



Tuesday, January 31, 2023

## Or Lavendar

dawn and a purple lingers  
near the horizon seen from  
a straw-thatched hut where  
an old man lives alone  
always has

Wednesday, February 1, 2023

## Cold Story

the floor of my hut at night  
the moon in the shape of a square  
when I tell about that very night  
my lips / my tongue / my mouth  
grow cold with the passage of words

Thursday, February 2, 2023

## Returning Or Going

returning home I paid  
a last visit to one  
I might have married  
approaching I smelled  
herbs in a garden behind  
a fence / and on her grave-  
mound a violet / a single  
flower / growing in the center  
of a sprig of dewed sunlight

Friday, February 3, 2023

## Felled

the sawn end of a freshly  
felled tree gazes like encircled  
eyes to the sea beyond the hill  
or perhaps is looked upon as moon  
flinging light on ground clover  
or the face of a lover who stormed  
clover of a moonlit night  
on her way to the sea beyond  
the hill to a place of many trees

Saturday, February 4, 2023

## Strewn

seeing on my way from her  
a hundred years of leaves  
fallen on the lawn  
taking on the color  
of an old woman of wonder

Sunday, February 5, 2023

## **Moon Lost**

unlock the door  
so we might watch the moon's  
passing / though rising  
was easy now clouds bar  
the way / tea time

Monday, February 6, 2023

## River of Forget

the river of forgotten things  
starts with forgettable  
I drag for poems in that river  
someday when poems stop  
I join the throng in that river

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

## Leaving

out walking I found  
a fresh leaf just fallen  
from a brush with wind  
taking it home I plan  
to use it to wipe  
your last tears  
from your eyes



Wednesday, February 8, 2023

## Seeing Off

the backs and shoulders  
of those seen-off / loneliness  
in the foreground / the being  
seen-off grind hope into their chests  
what I see / what the seen-off see  
are two ways for the autumn wind to chime

Thursday, February 9, 2023

## Remembrance

between two maples rocks  
sharpened by breakage  
a being smoothed by a withering  
wind from ocean's doors  
meanwhile I've prayed for a bed  
and I now I rest with my head  
toward the beach and my feet  
by the rocks and trees

Friday, February 10, 2023

## Scorn

walking away bitterly  
after scorn and a wave  
she took to the train  
leading across bare land  
to the ferry that made her  
sick / it was that bad

Saturday, February 11, 2023

## Southwest

funny how things break  
as if someone were rolling dice  
can't explain / and why  
would someone I knew for years  
turn out to hate me after nothing

Sunday, February 12, 2023

## **Asleep On My Horse**

clouds and rain / mist  
the passed storm embraced  
hundred year old oaks  
dregs of my dreams mixed  
with smoke from charcoal fires

Monday, February 13, 2023

## Supposed

in the wrack and ruin  
of a frost crusted shack  
my fear was dream on repeat  
is there some reality nearby  
a hawk cries

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

## Why

a painting on the wall  
made during a lull in a storm  
the pine trees fluffed  
but holding steady  
as the rain streams pull  
dirt down the hill  
to a waiting river  
what a painting

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

## **Snow Rapt**

we come to look at the snow  
some of us fall down  
some were already there  
the snow fell two nights ago  
we heard a crow in the trees  
it came to look at us



Thursday, February 16, 2023

## Fulling

she surprised me one day  
putting her new skirt  
on a smooth large stone  
then beating it with a soft  
wood mallet to make it soft  
to make it shine

Friday, February 17, 2023

## The Nights

the dog his head on  
a grassy pillow in  
light rain getting wet  
me in my heavy blanket bed  
withering as fast as the wind  
can make me

Saturday, February 18, 2023

## Chill Wind

the spiked hill  
split one cloud  
from the other  
and drifted them  
apart / that wind  
unravelling her hair  
wrapping it around  
her slender untouched  
neck

Sunday, February 19, 2023

## Cliffside

sometimes when she's not here  
I sleep in the middle of the bed  
the salt spray rushing by is not mild  
and she has reasons to be away  
when a special chill drops by  
I scrunch under the too-small blankets  
and quilts which sometimes it seems  
smells of her absence

Monday, February 20, 2023

## Fade

plates and bowls on our table  
as ordinary as she is or I am  
and the sun is about to be nowhere  
with the fog and wave spray foaming up  
in the unavailable light in our croft  
the plate and bowl fall pale  
in our eyes and in our limits

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

## Breeze

breeze down the river  
small insects wafting away  
on the banks I remember  
where I once sat and how clear  
my voice once sounded  
how soft the breeze once was  
how the face alone is like the bend  
downriver / trust it

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

## What If Everything Was Like THis?

I tried to count the scenes  
I kept forgetting the number of  
clouds misting by  
mist clouding over  
mottles of sun on leaves  
turning in a disturbed light  
too many scenes to count

Thursday, February 23, 2023

## Changing View

when she dashed off the ferry  
I nearly surveyed her uppity gait  
later on High Street I gazed into  
her eyes while walking past  
the past / is it still there  
finally after we married  
I could see her and some past



Friday, February 24, 2023

## After Dancing

we danced while it grew chill  
and snowed / after when she had left  
me to walk alone to my place  
I was grateful to finally smell  
the snow-scented night air

Saturday, February 25, 2023

## Waif

alone in the autumn wind  
with birches bending  
my eyes I find the path  
that takes me to memories  
I unbury them from the years  
I am a waif in the autumn wind

Sunday, February 26, 2023

## Flurries

rain on the roof  
sound of lives slow  
and in the way  
heavy taps like stones  
or hail and then  
I find the blankets  
she left when she left  
now my hands finally warm

Monday, February 27, 2023

## **Running Out Time**

the journey's nights  
came on slowly then  
picked up the pace  
as my hope and time  
started to run out

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

## Colors

a warm bed covered  
we've turned our backs  
wept for the sake of sincerity  
with darkness comes opportunity  
we hired someone to photograph  
this then let the photos yellow

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

## To Live

what can be noticed  
fascination works but hard  
soothing / try soothing  
I tried it once and  
it fell on me

Thursday, March 2, 2023

## Three By My Cup

three friends gone now  
I'm waiting in the pub  
for drinks to arrive  
one for me and one  
for each of them  
they drink slowly now  
don't say much / my job  
is to carry the conversation  
or are they pretending to listen

Friday, March 3, 2023

## Missing Moon

something seems to be missing  
not the moon / not a birch  
whose bark looks moonlike  
might be someone I know  
who was to be here but  
isn't / maybe it's the primrose  
feeling when you stumble  
into harmony



Saturday, March 4, 2023

## Brush

she was scrubbing potatoes  
sitting on a low stool  
her skirt between her legs  
her old brush digging out  
dirt from dimples in the skin  
years ago she'd brush her fine  
hair with that brush / no  
skirt on at all / change

Sunday, March 5, 2023

## Leaves Letters

her letters once a week  
coming in colored sheets  
like leaves in autumn  
she'd scratch her news  
I'd rake leaves all day  
at the end of each she'd write  
please burn this dear  
once you've read it enough

Monday, March 6, 2023

## **Irritation**

waiting in the pine woods  
at the edge where birches  
start the frozen drizzle  
irritated the leaves still left  
and even on the hardskinned snow  
nearby the tinkling scratched  
a surface

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

## Another Bridge

on her side she kept  
her dislike away  
on my side I kept  
a hope not wanted alive  
the only thing unhidden  
that green bridge

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

## **Lithe**

as slender as a sliver  
she dropped her skirt  
onto the lightest dew  
any grass has ever covered  
under

Thursday, March 9, 2023

## Stornoway

the island visited didn't  
respond / we dithered  
and averaged / along  
came an idea to check  
with the dead so we headed  
seaward which was everywhere  
there we saw why / instead  
of smooth were rough stones  
direct from seacoast almost  
shards filling a stoned in  
garden / waves and spray  
on us and on the dead  
laughing their hearts split

Friday, March 10, 2023

## Thin Ice Indeed

the snow didn't care  
coming down it blended  
with sleet / over our heads  
it piled on roofs  
the branches could not stand it  
because nothing cared  
I was able to skate  
down the road / ice and snow  
the heart of a lady

Saturday, March 11, 2023

## Shorts

the way to you was on the bus  
in the rain I'd miss it some times  
when snow came you would call  
say stay home / the seats were hard  
the road not smooth / when I got  
to you your hair was down  
I know you can cry



Sunday, March 12, 2023

## **Parked Wish**

who is it this evening  
the place of food and books  
I know everything works  
but no one wants everything  
I was in contempt of your wording  
so I pressed the gas pedal  
parked by a place of worship  
who will it be this evening

Monday, March 13, 2023

## Sublime

rain that won't stop  
terror that makes us love  
I spent a year where it never  
stopped raining / at the same time  
my terror of love forced me to love  
the first thing that came along

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

## Beeping

the beeping all night  
like the telltale heart  
of equipment dying from no power  
come to think of it  
people tell me I beep all night  
all day too

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

## Turned

we make what we can  
though the source is creepy  
or melancholy / give up  
on hard ladies no matter  
how they ask / don't let them  
suck it all out of you

---

Thursday, March 16, 2023

## What's Wrong

I made my way through thickets  
of diminishment and found a way  
to not be ridiculous / now they  
pile up / in my mind global variables  
swim my devotions and the thought of locals  
means passing along what can never  
be said aloud

Friday, March 17, 2023

## QWAN

time when I could sit by the river  
doze and listen to the river pass  
or birds / warm air through rolled  
down windows / then a drive and a meal  
at good places to eat / linking new  
memories to old / smell of cut grass  
a place like a home / now gone  
from the world and from me  
is it a perfect design

Saturday, March 18, 2023

## **Wicker of Knowledge**

I am under her narrow wicker  
of shade waiting for a burst  
to bust in / she likes to displace  
any who question and supplies  
plenty of her own like priming  
a pump in a deep well to extract  
everything and put it under  
her hat

Sunday, March 19, 2023

## Night Arrival

flying low coming into the city  
nighttime / blue light windows  
orange streetlights / runway  
across town / who will I meet  
when tomorrow night arrives  
after meals and meetings  
in a place walkable distance  
from my hotel room and a book  
before me / will it be she



Monday, March 20, 2023

## Falling

the day fell quickly to night  
outside to the north an aurora  
tomorrow I will drive to other  
places / spend time with words  
one day I'll regret the black  
woods and pine hollows / for  
now they are memories falling  
quickly to night

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

## Here

the night of fog  
the fog of night  
I confound them  
while hoping you're  
walking from your  
door to mine but  
instead the fog  
turns to clear day  
and the night turns  
back

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

## God Light

the lamplighter with his wick pole  
lights lamps down Merrimack  
just as twilight peaks / with his pen  
he notes the remarkable and in the paper  
tomorrow he'll report / goings on  
people out and about / new meals to be  
had / the lamplighter thinks he's god

Thursday, March 23, 2023

## Snow

snow outside and we fuck  
multicolor facts of existence  
think extremes / I can't tell  
and neither can she / husband  
and wife but not to each other  
common as birds / common as lice  
she lies on her side watching  
me worry / soon it starts again  
and then later again some more  
snow

Friday, March 24, 2023

## Taken Roads

the road there is the road here  
reasonable enough / I don't like  
being a mechanism for another's trips  
nothing I remember about the road there  
includes that user / on the road here  
that user revealed her plan which was  
her not me

Saturday, March 25, 2023

## **Sadness**

when I delve into my past  
I'm not impressed  
I wonder what was wrong with me  
makes her remarks make sense

Sunday, March 26, 2023

## Coops

my grandfather had chicken coops  
three or four of them big enough  
each for a hundred chickens  
eggs / that was the crop  
in late summer he'd scythe the timothy  
for winter cow feed all the while  
my mother would gather the eggs  
sandpaper off the shit  
sell them to Sam or to stores  
in Haverhill / I know this only  
by seeing the coops and guessing  
good stories / goodbye Ma

Monday, March 27, 2023

## Side Man

my sideman gone I can't  
play! it! / his counter  
made every better / by  
the time I run out every  
one will have been faded  
I thought a train could take  
us back but only women paused  
to watch me go and never wonder  
about the where of it



Tuesday, March 28, 2023

## Parking

I parked across the street  
from her house and waited  
for her mother to come home  
I waited hours but signs of life  
were sparse / when it got dark  
I started the car and drove  
one mile no headlights / you  
might wonder what this was about  
yes you might

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

## **A Line**

attacked she decided to retreat  
blame doesn't figure  
starting hospice we figure  
time will run out  
to think the most engagement  
comes when engagement is ending  
I am reminded of the fluid  
nature of effect and cause

Thursday, March 30, 2023

## Hospiced Out

she wants to say goodbye  
her friends nearby have decided  
to protect her / goodbye  
takes time / too little time  
is repaid by regret  
for me regret is placed in a sieve  
open to all but the largest stones  
regret can't last long  
for some close to me it's  
a hermetic canister  
everyone knows

Friday, March 31, 2023

## Rhythm

they cook heavy and smoke  
can fill the room / once a bank  
with smoke heavy steam condensing  
meanwhile I read a book while I wait  
for something to eat that rests  
as heavy as the smoke and I turn  
the pages against a tide of talk  
and something sweet for later

Saturday, April 1, 2023

## Subtle Parade

the lingering hopes  
of departing autumn  
aiming directly for hoarfrost  
and delight are the hopes  
of the old fleeing the fleet  
youth of warm winds / the best  
writing is writing of twilight  
far from fog and mist our small  
home reeks of age but still  
beside the firebox our hopes  
continue / to linger

Sunday, April 2, 2023

## Hunters Gather

sweltering in June after a heavy rain  
a neighbor woman and I traipse under pines  
looking for wine caps and lobsters  
the occasional chanterelle and hen of the woods  
perhaps having erupted from rain and hanging out  
with princess pines / the neighbor woman  
old but viable wears her baggy hat  
and a hefty bag / no relation to the product  
and when she bends her hair's a-falling  
about her cheeks and the foraging  
stops for just that minute

Monday, April 3, 2023

## Drainage

the farm's scents blew in  
no matter where I sat  
you cannot forget them  
from beasts who depend on us  
and made ripe by how we directed  
waste / we never thought of it as waste  
just as we never thought they felt  
one second of self-pity as long  
as they lived up to the instant  
of death

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

## Short Shiva

above the room of very early mourners  
the clarity of the moon cuts shapes  
from shadows / the mourned sits quiet  
listens to stories and torn up farewells  
better to remember me as I am now  
not how I will be she has told us  
her diligent planner laid it out  
two hours from 1 to 3



Wednesday, April 5, 2023

## Insights Stun

when a woman steps out of the surf  
naked and up the beach toward dunes  
are we gazing on beauty / admiring  
and hoping or are we ruining the meaning  
of femininity and the feminine / are  
we attacking a gender / or / is it  
art or is it assault

Thursday, April 6, 2023

## South

our dinner over I suspected  
she was going to stand  
out the window I could see  
the clouds parting / geese  
forming for south / she stood  
without looking she opened  
the door / away she went

Friday, April 7, 2023

## Bar & Girl

after a difficult meal  
Rack's in Ely / two big pork chops  
for me / salad medley for her  
on the walls many racks of fallen beasts  
an orange building in a saddened row  
it was the last time we spoke / on the way  
out I held her hand while she stepped  
on ice before my car and what she said  
was sweet

Saturday, April 8, 2023

## Licking Around

outside the door a signpost  
maybe the moon or its shadow  
or a relic found in a ghost town  
moved here / a Brian Foote joke  
we stop though she and I stop to look  
inside a place to eat or sleep  
a fire or refrigerator / depends  
what can it mean the orange paint  
or a God impostor leaning against adobe  
his foot flat on the wall / she walks  
from here to Trader Joe's / comes back  
with flavored seltzer / then in we go  
do we come out

Sunday, April 9, 2023

## Lush And Not Lush

what we couldn't remember  
she imagined / what the place  
before us did was issue a request  
the sage and undergrowth were generous  
but never told us what generous means  
the adobe walls half crumbled received us  
a sensibility / a spirituality beyond church  
a nexus we swarmed within / fascination  
as mine for her / coherence as my grid  
of inferences / a hominess such as a bit  
of wood holding up stone or a bit of word  
holding up a beautiful action

Monday, April 10, 2023

## Hopi

what we saw was flat  
a rhyme that slid by  
in Hopi we sat for hours  
a place above a canyon  
drinking coffee / chowing  
on pastries / several men came  
to chat / the only woman but her  
left / a sunny day / a warm day

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

## Second Hands

the stores where she shopped  
second hand Santa Fe / drop offs  
from standardized women / she  
fanned through them pulling out  
the possibles / my job to judge  
color & style / she'd try some on  
she bought some / everything too  
a variety of adjectives she  
rejected / soon me too

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

## Help From A Song

even though we were together  
days on end and near each other  
all night warmth stayed strangely  
away until cruel bursts the last days  
what did I do / I played a sad song  
over and over and over her voice  
because she couldn't know what was doing  
or what



Thursday, April 13, 2023

## Shimmer

early fall but the grass gone brown  
catches the sun / just above the blades  
a shim or a shimmering distorting the distance  
when my head's down there / nearby a brown  
river makes its way past and maybe to a sea

Friday, April 14, 2023

## Autumn Hymn

sheepskin coverlet on our bed  
a gentle way to lay about  
the sun decides which motes  
to highlight / behind us the kettle  
calls / even cats made of papier-mâché  
know when autumn arrives / they notice  
the coverlet / the forgotten sheep

Saturday, April 15, 2023

## Stillness & Violence

the speed of fast reading  
is slower than digital movies  
while we sit still on our side  
of the screen the world beyond  
speeds with velocity on the other

Sunday, April 16, 2023

## **Bard: Loud Blues Guitar Music**

The guitar screams,  
The amp wails,  
The music pounds,  
My soul sails.

The blues are real,  
The blues are raw,  
The blues are pain,  
The blues are love.

The blues are life,  
The blues are death,  
The blues are everything,  
The blues are nothing.

The blues are me,  
The blues are you,  
The blues are all of us,  
The blues are all of you.

The blues are loud,  
The blues are proud,  
The blues are here to stay,  
The blues will never die.

Monday, April 17, 2023

## Bedclothes

on top of us the bedclothes  
heavy because the snow has come  
when it grows light I'll pack  
the stove and warmth will flow  
we will have climbed out from under  
those coverings one at a time

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

## JQ

she made everything I've done  
silly and crude / now my job  
is disappear

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

## Mudsnails

in a mushy creek just barely moving  
a young man bends to harvest mudsnails  
the wind above makes no difference to this work  
the vivid odors of new buds don't penetrate  
the scene / all is quiet except a mystery  
one for me only / is it a woman instead

Thursday, April 20, 2023

## **Snow / Boston**

snow coming down on a Boston street  
7:30pm / some of it turning to rain  
near the steam warmed street  
men and women walking with umbrellas  
away from me standing by a corner  
steam rising / snow falling  
everything around me has sadness  
in it / I am alone / I will remain  
so for years to come



Friday, April 21, 2023

## Slate

think about this  
my father acquired four slabs  
of 6'x8' slate polished on both sides  
more than an inch thick  
he took them to the edge of the woods  
leaned them against a thick tree  
here is what I never asked him  
where did he get them  
why did he get them  
what will he do with them  
he never said anything about them  
he never did anything with them  
I never saw him look at them  
slate / very heavy

Saturday, April 22, 2023

## Secret Night

secret things happen in the night  
loneliness is one of them  
one person walks away from another  
under streetlights in light rain  
decisions made in darkness lead to darkness  
no matter the lights being on  
winter makes it worse

Sunday, April 23, 2023

## **Bard Revised**

blues control the volume of a cold world  
this guitar pounds every singer's voice  
like thunder and a knife / the music is close  
my eyes close / force trouble over power  
far away and down the blues outside is calling  
you never thought it possible

Monday, April 24, 2023

## Surprising Help

the umbrella hooked on her elbow  
walking toward the harbor with speed  
the winter rain she expected still  
on the other side of the island  
over the tops of hill it will be snow  
then rain here again / it's the thought  
process of a swarm / hers the thought  
process of flight / the rain is her prison

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

## The Equation

I wonder who found her  
after shimmering her way  
through a double strange  
sun light dabs bouncing  
off harbor waves early  
not long after the rise  
it wasn't me because I  
was the one her tail end  
pointed to and the speed  
of her walk was proportional  
to the inverse square  
of our distance apart

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

## Deep April

she took 26 short words  
piled them on the table  
to prove my love I sorted  
them into the best poem  
I could / in the end  
she scoffed and opened  
the door / a wind blew  
everything on the table away

Thursday, April 27, 2023

## Heroes

a hundred women watching  
two men bury me alone in a field  
flew into a cadence reflecting  
disquiet when the pastor refused  
to speak the eulogy he wrote  
on the rainy night he heard  
of my death / or was it escape

Friday, April 28, 2023

## Ice Shit

sewage and debris mixed  
with ice in a river hot  
to move to sea and instead  
of pure flow the river's rocks  
permitted only boils of brown  
and the sickening sound of ice  
breaking on the piers of a desperate  
bridge waiting for summer  
and its relenting putrid smells



Saturday, April 29, 2023

## Boston Night

early evening in the city  
lights in offices being turned off  
stoves and ovens heating in time  
for meals to lay upon / to enter  
ahead of every man and every woman  
a stretch of waking dark then sleeping  
darkness / from, above if one could see  
there would be blue lights / yellow light  
if luck had its way the streets would be wet  
ready to reflect / let's reflect  
before we grow too fearful of our own selves

Sunday, April 30, 2023

## Glarg

cleverness is good medicine  
something I don't much like to take  
but wading through the thickets of  
however these are merely examples of arithmetic  
operations that may correspond with manipulations of and/or  
operations applied to the problem domain and claimed subject  
matter may include other such arithmetic operations  
makes me feel sleepish

Monday, May 1, 2023

## Rock Bed

the river bed is a field of rocks  
the water is not deep  
when it's warm afternoons I sit  
by it / doze to the sound of water  
and birds / the air has a little salt  
and cut grass / I sometimes read  
hard to read poetry / I find it  
hard to leave sometimes once dark  
everything keeps hold of me

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

## Tears

yesterday alive / today dead  
she wasn't special in any way  
that meant something to me  
but she was alive and that's enough

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

## **Rest & Life**

every day for her very life  
she always had a rest of her life  
ahead like the way forward  
a rest to have / look for  
what she lost yesterday  
was the rest of her life  
another overload

Thursday, May 4, 2023

## At Night

the world happens at night  
the scrawny fox eats the dog food  
left out and forgotten by dog  
and man alike in their separate manners  
mice and owls using ways to understand  
the night arena clash / over the tops  
of the roofs of a city those who can see  
see the lights on in buildings and homes  
apartments and flats / nearby might  
be water skimming aside those lights  
the world might happen again tonight  
to you

Friday, May 5, 2023

## Snow Flat

focus on the snow flattened  
under tires / focus on the snow  
tinted yellow in a foreign night  
bedrooms surround this strip  
of snow and more will come tonight  
when you look back on this think love  
because the melancholy of flattened snow  
is the music of love

Saturday, May 6, 2023

## Cross Wise

Jeff's idea / nuts / drive across country  
to drop in on a girl who dumped him  
but his two friends / and I'm one of them  
went with him / from Boston to Columbus  
one leg to fix up his car / then one day  
to Goodland Kansas / one day to St George Utah  
one day to LA / she turned him away  
nonstop drive to SF then Salt Lake then  
Green River Wyoming when his car broke  
a bus to Salt Lake / panhandling at the airport  
a flight to Denver to Chicago to Columbus  
John's parents wired us money to get to Boston  
my parents picked me up / drove me home  
to Merrimac / LA to Merrimac without sleeping  
nuts / nuts / nuts / were we heroes



Sunday, May 7, 2023

## They All

big waves / beautiful bodies  
on surfboards / the first time  
I saw California girls / the Beach  
Boys taught / I believed in more  
back home the skies were wanderers  
how they looked seemed important

Monday, May 8, 2023

## Yesterdays

yesterday happened and shall  
we mark the event / I forgot  
to do something sweet or really  
anything at all and so except for  
these dull poems there be no reason  
to remember the except for a big X  
on a calendar somewhere

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

## Legs

the poet lies in his bed  
stricken during a long journey  
a journey of dreams and wandering  
dreams / along the way he dwelt  
for time by stubble fields  
and withered stalks and still  
he spoke in music / his last will  
was to speak a poem  
perhaps this

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

## Cold Mountain

the old man sits at the edge  
of a green cliff wondering  
about the instant that was his life  
above him kites and seabirds  
scan the sea edge for signs  
of boats on their way in to grab  
him up / perhaps he will survive  
then his task will be witness  
and the books of poems he'll write  
will be written in the language of birds  
written on the wings of kites

Thursday, May 11, 2023

## Steps

in the woods alone  
I walk stepping from stone to stone  
grabbing grape vines I sometimes eat  
the leaves sometimes the grapes  
when they are blue I am green  
you might have thought with envy  
but I mean youth

Friday, May 12, 2023

## Wave Watch

beside the sea where I watch  
the water's whims display in foam  
and frustration / waves from afar  
I mean force from afar pushes  
water up the sides of cliffs  
sometimes rocks thrown up  
I watch the water but soon I'll watch  
her cook and serve and what might be thought  
of as love is a wave from afar  
I mean a force

Saturday, May 13, 2023

## The Master

the way a master paints  
strokes never seen  
paints made from all things  
colors unimagined but yet  
not all colors can be made  
the stuff of light is not  
the light of stuff / painters'  
strokes can only imply  
the mind helps

Sunday, May 14, 2023

## Shetland Sonnet

a man walked with a woman  
along shores made of cliffs  
and hills without trees  
high up north / they ate  
together every meal  
the man believed in love  
but the woman only about thought  
one night she laid her head  
on his shoulder / nothing  
about the surrounding moment changed  
outside the wind kept up its rain  
below the waves kept up its foaming  
inside his head he grappled hope  
outside her heart remained her heart



Monday, May 15, 2023

## Merrimac Sonnet

the woman he writes of  
is no one / nowhere  
she is helium / he Strindberg  
many would guess the nothing  
that's part of no one and nowhere  
is what could happen / did happen  
for two days / they toured a hometown  
places of rest / she hated them  
they sat one afternoon by the cold  
riverside he loved / she let him  
warm his hands on her / she let them  
eat in the warm wet of a café  
but after that nothing triumphed  
now that void is the whole of him

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

**Left**

he boxed her in one time  
his hope to throw her into him  
her heavy coat kept things cool  
down the stone alley they went  
to the Market Cross then the Pier  
they sat on a slat bench and waited  
for the ferry to return / on foot  
they boarded and he boxed her in again  
this time by the rear rail where the town  
disappeared from / maybe it was fog  
once there nothing could happen  
because the island's too vast  
for feet / she made it clear  
the ferry back was the only thing

Wednesday, May 17, 2023

## Mine

once a year I make my way  
to the potter's end of the cemetery  
to tell the ones in plywood boxes  
goodbye / because everyone who  
comes here with one to welcome  
them needs to have someone to be  
there with them to see them off  
this way God knows He didn't  
make a mistake when He cut the reins  
between His hands and heart to the strings  
of everything so His interventions  
were over / yet the machine He made  
still works / still holds each life  
in a pair of opposing hands

Thursday, May 18, 2023

## Her

the two of them sat looking  
at the place of his childhood  
a place of belonging and imagining  
where barn swallows and robins  
cast their nests / where rabbits  
and skunks made their stands  
a place with buildings hundreds  
of years old / where his mother  
lost her faith and his parents  
lost their wills / everything  
about it he loved / he told her  
this over and over and over  
for that she looked hard / looked  
hard and even so said it was all nothing

Friday, May 19, 2023

## In Woods

in the woods of sweet maples  
sweeping pines / diminishing swamps  
small roads once only paths lead  
it seems to blocking stone walls  
or places where fragile bedsteads  
and hollowed auto chassis lay atop  
bottles and bottlecaps / and though  
the swamps ooze mosquitos and midges  
grapple armhair every boy nearby pretends  
to hunt or discover and sometimes dream  
sex / once I found a stone in the stonewall  
that banged metallic and boasted pockmarks  
and the distance of its travel mimicked  
the depth of blunted hope the life ahead beseemed

Saturday, May 20, 2023

## Likes The Cold

in a small city / think of Boston  
after the workday when cars are retreating  
home or beginning their evening stalks  
when some lights in office buildings are still on  
people in winter coats necks wrapped in scarves  
are advancing on sidewalks a man might be approaching  
the beautiful door of a newfound woman and each leans  
forward hoping for night's play / when this happens  
anyone watching focuses on the steps leading up to that door  
on the man walking up the middle of them / the weight  
of the knock and how long until a light comes on  
then what she is wearing and how she helps him out  
of his coat and scarf maybe a wool cap or désinvolte béret  
a small peck an enfolding hug / or a sudden depth

Sunday, May 21, 2023

## Older

waterfront of many places  
the city / Newburyport  
sea water or river water  
views from boats on homes  
office buildings / cars  
hoping they make it home  
my walk along the waterfront  
accomplishes nothing though  
the wet cold wind or rain blasts  
bend ears toward me / when I  
was young the idea of the older  
woman rang like ropes banging  
on hulls / their skin might still  
smooth under a stretch and who knows

Monday, May 22, 2023

## Street

I have never made the first move  
really not for anything  
feelings foremost on the list  
of nevers / when I can't sneak  
the idea in the idea never happens  
saying no is impossible too  
even when yes breaks it all  
to be sneaky like this and  
hateful like this is what poets  
call fate or is it feat  
just add one r and it covers after  
streets are filled with the yearning  
I feel their eyes on me when it's sunny  
feel them look then look away



Tuesday, May 23, 2023

## Cellar Dump

the cellar open to the sky  
is dumpfilled to its brim  
with rustcans and bedsteads  
oilcans and funnels  
scraps of cars and a sidedelivery  
a hayrake and a wagon tongue  
someone lived above in a house  
gone for good / a cellar  
banked up all around

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

## **Boston Nana's Place**

sitting down to Thanksgiving  
an ample table in an inadequate room  
heat from an oil burner / oddities  
include Brazil nuts / a sauerkraut-based  
cabbage dish / big overcooked a little  
turkey / being a child my job was to be  
forgotten and overlooked / I recall exactly  
zero words of conversation / kielbasi  
as they called it along with mashed  
potatoes / I never brought books  
the TV got only a few stations  
I sometimes napped on a tall narrow  
bed / I was good at being forgotten  
overlooked

Thursday, May 25, 2023

## Lush & Hard

I spend my summers  
in a lush valley centered  
on a demon river not far  
from the ocean / in those summers  
the grass and ocean smells  
the moist winds drilling the valley  
help me swim in memory  
I spend my winters  
in the hard north never lower  
than 60° in a stone croft  
when sunlight is rare / the sources  
of water are limited but not  
the water

Friday, May 26, 2023

## Mother

Haverhill National Bank in the sixties  
my first passbook with maybe \$1000 in it  
entries written in ink / my mother trying  
to teach me how to be an adult one day  
she never believed in it  
she was right but for her reasons  
mine were that I never wanted to be an adult  
fear of it crisscrossed my mind  
I preferred being dazed and playful  
even while never a smile

Saturday, May 27, 2023

## Objecting

women come to wash  
comb their hair and lay  
around shallow waters  
they never see each other  
as men do so they look to arms  
and eyes nothing else  
what's worse / being an object  
not being an object  
that was in a movie

Sunday, May 28, 2023

## Chiles Con Cheese

at Chopé's / families farmers and bikers  
chat about the jukebox playing 80s rock  
thumping reggaeton / chile con queso is deceptive  
-ly monochromatic / white bowl melted white cheddar  
warm foil-wrapped flour tortillas / tear off  
bits of tortilla / plunge them through the thick cheese  
layer to unleash roasted chiles simmered in tangy  
spicy liquor / Joe E. Parker green chiles  
grown and roasted in Las Cruces and Hatch  
two buildings in a gravel lot on Highway 28  
I love my job

Monday, May 29, 2023

## Pyle

a man squatted  
reached down  
took the dead hand  
sat five minutes  
looking into the dead face  
put the hand down  
straightened the points  
of the man's shirt collar  
rearranged the tattered edges  
around the wound  
got up  
walked away down the road  
in the moonlight  
all alone

the rest of us went back into the cowshed  
leaving the five dead lying in a line  
end to end  
in the shadow of the low stone wall  
we lay down on the straw in the cowshed  
pretty soon we were all asleep

Tuesday, May 30, 2023

## Madder

many ways to see place  
some like her talk always  
about such / she asks  
and asks / same questions  
in different pants  
the same pants  
I asked her to drive once  
slow / wavy / adjusting  
often / too her way  
of making me drive  
all the time



Wednesday, May 31, 2023

## Christ In Desert

mudsoaked water coming down  
a wide river in a wide valley  
yellow cottonwoods across there  
hit by a late sun / she walked  
fast ahead of me seeking a place  
that could speak to her / I mean  
actual speech / what I might say  
like the mud heading down  
to a deep unknown not near  
those yellow cottonwoods

Thursday, June 1, 2023

## Into It, Love

snow fell hushed on the ground  
on the great metal / copper? / roofs  
fell through the leaves / strummed  
lightly / each one / each leaf brushed  
the snow / he could / well  
he imagined he could / hear each flake  
hit the ground / his ears rang

no cars in Paris tonight  
not very cold  
just around freezing  
he came to the low wall with the rounded top  
the wall high on the other side  
it dropped to the rabid Seine  
the river struck him as bad / familiar  
he pictured it with little maelstroms  
to pull you when you fall

Friday, June 2, 2023

## **Zoom**

it could be something else  
it could be the place  
you always are  
nothing unpredictable  
nothing marvelous  
just cats

Saturday, June 3, 2023

## Walk

she walks away  
that's all it ever is  
when I was young I fell  
for all the ads about  
what love meant to a woman  
I made plans assuming those lies  
my life then was less full  
of meaning and all I could  
ever achieve was disappointment  
but I was good at it

Sunday, June 4, 2023

## 1007

kitchen closet size  
living room just a couch and TV  
back room a table to eat at  
a closet  
a bedroom just bigger than a bed  
when it rained the bedroom flooded  
a porch that meant nothing  
a bush in front the only grace  
big yard  
big garden  
a crap-o storage box I built out back  
but what a lousy job  
set back from the street  
South Cottage Grove  
sounds pretty / right?

Monday, June 5, 2023

## May

May is a lot to eat with someone  
and I'm pretty selective  
just about double the amount  
but it didn't sound like too much  
in April I followed the limit  
of 20 trillion  
this month we chose a picture of a meal  
that reminds us of that day's episode  
instead of a delicious meal

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

## **Fountain Source**

while writing before dawn  
I fill my empty pen  
from an inkwell full  
of the dark blue ink  
squeezed from luxurious words

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

## Walls

the stonewalls of my youth  
robust and packed / outer  
walls with inner filling  
granite and some meteorites  
ringing true / now those walls  
mined for stones / depleted to near  
rubble / would their makers rejoice  
or tear up for the tear down



Thursday, June 8, 2023

## Shetland Love

the finely blowing wind  
coming off the voe and shaking  
the strips of silage wrap  
torn onto wire fences reminds  
the music to turn low and sad  
after walking to water's edge  
the rarely shining sun  
pinging off spent old waves  
reminds the writers standing  
by to open up their grayest dictionaries

Friday, June 9, 2023

## Light Lack

in the darkening light  
soon after sunset by a calming  
ocean there are no colors  
only tones which signal change  
or the hope that comes after change  
we can only imagine the songs  
that go with this because  
anything more substantial  
would require certainty

Saturday, June 10, 2023

## Leave

at a ridiculous hour  
the sun is high  
the ferry has looped  
dock to dock a dozen  
times since it rose  
she got up earlier  
than anyone and sits  
on a bench by one of  
those docks holding  
a cardboard cup  
of tea and chewing  
down a scone / later  
she'll leave

Sunday, June 11, 2023

## How To Understand

each night we walked roads  
leading from ourcroft  
toward the sea / toward  
a ness / along tracks  
worn by sheep at constant  
levels and sometimes up  
to try hard as could be  
to understand first  
the poems she wrote  
then the ones I wrote

Monday, June 12, 2023

## Conspiracy

clouds mist and wind  
rush in to create  
scene after scene  
the place just sits  
letting it happen  
to its surface  
even though the place  
shifts only a little  
our lives differ  
one minute to another  
sunset then changes  
all the aforementioned changes

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

## Afar

the woman brilliant  
and almost beautiful  
wanted to meet  
spend time / at least  
she said she thought  
it would be fun  
I feared her and felt  
small for that  
her colleagues feared her too  
I recall walking behind her  
as she worked toward the conference  
room and thinking is there  
a way to arrange to kiss her

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

## Mud Strip

the mud in the field  
across the street is looking  
to suck down my shoes  
sometimes cranberries grow  
in the narrow path of a swamp  
-supplying stream / it is  
our biggest field

Thursday, June 15, 2023

## Again Universe

again  
I find myself walking  
just behind a woman who  
once muttered love  
and as I write these words  
each is a particle in the word  
universe of everything that will  
have been written everywhere in the  
universe



Friday, June 16, 2023

## **Snow**

snow is a weakness  
covering the fallen  
with the purity of sinlessness  
people track bootprints  
across it and children  
build monuments  
with luck we slide on past  
this is our strength

Saturday, June 17, 2023

## Moon Rules

moon above the harbor  
there and shining  
but something is missing  
perhaps the window  
of in v out  
or the door that spells goodbye  
the road with whooshing tires  
and falling footsteps  
whatever it is the scarf  
still hangs on its hook  
and my bookmark moves just  
some each day

Sunday, June 18, 2023

## Bad Day

bad day for the computer  
I might have messed up  
a drive / keyboard flaked  
out / at least I hope that's  
what happened / need a new  
computer / money

Monday, June 19, 2023

## Illinois Times

I parked by a field a baler  
was working in kicking  
up dust and making sharp  
loops / I had two burgers  
and a Dr Pepper and a book  
by Cormac McCarthy to read  
I was on a side road off  
a side road that led to a road  
that onramped to 74 more or less  
I think it was going to rain soon

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

## Spring Falls

the harbor's a smear  
behind fog the last day  
of spring above 60°  
I feel cold and wet  
my brain attuned to figuring  
things worse than they are  
the view is how I view  
my life unfolding or refolding  
my mother was right to think  
I'd be nothing

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

## **Pine For Bed**

sleeping under pines  
before mosquito time  
needle bed / jacket pillow  
why expect this one  
to woo women and make history  
lack of faith expressed  
by mother sometimes father  
were ways to temper ambition  
now I sleep randomly when idle  
wooing and history lay  
behind me

Thursday, June 22, 2023

## Shopping

she chose things to try  
on / I thumbed them  
up or down / then  
she'd go in back / try  
each on / then I'd thumb  
them up or down / she'd  
buy some / take them  
to her house to wash  
I never saw them  
or her  
again

Friday, June 23, 2023

## Newspapers, Wadded

make a house and your dumb kid  
is inspired / believes that father  
does all / later when it's torn  
down that dumb kid sees the insulation  
is fiberglass cloth and wadded up  
newspapers / he might then believe  
he didn't understand building  
or he might believe faith though  
not many letters off has not much  
to do with father



Saturday, June 24, 2023

## Speaking

when we sit by headstones  
for hours we deposit ourselves  
a little in those graves  
do they know we're here  
cut grass reminds us of the knife  
between above and below  
beyond one chain link fence  
the wind whispered / the wheat  
bent in the light heads fading  
toward the Pacific / another place  
the crosses were wood / the names  
lonely and far from their homes  
were they here for the silence  
and desert rocks and river

Sunday, June 25, 2023

## Lost In It

beauty fading fairy tale  
what pleasure abound we want  
I crave the life I could have had  
but feared asking for  
making things clear more  
important than making things  
happen

Monday, June 26, 2023

## Rooster Side

she was friends with him  
we all did many things  
when she lost touch with me  
in her head  
she turned toward him in our bed  
he kissed her tenderly  
as he entered  
I was there and saw it all  
like beauty / like a sewer

Tuesday, June 27, 2023

## For Good

there is nothing to remember  
the trip of hopes and long  
drives but she was cocooned  
in her projects and wants  
and I was only her driver  
luggage lugger / non rabbit  
when it was about to end  
she ended it

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

## **Cheated**

small bumps throw me off  
so much I have trouble  
believing I can survive  
growing older

Thursday, June 29, 2023

## Stress

I made progress on the bank problem  
if it turns out for the worst  
I will declare intellectual bankruptcy  
and focus on saving money by not spending  
so no new computer / forever  
and a lawsuit

Friday, June 30, 2023

## **Before It's Too Late**

a valiant country  
strangling itself  
to make it easy for  
people to hate and act  
on that hate / what a way  
to make it easy to want  
to die

Saturday, July 1, 2023

## JGQ?

her selfness consumes her  
she rankles to beat the band  
if she had a goozle I'd snag it  
what she reads / her road trips  
not for me / her name on it  
or not / tell me that



Sunday, July 2, 2023

## Wonder

the tear that falls  
falls to the floor  
my mind filters  
the heart / at least some  
so say / the floor either  
granite or sandstone  
this determines the sign  
of result / repelled  
or captured / she stays  
she's gone

Monday, July 3, 2023

## Slow

falling behind  
clouds behind black branches  
parents squabbling while  
the fan pushes out the hot  
draws in the cool  
sun setting while songs  
play on the radio  
sand over tar the way  
of roads around here  
stone walls still sharp  
later robbed of selves  
fell behind / kept it up

Tuesday, July 4, 2023

## **Fashioned**

I made my way to far ends  
but it took years to know  
that the sudden fame I caught  
was a fluke or a mistake  
that nothing about me will  
survive once I don't any more

Wednesday, July 5, 2023

## Living Uneasy

summers passed slowly then  
a day of mowing / a bike  
ride across the river  
heat and ocean damp  
the garden tended  
no other work to do  
I tried to wedge in  
but not enough reps  
to keep from overthinking  
not enough live action  
just guesses and dreams

Thursday, July 6, 2023

## Outskirts

in the small town  
there are outskirts  
extraforgotten people  
one road passes through there  
the other towns are in another  
state / few neighbors  
the dreams there are nonvisual  
what grows there feeds the town  
but mud slows the way  
what keeps them going is very  
sad and oddly compelling

Friday, July 7, 2023

## Queen House

wood beams on the open porch  
under a sheltering roof  
board and batten dormers  
tin roof as they say  
downplayed color palette  
trappings of modernism  
on top of farmhouse nostalgia  
a form of drag / the form  
of a house these days

Saturday, July 8, 2023

## English to English

hours spent translating  
or is it revising  
the flopped over english  
a well meaning writer  
her written / strengthen  
enliven / wring more  
out of less / take the murky  
mush and guess the thought  
behind it / translate  
assimilate

Sunday, July 9, 2023

## Moon

nurse or purse  
she explained are  
the only reasons old men  
chase old women and  
we wonder whether  
fact or hate is behind  
it / we are old men  
she is an old woman  
what is she saying



Monday, July 10, 2023

## Aquarium

it boils down to fatigue  
unexpected movements  
attack unprepared parts  
dehydration factors  
twinge in a nerve  
but it was fun / the sea

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

## Some Thought

details are random glimpses  
so we might as well fabricate them  
using blocks of light and dynamite  
then a smear to unite the items  
to make them seem apart of something  
a thing of sentience

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

## Walking

a stunning woman sometimes  
passes / when it happens  
one thing might happen  
as a response / fear

Thursday, July 13, 2023

## Red

he dies in a field  
perhaps his own choosing  
a built-in repetition  
a gladiator's ending  
hat back on his head  
all the mysteries  
left in place

Friday, July 14, 2023

## Wrong

blown off  
computer payment woes  
again / requests to speak  
I don't want to honor  
a humid walk dripping  
in sweat / I want  
something to go right

Saturday, July 15, 2023

## Ending

alone at the kitchen table  
a woman not young holds  
a chipped cup of cooling tea  
as if it were the book  
of ways to embrace the inevitable

Sunday, July 16, 2023

## Unending

A woman not young, alone at the kitchen table,  
Holds a chipped cup of cooling tea,  
As if it were the book  
Of ways to embrace the inevitable.  
The cup is cracked, the tea is cold,  
But she holds them both with care,  
As if they were the last things left  
Of a life that has passed her by.  
She sips the tea, and her eyes grow dim,  
As she remembers all the things she's lost:  
The love of her life, the laughter of her children,  
The dreams she once held dear.  
But even as she grieves, she knows  
That she must find a way to go on.  
So she takes a deep breath, and sets the cup down,  
And opens the book of ways to embrace the inevitable.

Monday, July 17, 2023

## Oiled Sand

writing poetry about a home place  
can be done but rarely  
a poem is the other / other place  
what presents as shy flowers  
bending to whispering western winds back east  
are weeds in the oiled sand shoulders  
in the next town over



Tuesday, July 18, 2023

## Tomb

the tomb across the way  
looks to be 150 years old  
holding a family big enough  
to fill the section my parents  
are in / surrounded by rhododendrons  
it's a good place to pee when the day  
is too long / important people they were  
now they are nothing or well on their way

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

## **A Box**

one thing for certain  
left alone all things  
grow back / wear down  
the process is called  
never stops / it will  
claim us one day / it  
will reclaim us again

Thursday, July 20, 2023

## Right Hand Problem

Chekov mentioned how hard it was  
to trim the nails on his right hand  
I noticed that and with a super  
sharp nail clipper it's dangerous  
too / maybe a good file can work  
later on when I'm older and the hands  
refuse to work well if at all

Friday, July 21, 2023

## Dreaming

i built my little hut  
under a grove of tall pines  
covering it with cut to the fresh  
boughs still needle laden  
it won't last a storm  
the next one / and after  
inside I'll soak but instead  
of regret I am cleansed

Saturday, July 22, 2023

## **In Order**

achievement and accomplishment  
getting somewhere / finishing  
done / ending / I've done  
lots of one and not so many  
of the other / perhaps something  
about self-respect is in order

Sunday, July 23, 2023

## How To Write

the reason to write is impulse  
the perserverence comes rarely  
surrounded by waiting / what I  
imagined as a boy was the flowing  
fame would light my steps / instead  
flow lagged and never lingered  
the gales became small puffs  
the long sentences just stutters

Monday, July 24, 2023

## Boulder

looking for the huge rock  
mosquitos all on me  
a good memory of where  
but the finding's not working  
ten or fifteen feet tall  
a big split down one side  
I'd climb it all different ways  
on our land in the woods  
next to Sam's / who else  
has been there

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

## Old Woman

her hold fades  
I find it hard  
to locate other topics  
what does that say  
her disdain was a great  
source of beauty



Wednesday, July 26, 2023

## Lead Player

we walked back to the car  
after two sets with Harry Perino  
who could clone a lead with just  
one listen / the height of a cover  
band / Sandy Lou wouldn't stand  
for my picks and chose to walk  
on the other side of Brother Jim  
Big Jim / I packed them up by firefly  
lights and we skipped the frappes  
we sang gospel songs on the sultry  
ride to Hampton Beach where they lived  
and I didn't / I stopped at Christy's  
for two slices of beach pizza but  
never saw the rhymes God gave me

Thursday, July 27, 2023

## Tall Ships

a full day to get InkWell  
to compile clean / tomorrow  
I'll try running the complex  
code / turning off auto-everything  
taking forever / no wonder  
no one can think these days  
but it seems I might be able to make  
this new computer work

Friday, July 28, 2023

## Invitation

the inviting place is rarely near  
we drive for days / fly for hours  
if we sail months are not strange  
a woman I know has speculated  
that an inviting place needs no  
people but a shrink-type friend  
rejects that / we could drink  
and talk it out / but no inviting  
place has invited the three of us

Saturday, July 29, 2023

## Teeth

friends my age are sinking fast  
hard to watch / hear them talk  
about grandkids / nice people  
simple deeds / tending gardens  
little spark / no spark  
did they have any earlier  
maybe they never learned to bite

Sunday, July 30, 2023

## Never A Kiss

crickets and small frogs  
racketing all night  
fireflies on the rise  
after heat and the humid  
a cool wind / just a slight one  
pushes the heat and wet away  
from my face and arms  
in bed listening to California  
Dreaming as a precursor to sleeping  
summers are short for me with not  
many chores and not many friends  
the depths of twilight are my time  
the radio's tube hot and sweet  
pave the way toward autumn and slumber

Monday, July 31, 2023

## **Pinboards**

difficult hacking  
because the documentation  
is so bad / why

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

## River And A Day

the river cared little  
for me or my rides  
bikes or cars didn't matter  
the bride was more loving  
I married by it on the best of days  
robins and cormorants / some friends  
some family / by the stone wall  
hold back the wall / water  
still not caring slicing by  
and then the ocean

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

## Fourth of July

long ago and once a week  
we'd get together to rehearse  
jam really / and though we never  
got much better we learned to listen  
a little more to each other so  
the music was more like music  
and less like pure fun  
in the garage or a spare  
living room / recorded  
and replayed



Thursday, August 3, 2023

## **Transformation**

sometimes the simplifications  
complexify and my strength  
is not in thinking through  
the details

Friday, August 4, 2023

## Yalta

instead the winds were slight  
the light was dim  
the flowers threw off spotty scents  
below the sea was flat and above  
the clouds hardly cared  
when we sat down she was to me  
lovely but after the start of twilight  
I doubted everything

Saturday, August 5, 2023

## Nil

a couple of steps forward  
but a big one back  
more trouble with the teeth  
worried

Sunday, August 6, 2023

## Yalta

such a thing as a bad beach  
Chekov knew it / a woman walking  
across the tide can stun when dunes  
cannot / just up the beach we think  
things will improve but who can say that  
better to find the woman / failing that  
imagine her

Monday, August 7, 2023

## End Drift

what we grasp near the end  
the sage green we saw in a New  
Mexico canyon / a tall Benedictine  
brewing beer / a cross in front  
of a stone cliff wall  
we hear tell of a muddy river  
nearby but admit it's forgotten  
we recall the cold nights  
and lonely / she sleeps two  
doors down

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

## By The Wall

we eat in silence  
making food the centerpiece  
against the grain of families  
this is the grain of religious  
enforced silence / but lunch  
is different / the only sound  
a monk reading aloud from a text  
they have chosen and if we choose  
to listen the chosen words come  
from afar

Wednesday, August 9, 2023

## Pretty Boy

reports of love untrusted  
and inevitable / even my wife  
admits I was once pretty  
the list is longer than makes sense  
all wrapped up in sadness

Thursday, August 10, 2023

## Lineman

she could never get that some places  
for me fill me with a melancholy  
and sadness that fill my memories  
with old things and visions of new  
that repetitions of the same  
patterns like ninths in an old song  
were a height of happiness as if  
the dance of opposites were a whine  
everyone could hear / that wheat under  
a dust obscured sun was the prairie I  
needed to cover the tracks of my escape  
she never could get this / my loss



Friday, August 11, 2023

## On The Line

what draws me to the prairie  
of western Kansas / a story  
a writer writing of a strange  
to him place / was it the slow  
rhythms of both place and place  
description / the sadness of the last  
scene / the time of past in line  
with my youth / was it a song  
I heard that I can't stop listening to  
lyrics that make we want to stop  
by the side of the road / wheat  
in dust beside me / no women in sight

Saturday, August 12, 2023

## Drape

the riverbank over there  
cut deep after a flood  
mud coming down from mountains  
up north / I wish for a louder  
water flowing sound / I picture  
someone upstream hoping I'll  
think of her / willows drape  
the bank

Sunday, August 13, 2023

## Young Food

thaw a steak after my parents leave  
using warm water / I got it from the freezer  
and I'll broil it with butter  
it tastes lousy because all frozen meat  
back then did / I still do that  
not the thawing and frozen steak  
but steak when she leaves for her  
mother's / it's exotic so I bake it  
it tastes good because now I am  
old

Monday, August 14, 2023

## Thing

cemetery once upon a time  
on a low ridge but a road  
carved away its front  
then a plaza cut away its south side  
next years later a driveway cut  
away its north side / now  
it's some sugar pines and badly worn  
slate and granite headstones  
some tipped by tree growth  
and eager roots / but the spread ground  
is soft browned sugar pine needles  
not what the family of Jesse Thing  
anticipated / not what they hoped for  
instead it was something that lasted  
for  
ever

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

## Needle

a forest floor in deep pine needles  
soft as a sweet dessert  
common mushrooms pushing through them  
princess pines in big circles  
a small but rushing stream pushing  
toward a beaver pond a mile away  
a swamp nearby means mosquitos  
I would stop by the granite stone  
plunked here but I am too young  
to know what this would mean  
in fifty years when it would matter

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

## A Pie

a long long time ago  
a songwriter wrote a song  
the way ordinary poets do  
and made lyrics surprising  
and clicking but made in so  
ordinary a fashion that where  
he got them was obvious  
to the rest of us / for years  
he avoided telling the story  
of making the song and then  
he decided to make himself  
the romantic genius and ordinary  
people believed him / but  
he lied

Thursday, August 17, 2023

## Hole

by stones thrown up by winter waves  
a hundred feet / stones weighing  
500lbs / we walk  
there is a hole a hundred feet deep  
nearby dug by waves / we cannot  
imagine it / winter so committed  
force something unlikely to make sense  
wind strong enough to lift the spirits  
of one whose spirits have been blown  
to a kingdom yet to come

Friday, August 18, 2023

## Beach Pizza On A Hot Day

I stopped for beach pizza  
in downtown Haverhill  
on my way to West Newbury  
where I'd eat at the picnic table  
in Ferry Park / loaded with sweet  
tomato sauce and light cheese  
cut into rectangles from a large sheet  
it's a taste foreign to folks  
with good taste / I eat four  
slices while watching the river  
jet skis going by / speed boats  
and women on standing paddle boards  
the rocks in Rocks Village are mythical



Saturday, August 19, 2023

## Exorcist

one thing the past can't forgive  
is choosing to play it safe  
easy to do because seeing the future  
doesn't work / well now all we can do  
is fantasize or read accounts or  
watch film / the past tells us  
we've taken the bait

Sunday, August 20, 2023

## State Street South

the street down to the river  
is empty this time of night  
perhaps a moth or owl  
flashes its silence across  
dry pavement / cars parked  
might mean tight hugs up  
on the second floor but more  
likely an early morning riser  
gearing for Boston  
across the street and down  
the street sidewalk seating  
is folded up and covered  
if you squint hard behind you  
perhaps a bathroom light  
will flick on

then flick off

Monday, August 21, 2023

## Storm

my father nailed plywood sheets  
against our windows / put up the winter  
swimming pool cover he made  
supported by angle iron welded to geometric  
safeness and painted deep red  
still the trees blew down across  
the road and leaves and grass plastered  
the farm / the animals in the barn  
shook in fear / Donna was her name  
she came up from Puerto Rico  
right over us / I remember the eye  
peacefully clear to the stars  
I was ten

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

## Big Old Farm

having a farm with fields and woods  
enough land to support subtle roads  
pine groves and swamped maples  
blueberry bushes both low and tall  
ferns / mushrooms / princess pines  
skunk cabbage and lady slippers  
stone walls with meteorites here  
and there / fields with boulders  
too huge to lose / when you have  
had that nothing will make you sing

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

## Rancho

at the corner of Jones and Main sits  
a stuccoed building painted white  
with blunt parapets and down Main  
railroad tracks cross / one pair east  
another west and a siding / that building  
once was Hartman's Café / a meeting place  
now an arroz y frijoles joint  
not up on the highway anymore  
sixty years will do that

Thursday, August 24, 2023

## Lerwick

will a capture store a dream  
of morning rising against a boat-  
stained harbor packed with tall ships  
darkness stunned with bashes of orange  
sun from a deceptive east / streelights  
are about to give up

Friday, August 25, 2023

## **Bang**

hard to imagine a day  
started in fog turning  
into a wedding day aloof  
on the riverbank / the sun  
did its thing and wind  
broke through / a start  
for everything registered  
the day everything began

Saturday, August 26, 2023

## The Eat And Get Out

in a diner by the river  
on a winter morning when  
ice flows downstream and over  
the dam writers gather  
for hot griddle grease  
and hints of imagery  
the waitresses don't care  
and push their fattened hips  
against pens scribbling on moleskines  
I get pancakes with an over-hard fried  
egg planted between the top two  
butter and real maple syrup I brought  
myself from my last Montréal trip  
my stuff doesn't rhyme / does yours?



Sunday, August 27, 2023

## Church Rock

flat and red brown and sage  
Navajo live in places synchronized  
rocks here are crazy and hogans  
balance of life and color  
wind and fleeting rain  
snow

Monday, August 28, 2023

## Alone In A City

while I write my friend  
lies in bed in a hospital  
with three things wrong  
each could kill / one will  
as I write this and weep  
for him I read my letter  
that she said my idea  
of romance is sex / that  
she loathes my ideas

Tuesday, August 29, 2023

## **Baz**

always bugs or problems  
hard to find them  
on the lookout for solutions

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

## We Sound Lousy

set up at the end of the room  
amps tilted so we know how  
we sound / Ron becomes a host  
introducing songs / remarking  
on dancing / making us seem  
more like people than we regularly  
are / his playing uninfluenced  
by anything the rest of us do  
his notes / words / stories  
swirl close by him while the rest  
of us orbit far away

Thursday, August 31, 2023

## Here To There

the road that divides our farm  
on the west side abuts a field of timothy  
sometimes rye / a stone wall to  
a back field then a pine woods  
drizzled in maples / a final stone  
wall / I want to describe these to you  
but I can tell you only of two or three  
people making their way from road  
to wall / two or three pure stories  
with their minds lumped in and elbowing  
toward you while drifting into and out  
a fact from two or three fictions

Friday, September 1, 2023

## Leaper

the cliffs behind the small homes  
where the ill spend their forever  
leftovers taken care of for sympathy  
they lived without blame but sometimes  
they'd fade fast and the little but  
warm cemetery was happy for their repair  
I stepped off the bus from tiny plane  
that dropped the two of us down here  
from behind doors and windows we  
became the show / we walked slow

Saturday, September 2, 2023

## Steel

in the rain a steep street  
hills down to the river  
cross streets carry speeding  
trucks and in the blue light  
of night and lamps it's clear  
the women waiting in kitchens  
are the last to know

Sunday, September 3, 2023

## Who Needs Forever

when a big machine which is a tall ship  
sidles up to a dock nowadays it's a side  
thruster that pushes it the last bit  
out in the ocean men climb rope ladders  
and all that's needed is a blow that starts  
with the sun warming us for its promised time



Monday, September 4, 2023

## Without You

when I got into the cafeteria  
turned in the afternoon into a dance hall  
and I saw Miriam blondely looking my way  
my pal and I started to dance with her  
in 1963 and I thought then and still feel it  
that I was entering the world where men  
and women created the world around everyone

when my father reached the end of the school  
driveway / the sun just barely still up  
and turned left toward home what he left  
behind was a simple and silly young boy  
whom he was sure would go nowhere because  
he and his wife were cursed of ancestry

was either of us right

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

## Swamp

when we deal in noise  
beliefs are hardly worth  
the effort / things could  
be just a hint entangled  
from afar / like when you lose  
your way in a swamp of tall  
bushes and rootful trees  
and come across a tall  
blueberry bush whose berries  
cannot be reached / see?

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

## Fog

fog / can't see the far treeline  
across the big field / apple trees  
and rough trees hidden from me  
from them it's the same idea  
across the big field / house  
and Richard hidden from us

Thursday, September 7, 2023

## Sound Stage

driving along the river  
I've arranged to have my  
car flooded by music designed  
to make the green of trees greener  
the flow of the river more fluid  
the sound of the wind driving  
down the river more like a blow  
no one can recover from

Friday, September 8, 2023

## On A Lake

they made a movie by a lake  
near where we had our dacha  
though I never spent time  
at that lake I did at another  
one closer by and my father spoke  
of the loons flying over every morning  
heading to that lake / my parents  
were old like the characters  
in the movie or like the loons  
in the movie / like the lakes  
where our feet touched down  
was water smoothed rocks / making  
for a foundation for living  
and talking about living

Saturday, September 9, 2023

## Lost

what does he say to her  
the older man in midlife  
the younger woman just graduated  
and married after he ran  
to find her while on his way  
to the airport / a promise  
a description / a token  
the Japanese woman getting  
married in Kyoto touched  
her husband as little as possible  
when stepping over the temple gateway  
the only serious song was playing  
and the place was a reversal  
of the sleepless place where the non  
affair happened / he got back  
in the limo and the strange roads  
away untangled

Sunday, September 10, 2023

## Imperceptible

the change minute to minute  
is imperceptible / the maples  
might sway / insect chittering  
might diminish / the road rarely  
carries any traffic / we live  
far from every center / the barn  
built hundreds of years ago grays  
with every day of sun / add  
them up and it becomes decay

Monday, September 11, 2023

## What A Day

first the rain is just a hint  
while the sun goes away  
on the other side of the clouds  
then when the dark rises the rain  
turns into fierce drops that sound  
guns over the horizon when  
they hit the canvas hovering  
over the tables where pairs  
of lovers wait for the food be gone  
and the meal to end and the walk  
to her place to start and end  
with all the stereotypes in tact



Tuesday, September 12, 2023

## Fall Asleep

town in a narrow canyon  
sun rarely beats on the single  
street that starts by the copper  
mine and ends between two  
boulders / on its way a coffee shop  
antiques / a bookstore selling  
Coyote v. Acme / a few books  
much dust / sitting by the window  
across the street a woman I see  
with a low ass walks up toward  
the boulders / on a phone line  
stretched across / a pair of sneakers  
laced together wait for the upwind

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

## Waiting

standing in the bookstore  
on the narrow canyon street  
the next aisle over the woman  
with me is reading a book  
she might love that I would hate  
still I have been waiting for her  
the whole trip and for years before  
when we get to the boulders it all  
will end with reverb cascading silence

Thursday, September 14, 2023

## Leave

it's already winter somewhere  
here the small animals embrace  
the back fence / cling to nearby it  
animals that burrow burrow  
when mist comes we'll debate  
whether it's a mystery or plain  
things that happened a year ago  
blow away with the dried up  
summer leaves

Friday, September 15, 2023

## And The River

preparing for the hurricane  
plywood over windows  
putting the sheet metal roof  
over the pool / tying weak  
trees safely down / getting  
the kerosene lamps ready  
and wood for the cast iron  
stove in the cellar / even  
with all that big branches  
will fall / windows and some doors  
will break / leaves and even  
grass will become litter  
if we see the eye we'll know  
it's half over / it'll have  
a woman's name and like her  
we'll weep before and after  
a hurricane is fear

Saturday, September 16, 2023

## Don't Forget It

sitting beneath the tall pine  
I thought I'd be able to climb  
it / to get to the first rung  
of branches though required  
a ladder perhaps nailed onto  
the trunk / I never did any  
of those things / when I think  
of my plans / I never did many  
of those either

Sunday, September 17, 2023

## Hereafter

there was never a tender occasion  
she made it all ideas and talk  
what I wanted was the chance  
to just touch her so that she would know  
it as not all ideas and talk

Monday, September 18, 2023

## Bring Me Down

no one on LinkedIn ever endorsed  
a skill they thought I had  
does that speak to my skills  
or to me / raising feelings  
was not a skill I ever had  
maybe endorse me for having  
the skill of not raising feelings  
right / come on

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

## **Rocks To Flats**

the great man asked her  
to marry him / she  
believed him great  
he enjoyed my body she  
once told me / but I  
to her was on a tier  
not worth considering  
so she threw me away  
and I threw her away  
knowing where you are  
makes for a lonely  
drift down what remains  
of the downstream river



Wednesday, September 20, 2023

## Tonight's Air

the last thing of belief  
that a song pure of electronics  
and computers played in front  
of an urbanscape artificially  
made has the sage effect of breeze  
over bare rain in a woods  
of birch and thin maples / relax  
chill

Thursday, September 21, 2023

## Lay's Sand Pit

the road down to the sand pit  
was two tracks and rock filled  
down a hundred feet or more  
the sand pit cliff a hundred  
feet or more / its top  
vertical for 20 feet / I  
climbed up / ran to the edge  
and jumped / weightless for  
seconds until a gentle slide  
downslope / my father shoveling  
sand into our Chevy truck

Friday, September 22, 2023

## Jade

like all the best ones  
the singer in dark and blonde  
hair is nasty and ugly in the right  
lighting and superb and seductive  
in the wrong / though she sings  
backup her voice is a blade  
and her vibrato guts / she's  
so far / but she sings to all

Saturday, September 23, 2023

## News Travel

they leave us behind  
childhood friends unluckier  
than us / who fall into a bed  
sleep or seem to and when a friend  
speaks an eye might open but  
a last effort / unintended gesture  
the rest of us read about it  
online

Sunday, September 24, 2023

## Places

walking through decay  
barn / dying orchard  
aged apple tree still  
urgent / stone walls  
caved in by design  
under the barn wagons  
with displaced wheels  
all held together by iron  
plates and rods while wood  
parts drift through time  
faster than all of us  
it was to me a place  
now it was a place

Monday, September 25, 2023

## Deborah Wallace

she was preceded in death  
by her husbands  
as well as her brother  
and her parents

fill in the blanks  
but note the plural  
husbands / I knew  
she was plain  
how plain though  
could she be

she will be greatly missed  
by all who knew her

I knew her

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

## Birth Day

generations march on  
one's coming up on me  
my daughter's in labor  
now and that child  
will one day wonder  
about me the way I wondered  
about my grandfather  
who will that person be  
first thing to know  
is boy or girl

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

## Nice A Day!

do you want to easily  
engraving on wooden products  
make a new marking  
style surprise customer  
with the pattern never disappears  
hispeed CO<sub>2</sub> laser



Thursday, September 28, 2023

## Boy

someone new around town  
we'll need to load him up  
with what all he'll need  
then one day he'll be new  
to a different town  
one we all visit but  
never know

Friday, September 29, 2023

## All My Life

sitting on the hearth  
that never held a fire  
surrounded by small bookshelves  
with inconsequential reading  
looking out a small picture window  
toward an orange sky behind  
crocheted branchwork in the direction  
I would move and where I now sit  
writing this wishing I could  
start over

Saturday, September 30, 2023

## Alone

walking through the gate  
from big field to back field  
that walking a wandering  
the stone wall between a place  
for bush and tree / once  
on the far side my house  
was as distant as it could ever be  
I spent hours in that field  
silent as wind in pines  
and grasshoppers creaking

Sunday, October 1, 2023

## Dancing Looks Good

the music's a mess  
no discipline / careless  
and sloppy / it sure  
sounded like I was  
having fun

Monday, October 2, 2023

## Going Down

crossing the bridge  
on a cold night  
the yellow arc lights  
on the river bluing  
in the current when I  
drive away riverside toward  
a house not meant for me

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

## **Turtles In The Border**

seljuk prayer rug / byzantine-timurid prototype  
archaic lobed medallions carpet with turtles in the border  
ghirlandaio carpet / medallion carpet with endless rumi design  
archaic arrowhead blossom carpet / waving border carpet  
endless repeating design with blue leaves on a yellow border  
carpet with endless repeat of leopard spots and cartouches  
saph mihrab with plum blossoms  
memling gul carpet with nine compartments and kufic border  
scarlet niched transylvanian prayer rug  
small pattern holbein variant  
flaming animal spirit carpet with vultures

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

## **Stranger To You And Me**

winter dark on the horizon  
time of year for loss and melancholy  
time of year in which I thrive  
leaves coloring themselves  
the color of departure

Thursday, October 5, 2023

## Lost

how we see it  
different as different  
translations of a common  
text / what if misery  
is a tone played on a high  
string / outside crickets  
rejoice but the translator  
sees it as dying  
one could say that the squint  
required is too squity  
but OK



Friday, October 6, 2023

## Her Two Eyes

she once was perfect  
what she felt was right  
what she thought was truth  
what she wanted could not  
be me / I only walked by  
near her / when she moved  
it was to the rhythm  
of the plenum / the adjustments  
she made were slight and pivotal  
now that's less / so much less  
age  
I am someone she could want  
in theory / in fact / however

Saturday, October 7, 2023

## O Lord

in the background  
on stage but behind  
the main men  
the Asian keyboarder  
in black hair / long coat  
but what she plays seems  
digital and knob based  
I suspect most of the song  
comes up through her springing  
legs through her head where it  
animates her hair and then her hands  
outside this loft studio  
the sky sweats sadness and late  
in the day / urban remnants  
in the background

Sunday, October 8, 2023

## Once

implausible beauty alongside me  
what I need to think  
is that this cannot happen  
and the things that seem wrong  
really are

Monday, October 9, 2023

## Lounge Lizard

we were eating a porkish meal  
and after we had moved out  
of a direct line of sound  
from the invasive sound  
system the woman who defines  
love-lostness walked into  
the barerestaurant in her formal  
square dance outfit in Cortez  
after a day at Mesa Verde  
she had some drinks and chatted up

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

## Stews, Clouds, and Snow

still asking for help  
I near my limit  
imagine the sweat  
on restaurant windows  
was the chef making stews  
and clouds making snow  
even if she asked them I'd  
refuse

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

## Alone

everything passed from father to son  
filters through work into an slant  
on decay and how stillness is made silly  
when I step back and include the angel  
statue in my viewing I can see that his anguish  
like mine stems from my mother who acquired  
her family's dreadfulness and deceit  
but is there still love

Thursday, October 12, 2023

## His Face

he never visited his father's grave  
not his mother's / not his wife's  
parents' / not the place she chose  
for them and into which I placed  
them both / he seemed aloof from death  
he never reflected on them in front  
of me / that's all I care about

Friday, October 13, 2023

## Lend A Hand

steal her / I wanted  
to marry her / thing is  
her husband still wanted  
to pound her as in  
with his fists / and their kids  
sleeping or pretending to  
in their room down the hall  
later I lay next to her  
on the floor at hall end  
we kissed / I touched her  
instead of love her shrink  
said this was therapy / and I  
got advice / she's gone now



Saturday, October 14, 2023

## I Have

the edge of the field  
wheat starting to the west  
a dusty edge / nearby a woman  
who's chosen me waits  
she's made a meal for us  
and now is scraping pans  
our place is up what's called  
a hill these parts / down  
there and all around the wheat  
waits for edges to settle  
after staying as long as I can  
I head up that hill because what  
waits is expecting little

Sunday, October 15, 2023

## Disappointment

for years I made myself  
that river / its fate  
was mine / when it froze  
I did / when it flowed  
backward so did I  
sitting by it for hours  
I was beside myself / now  
I must drift away or flow  
at last to the sea

Monday, October 16, 2023

## Rima

Merrimac Square / I never  
went there before I moved  
away / I didn't play with kids  
in Merrimac proper only the swamps  
out near us / the only place was sometimes  
the library where I'd do crazy  
projects like map out where Rima  
lived by gathering clues from the book  
even though / I know now / books  
don't embrace the factual world  
maps / passages / guesses  
and my father helped me  
my father

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

## Matters

when she sings it sounds like words  
a lyric statement more important  
than any death you can imagine  
even when she's all light  
the rest of us listening crouch  
the music behind her is played  
by musicians who never wanted money  
like her they shrink under perfection  
but there are no words / only sounds  
only noise

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

## Rabbits

her job was muse  
she did it by unstoppable questions  
she lived with him and maybe  
some other things / now  
she asks me to explain his thoughts  
but none of the tenderness  
is part of the deal / just  
answer / answer me

Thursday, October 19, 2023

## Coming

though I didn't make any grade  
she agreed to write papers  
with me / she didn't with him  
or he didn't with her / egos  
perhaps / I am clearly the lesser  
and after enough time had passed  
she made it clear / no doubts  
no rabbits here and she said so

Friday, October 20, 2023

## Flyer

the travel / the old fear back  
not of flying but of the discomfort  
the disquiet / bathroom problems  
a mask for 5 hours / the usual  
uncertainties / I look forward  
to being there / not the getting  
there

Saturday, October 21, 2023

## Pack Of Lies

behind the band in an industrial  
loft / windows floor up / small panes  
the sky layered in smoked wisps  
not dark but darkening I imagine  
a brown river below lacing  
through the smokestacked manufacturing  
park even though trees blank of leaves  
just stand there / the Korean keyboardist  
swaying and bobbing is the real treat



Sunday, October 22, 2023

## Tonight

the small road recently oiled  
and sanded relies on us to pack  
it down / this explains the faint  
ruts that collect the cold rain  
in the throes of fall / when  
the leaves are regretting the heat  
of summer and the longing stares  
of the month of hopeful regret

Monday, October 23, 2023

## Shetland Fog

outside the gale baths the bare hill  
her female form builds in lumps  
while she lays on her side staring  
unhopefully at the fog blown sky  
she raises up and prances to her bedshell  
my only answer is to whisper farewell  
as if she would hear

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

## Under

age's fog is not selective  
it's in my head and not friendly  
I fear the way time will dement me

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

## Bayside

grey wad of cloud over a blue  
ocean / the autumn day just starting  
the old woman depleted of love  
sits on a bench waiting for a boat  
the time to start

Thursday, October 26, 2023

## Allerton

the bad woman made me  
go commander and insist  
on speed and compliance  
now my view on return  
is dimmed / I don't like  
how treatment treated us

Friday, October 27, 2023

## Stop Being Calm

sunlight cherishing the tops  
of trees gone brown with time  
facing loss and resumption  
I've made a habit of fear  
I'm afraid and who can blame  
me aside from these who already  
have / I've lived this way  
long enough I'm now officially  
within common law

Saturday, October 28, 2023

## Alone

not taking them seriously  
I manage to arrange their laughing  
so they sound ever more like  
young girls instead of active  
thinkers / and all to amuse  
me / no one else

Sunday, October 29, 2023

## Meredith

she sits I imagine at home  
in a dreary town with only  
a veil of belief between her  
and her dreams or maybe just  
the road that could have led  
to us / but at the pivotal moment  
she decided she didn't like  
my pants / love



Monday, October 30, 2023

## Telling Story

where was she when her  
mother killed her father  
July 1937 / the Cape  
Plum Island / with someone  
from Haverhill / working  
extra hours / White Mountains  
Hampton Beach / when she returned  
was he in the hospital or did she  
take him / what did she say to her  
mother / to Sam across the street  
was there a fancy car / an ambulance  
was it the lie told to her  
told to me

Tuesday, October 31, 2023

## Mother

running to her father from her  
top-downed car a day after  
he fell by the well she knew  
he was soon to be passed away  
and she left with her own proud  
villain and they would work  
the farm arm against arm  
for eight years of screaming  
before my father would come along  
and without any explanation or reason  
save her

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

## Seks

in the window above Market Cross  
in November at 7 two people just  
shadows pass by the window  
and each other / tied up at Victoria  
pier a tug big enough to tow  
oil rigs rests while taxis loop  
around to get in line

in spite of this or because of this  
across the island to the west  
a woman naked walks into a room holding  
heavy men drinking heavy and wondering  
as did she who would be first

Thursday, November 2, 2023

## Empty Or Null

at the end of the street the river  
hesitates between down and up stream  
a fact obscure to many  
up that street the two lovers are tangled  
in doubt over part or make up  
food was involved / a meal in a church  
turned away / sauced grilled meat and nearly  
over-steamed asparagus / this story  
is every story or more likely no story

Friday, November 3, 2023

## Perspective

walking by the diner / looking in  
that time of night or morning  
just two and perhaps lovers  
eating omelettes and looking down  
at them / weak coffee I suppose  
I wondered whether they would kiss

sitting at the table / looking out  
that time of night or morning  
just two and perhaps lovers  
stopped in front of the window and looking in  
at them / holding hands I suppose  
I wondered whether they would kiss

Saturday, November 4, 2023

## **Time**

time passes / things break down

time to stop watching TV

time to start reading books

Sunday, November 5, 2023

## Scarves

I saw her in the café window  
I was approaching from afar  
in a light drizzle on a night  
when many things were possible  
but she knew fifty ways to tie  
a scarf / someone said / and at her age  
I suspected I'd be a distraction  
or a bump on her wayward way  
so even though she was waiting  
for me / I stepped past the café  
toward a drier place

Monday, November 6, 2023

## Fallout

she watched her mother kick  
the hell out of her father  
after a hot fourth of July  
full of drinking and revelations  
about the neighbor across the road  
she was my mother and nothing  
about her was the same until the minute  
she died alone and filled I suppose  
with fear and hate / she lived on that farm  
for 33 more years after that day  
the week Amelia went missing  
a third of a long time for a woman  
she left herself and my father  
for me to bury



Tuesday, November 7, 2023

## On Shetland / In Santa Fe

I wrote for her on the peat hills  
and by the pier hooked into the harbor  
I answered all her questions even  
when they never stopped / I drove  
her everywhere she wanted and gave  
later a year later she told me of her  
deep disrespect and planned avoidance  
I kept writing

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

## Bar Band

the big chords played too  
simply because skill and talent  
a little low / out in the audience  
by the bar couples elbow the polished  
surface and reminisce of lovers  
in the rearview / meanwhile we play  
love songs too long because we love  
to show off our licks / a theme  
borrowed from those couples

Thursday, November 9, 2023

## Falling

the house that fell down  
started as a real place  
I was a kid with people  
living there / only when I  
got older did they move away  
leaving the house empty  
one winter the roof started  
leaking / then the mold and rot  
began / one time when my daughter  
drove me past it had fallen down  
and I wondered

Friday, November 10, 2023

## Arizona Bites

in Kingamn at the Dambar & Steakhouse  
I ordered DamNachos  
Okra and a DamRed Ribeye  
grilled might recover  
for dessert DamBerry Pie  
and Cowgirl Heaven  
the big pit up north  
notwithstanding

Saturday, November 11, 2023

## Rush

when the phone goes unanswered  
we are in the car to see  
even if we suspect the phone's  
at fault / as we go I plan  
who to call / what to do

Sunday, November 12, 2023

## Running From

walking or running from one end  
of the farm to the other along  
the road down its middle when  
I was in college / the start  
of a fear that never let up

Monday, November 13, 2023

## Strand

advice to lesser writers  
easy to do but little effect  
I sometimes wonder what writers  
who helped me thought they  
were doing

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

## Donald Robertson

he was a peaceable quiet man  
and to all appearance  
a sincere Christian

his death was much regretted  
which was caused by the stupidity  
of Laurence Tulloch of Clothister (Sullom)  
who sold him nitre instead of Epsom salts  
by which he was killed in the space  
of 5 hours after taking a dose of it



Wednesday, November 15, 2023

## Monks

in her monk's cell two  
doors down from mine  
she sleeps under a small  
blanket never imagining  
nearby someone hoped  
she'd speak up with something  
other than endless questions

Thursday, November 16, 2023

## Me Me

she doesn't care about things  
especially things not hers  
she will get into a clean car  
covered in dust / she will insist  
on driving on damaging roads  
just to see where they lead  
she will microwave nostalgic cups  
into deformity to drink her tea  
she will even go to the edge of marriage  
to find out about the goal of tears

Friday, November 17, 2023

## Haverhill

Haverhill / not a place really  
once a queen city now a strip  
one section remains / I think  
my mother worked in a building  
there / next to the river  
once a strip where writers  
could walk / why did big  
money decide to bulldoze  
all the place away from the place

Saturday, November 18, 2023

## **Circling**

now that I know what I want  
I can't get any of it  
too old / too tired

Sunday, November 19, 2023

## **Black Dog of Night**

in the night / in the dark  
I awake to wonder about the damage  
to the / oh / something we own  
I wonder how to fix it  
who to call / how to describe  
the damage / I wonder  
how to pay for it / I worry  
I could have done something  
earlier or better to prevent it  
with this I cannot fall back  
to sleep / after time has passed  
it gets light / I spend the morning  
tired and weak / I fall asleep  
in a chair for three hours  
I am old

Monday, November 20, 2023

## Awakened

who gets up at 4:37  
when must they go to bed  
fish people or farmers  
but here in the city  
center it's murkier  
outside no one on the cobbled  
street / I can however  
smell coffee somewhere  
up the hill

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

## Kids

a small drop  
from the parking lot  
to the field  
behind the elementary school  
sometimes in winter  
this slope would turn to ice  
and we'd slide down  
standing like surfers  
at the bottom sometimes a pile-up  
I'd try to stay off when that happened  
because lots of the kids  
would be happy to hear  
of me in the hospital  
that's how you grow up  
imagine a cloudy day

Wednesday, November 22, 2023

## Storms

outside a gale force wind  
pushes rain against our window  
we under covers and sometimes  
touching wait for it break  
but it won't because it's built  
to withstand even more  
our walls are thick stones  
because nothing else is here  
this place / the land / the house  
suits the two of us to perfection



Thursday, November 23, 2023

## **Like They Are**

on Merrimack Street on Thanksgiving  
1854 the beginning of a small parade  
small city man with a starting store  
Haverhill Cheap Store / now Macy's  
the girl is in a blooming skirt  
unaware of attractions / she is wary  
of the river streaming quickly past  
oysters or ice cream her most difficult  
choice / one day the parade would win  
the men pursuing her would not

Friday, November 24, 2023

## Valley View

the stretch of road from Garden  
City to Holcomb / the cries of women  
wailing for the fallen / walking  
graveyard lanes in search of familiars  
when I find them I spend the day  
then the next / bringing flowers

Saturday, November 25, 2023

## After Wittgenstein

she writes short things  
essays / very small stories  
but translates long things  
words like leaves drift  
around her / like other  
old women she attracts  
the minded

Sunday, November 26, 2023

## Land Filled

take out the garbage  
Ma said and I got out  
from under the sink  
a paper bag sometimes  
doubled / out one of the back  
facing doors / basement  
side front / Nana's door  
then across the backyard  
along the pool fence / across  
the pool drain ditch to a landfill  
every farm and small house had one  
at woods' edge under some pines  
oaks & maples / sun / rain  
air / wind / critters / bugs  
took care of it all / I'd  
heave it deep toward the back  
closer to the dark woods especially  
at twilight

Monday, November 27, 2023

## Call Your Own

a clear & simple guitar  
playing a sad song that seems  
part of a film but is it?  
written by a songwriter  
in love for a writer and the moon  
someday the night will rise  
slay the moon / slay all who love  
her / every her by the pines  
walking alone from stone to stone

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

## Colderness

the cold tries to reach  
up her skirt but its shape  
holds her heat in  
the river down the street  
flowing seaward carries  
the cold like a well-built  
weight lifter / she might be  
headed for my place / this time  
of night she sometimes does  
but I've chosen another  
way to keep warm

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

## Her House Her Hours

she throws another turf  
on the fire and soon  
the small room in its stoned walls  
grows warm then hot / later  
she will put on a kettle  
outside the moon will rise  
when it does all her love  
will be rinsed in her harsh  
lightness / the tea will warm  
her as will the relentless  
turf / my walk to the coast  
will be slow and long

Thursday, November 30, 2023

## Michele

one of our cohort  
is now bedridden  
cannot speak words  
coherently but she sings  
in our yearbook's inner cover  
she and another of us walk  
toward the bridge of our dreams  
in autumn colors / a symbol  
of starts / she was so pretty



Friday, December 1, 2023

## Passerby

I once made a difference  
once has passed away  
I'm just a man who takes  
hilly walks / trying to stay  
alive I tell them but it's a fear  
that pushes me up the steepnesses  
sometimes passersby wonder  
if I'll make it

Saturday, December 2, 2023

## Place They Chose

winter in Florida  
soft sand underlying  
everything / heat  
in the afternoons  
but at night cold  
as New England mid-autumn  
no number of available  
blanket layers can handle  
the chill / the place  
is ragged / down at the end  
of the sand road kennels  
of baying hounds all night  
winter / night

Sunday, December 3, 2023

## Stains

that won't come out  
with every sort of scrubbing  
and chemical / harder than blood  
or iron / I worked hard at it

Monday, December 4, 2023

## The Ground

what she wants to know  
is what is real / I don't  
mean some hippy thing  
but what exactly reality is  
is there a real world  
out there  
or is it all in our shared  
head with small clusters  
that are us / rational idealism  
she called it / as usual  
I thought she meant something  
simpler / less metaphysical  
but it's because I always erred  
like this that she couldn't  
love me

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

## Bridge Fix

the tilted mud slope  
from bank to riverbed  
and the river waiting  
to make full strength  
only once a decade  
is the old pier visible  
in the cleared water  
the season of bridge  
remaking has been  
remarkable

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

## Shetland

bleak / nearly treeless  
winds all year  
rain every few days  
and lots of it  
auroras all winter  
stone houses heated  
by turf / a place  
to be successfully  
a nobody

Thursday, December 7, 2023

## Would It Help?

the new wing of my elementary school  
housed two classes its first year  
I was in Mr Shaw's room  
I was not special but Carol  
Sande was in my class  
I remember nothing else  
about that year  
perhaps a hallucination  
would help

Friday, December 8, 2023

## **Farmers First**

stones culled from fields  
found form and order  
in stone walls surrounding  
every field and guiding  
roads / since then those stones  
have returned to disorder  
having been culled by eager  
tourists



Saturday, December 9, 2023

## The One

food trucks in a dingy lot  
once a smart strip  
extension cords all whichway  
plugged like wasps swarming  
into two uncovered sockets  
a propane stove outside one  
making pepián which I order  
I was meeting her here  
but she's across town  
at least I think so

Sunday, December 10, 2023

## Analytic Idealism

we read the theories  
of what's real and the one  
that perks up is that all is mental  
and we are just clusters  
of isolated mentalness  
like the alternate personalities  
in a dissociative / the reason  
those personalities don't know each other  
is the same reason we don't see  
the universe entire

Monday, December 11, 2023

## Texas or New Mexico

we went to the ribs place  
ordered a few full racks  
lathered on the sauce  
they stationed around the table  
ate some corn painted with butter  
cole slaw and fried potatoes  
red checkered table cloth even  
picnic style tables  
peanut shells on the floor  
others with rib eyes and new yorks  
the woman with me ate more than me  
and later she slept more than me

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

## Tamworth

the pines stand waiting  
even if the building  
is waiting to fall down  
and the well is filled  
with sand and a rusting  
pump / overgrown but  
it's mine / once was theirs  
its pines stand guard  
no matter the weather  
or the time of year

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

## **Chuck Ortolani**

another is gone  
he was a better musician  
and a better athlete than us  
better looking and all that continued  
until the day he died  
and we still lived

Thursday, December 14, 2023

## Angel

I chose to play in her band  
unnamed guitar player  
we drove in a bus from the southern  
plains to the northern plains  
some nights after we washed  
away our sweat we'd stay  
in the same bed / in the mornings  
I'd touch her cheek before retreating  
to my assigned room / we thought  
it was our secret / it was just  
the sweetness of the music  
next night

Friday, December 15, 2023

## Town of Desert

I built a town in the destined  
desert on a road since abandoned  
from a place in Arizona to a place  
in California / I made a cafe  
and a car repair shop specializing  
in tire repair and other ripoffs  
a friend built a cabin motel  
it went well until the interstate  
went elsewhere / on a hill  
overlooking the town I swept  
myself a grave and a plaque  
way up there but I died  
and was buried somewhere else  
perhaps you can try  
to find me / now

Saturday, December 16, 2023

## Written

many people find the real world  
disappointing / they writ  
their own world instead  
making up crazy stories  
like the Apache Death Cave  
story / and Crazy Thunder  
in 2 Guns / I will try  
it myself



Sunday, December 17, 2023

## Sentience

cliff dwelling in red rock  
sandstone / steep climbs  
moki steps and finger marks  
in dry adobe / the southwest  
reminding us that if the universe  
is a mental landscape these dwellings  
have sentience

Monday, December 18, 2023

## Turner

in the diner out on the road  
to the desert I sat watching  
three men waiting for a bad  
meet-up or a lingered fight  
around on the eight or so  
tables plates rested irregularly  
greased covered fries salted  
too heavily on plates  
red smears probably ketchup  
on some / the cook behind  
a counter with hot things  
behind him / later I'd read  
of gunfire in that diner  
and half a dozen dead  
including a woman whose living  
photo showed her the double  
of Lana Turner / I might  
have loved her had I stayed

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

## Boulders

the world comes at me slowly now  
the depths are deep and my worry  
carries me from hour to hour  
once in a while like a boulder  
thrown up at Eshaness something  
wonderful enters my mind  
but just as rarely

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

## Heath

the road goes past  
a cemetery so small  
only a dozen buried there  
if that many / under  
some pines / small stones  
fencing it off / from the road  
it's hard to notice  
it's hard to know  
what it is / I stopped  
there many times but have  
forgotten all the names

Thursday, December 21, 2023

## North

fire in the stove  
set up in an old fireplace  
enough to keep us warm  
until we fall asleep  
and then the quilts and duvets  
will take on the task  
we will touch at times  
tomorrow we'll wake  
do it all again  
but only those two things  
matter / at least up  
here in the north  
in winter / the south  
is so boring

Friday, December 22, 2023

## On This Ridge

on this ridge more  
than a hundred years  
ago on a day like this  
a woman stopped to watch  
the sun go down downing  
an expanse of trees turning  
colors like a thousand  
retreats / she stopped  
here only for a minute  
maybe some but even  
after all this time  
her selfness lingers

Saturday, December 23, 2023

## 50

fifty years ago today  
I got married / because  
love seemed impossible  
I didn't experiment  
I did no exploratory mating  
I married the first one  
to come along / when you look  
at it this way nothing  
could be dumber / and to prove  
it I'm not married to her  
now / not even married  
to the one who came after  
how many women / perhaps  
not enough

Sunday, December 24, 2023

## Color

the color of friendship  
drained away over the years  
I am left behind now  
just a blobby gray



Monday, December 25, 2023

## High Granite

high on granite ridges  
places I cannot get to  
anymore / too old  
or at least too weak  
or too afraid / my last  
great hike though  
Mt Chocorua

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

## **Burning For You**

Winter chore is to pile  
up old fencing and the Christmas  
tree / the rest of the leaves  
and flammable discards / turn  
that pile into a pyre / smoke  
be damned

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

## And

the rocks at the base of the cliff  
seem to take the clumsy waves  
in stride / one supposes wear will one  
day soften their edges but not so far  
the salted water breaks white and foamy  
does so for hours and hours / days and days  
weeks and weeks / months and months  
years and years / decades and decades  
centuries and centuries / time and time again  
and just a little smoothing / unlike  
your devotion

Thursday, December 28, 2023

## The Drongs At Night

even though it's dead night  
the view from the Drongs cam  
shows the peat hills in living  
color / one can see the waves  
rolling onto the gravel shore  
to the left the lights of Lerwick  
far away painted on the bottoms  
of grayly moving skies / or  
are they loving

Friday, December 29, 2023

## **Rain**

rain all day is good  
for reading / hacking  
like the earth I absorb  
the refresh

Saturday, December 30, 2023

## **Dissociative Alter**

the dream intensity  
not very helpful  
and can it mean  
what it seems

Sunday, December 31, 2023

## By Ever

I waited for the square  
to fill up / Market Cross  
no one came except rain  
the covered colored tree  
disturbed by wind / the usual  
lights on / no one for the fourth  
or fifth year in a row  
the tide though came up high  
and little waves did all  
they could do / some fishermen  
heading out super early  
all goes on as it all must