

# **Flaming Animal Spirit with Vultures**

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Monday, January 1, 2024

## The Right Work

everything abandoned  
feels old / in movies  
a rusted car with no roof  
no windows in a back field  
informs the moviegoer  
that long time ago is essential  
to the movie and the moviegoer  
even if the rusted car couldn't  
have rusted that much / what  
I mean is that in a movie supposedly  
taking place in 1940 a rusted hulk  
of a 1937 Ford makes no sense  
unless you don't think  
then the moviemaker has done  
the right work

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

## **Bad States**

some states are making  
themselves small versions  
of hell / I don't truck  
with anyone from any  
of them

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

## Waiting

winter is the time for waiting  
when the warm sun and mild weather  
takes time off / my geese for instance  
stay in the barn waiting for the time  
to mate / the time when the pond  
is not frozen and he indeed can proceed  
I once put a pail of water in the barn  
and the gander proceeded to try  
more like Buster Keaton or Charlie  
Chaplin than a porno / everyone  
needed to wait

Thursday, January 4, 2024

## Struck Dumb

I wrote out the instructions  
for the solution of a programming  
puzzle and it worked after some noodling  
I worry my mind is going but I had  
the same troubles all my programming life  
I think it means I am not cut out  
for fine detailed reasoning / relying  
on relentless trial and error  
but I never learn

Friday, January 5, 2024

## **The Beautiful One**

she leaned forward as if to kiss  
I at first kept still then moved  
away / no one taught me what  
makes for love

Saturday, January 6, 2024

## Sweet Her

we sat on the porch talking  
for hours / her perfume  
a little heavy but everything  
about her else was sweet  
she wrote me letters / I bragged  
to my friends about them / my mother  
scolded me / as I said  
no one taught me how to be a person



Sunday, January 7, 2024

## Honesty

we stopped at the cake  
honesty box in a far-north  
North Sea island / her choice  
Huffsie Fruited Tea Loaf  
I reminded her of her  
favorite tattie scones but  
she stood her ground  
paying by QR code

Monday, January 8, 2024

## Last Day

I remember the day  
elementary school ended  
for me / walking to the bus  
the ride slowly to the west  
part of town / a section  
few knew / I learned little  
especially about kids  
fear / though

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

## **Just Me And Who Cares**

alone downstairs  
I made videos introducing  
conferences / I made  
conference programs / made  
up worlds for visitors  
to live in / into the night  
sometimes / night riders  
into the night

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

## Window Look Out

in the middle of a long talking  
in the car by the river after dark  
in November up north he placed  
his hands between her thighs asking  
for warmth / every part of this story  
reveals in many directions / take  
them all

Thursday, January 11, 2024

## Say By

the special places have fallen  
away one by one or in bunches  
as what people love are less loved  
special pizzas / burgers / lobster  
rolls / Thai food / frappes  
even the roads grow changes and fade  
the women who once had trouble  
saying goodbye are now on top  
of that

Friday, January 12, 2024

## Woman Over There

the river of course  
likes to keep going  
day and night though  
never giving up its indecision  
on direction / the bridge  
of course likes to keep  
over the river and let  
flows flow to four corners  
if time could remember  
it'd remember me four times  
a day on that bridge  
in search of someone like her

Saturday, January 13, 2024

## **Bad Guitar**

the guitar / I play it  
foolishly and simply  
because flair and musical  
knowledge aren't me  
I am a brick hitting  
a smaller brick

Sunday, January 14, 2024

## **Boring Truth**

standing on the pier  
close to where the ferry  
unloads I wait for a woman  
once close to disembark  
if she does we'll walk close  
by each other to the coffee  
place I found where I'll  
have a coffee and fudge  
and she will have tea  
and fudge / after a while  
I'll see her off back home



Monday, January 15, 2024

## Many Books

in the bookstore waiting  
for her to finish her class  
up the street I choose a book  
worth reading but not buying  
over the course of her course  
I'll finish it an hour at a time  
sitting in any comfy chair  
I can find and I justify it  
because I buy many books there  
so many my main chair at home  
is hard to find

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

## At SAIL

sitting at my terminal  
in the Annex hacking in Lisp  
from 21:00 till 2:00 or 3:00  
listening to music piped  
in through radio and shipped  
over cables to our green  
cathode ray terminals  
the speaker boxes on top of them  
a computer hundreds or thousands  
of times less powerful  
than the one I type on now  
not as late at night and not  
the other side of a cold  
break

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

## The Glow

the red glow at the tops  
of trees reminds us  
of night and its charms  
sometimes fleshy sometimes  
made of ink and woody paper  
its waves rasp over the tops  
of my thoughts of the day  
of the week / I wonder  
sometimes have I seen this  
always

Thursday, January 18, 2024

## Snow Glow

outside the snow is pushed  
everywhere and in circles  
and twirls / resting finally  
on boulders and after the clouds  
pass on toward a north  
the snow takes on sunset's redness  
a warmth no one deserves and a contradiction  
only the perplexed can love  
I found my way to this covered  
house and whether I'm let in or not  
depends she tells me on the colors  
reflected in my flawed brown eyes

Friday, January 19, 2024

## **Snowone**

the road filled with snow  
and too narrow for cars  
to pass by each other  
is a launching pad  
for forays into forlorn  
touching sessions  
to get there I must  
drive the snowed lane  
hoping to see no one  
so I can see someone

Saturday, January 20, 2024

## Rainish

the rain is constant  
the clouds it comes from  
doesn't care about the soil  
and what happens when it becomes  
mud under foot / the roofs  
I depend on rake the wet downslope  
puddles around the hut collect  
the disdain everyone feels  
all their lives / I walk  
the streets alone through  
the blue light spiked orange

Sunday, January 21, 2024

## Big Boats

the big boats tied up  
at the pier sway and rock  
to the wind and changing  
waves / even the ship  
do big it's tied three places  
I scale the gangway hoping  
the sways will assuage  
my other desires

Monday, January 22, 2024

## Coops And Goldenrod

those coops behind Nana's place  
I remember them but I never went inside  
cherry trees all around them  
and a big oak over the top  
of the hill filled with goldenrod  
down to the stone break to the unused  
field holding our pond / important  
fields but we never used them  
chicken coops too / barn hardly used  
the pear orchard up over that rise  
unused / most of my early years



Tuesday, January 23, 2024

## Green Up There

she thought the aurora  
would be out tonight  
storms millions of miles  
away kicking up green  
to our north already  
far north / so she put  
on her warmth and we headed  
uphill to a point where we sat  
above the voe and waited  
waited for hours / she never  
turned toward me

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

## About Us

in the little park eating  
sweet beach pizza while  
the river patiently changes  
direction I wonder what might  
have happened had the girl  
not far up the road from here  
instead of wishing for hunky men  
had looked my way even though  
I never told her outright

Thursday, January 25, 2024

## Her Picture / My Repetitions

in my cold music room  
Nana's old room  
I listen to vinyl and tape  
on a cheap Sears amp and homemade  
speakers / cold in winter  
sweltering in the hot days  
my parents probably noticed  
I didn't play tons of songs  
just a few dozen over and over  
sometimes there was a picture  
of a girl I'd look at while listening  
this was my poor imagination at work

Friday, January 26, 2024

## **Rocks Village Bridge**

the small world right  
next to the bridge  
where I sit with lunch  
when I'm back home  
and which once was a most  
beautiful place / the river  
of course is not sure but  
it's happy to rub the rocks  
to smooth

Saturday, January 27, 2024

## Circle Of Night

the piano in the lower room  
I'd play it late in the night  
some would call it practice  
instead I'd just noodle  
not learning / not improving  
telling myself I would one  
day be great / instead  
like a tune on repeat  
I just circled

Sunday, January 28, 2024

## Alone By River

sitting / looking  
listening / taking in the wind and its smells  
for an hour / for two  
the sun first above then behind trees and a hill  
day after day in summer  
back home and its reminders of how little I am

Monday, January 29, 2024

## **Explain**

when I cannot explain  
I think / it will be time  
to drop out of the explaining  
business / getting close

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

## Prettier Song

the roads the streets  
we need them to lead us  
to the places of red lipstick  
and a welcoming back  
and even she will one  
day turn to a road to a street  
when a prettier song  
sounds down the way



Wednesday, January 31, 2024

## Philo And South

flat land to all horizons  
brown stalks and rising dust  
finally a forgotten place  
the air devoid of moving salt winds  
the wind from the west vowing  
to never let go and the cold  
without ice without snow  
without the intelligence'  
of someone's muse

Thursday, February 1, 2024

## Alonely

tale of two of different ages  
lonely in a place neither could grasp  
except each other / in that place  
they turned in opposite directions  
toward each other and the exception  
was made

Friday, February 2, 2024

## Catchy

the talent on television now described as catchy  
is a good way  
I felt the nuance that could capture people's hearts  
I was a little weird so I looked it up online  
heroes

don't take / win hearts / call popularity  
cheating / cheating / peten's  
jumpy and whimsical  
quickly remember  
easy to remember  
easy to recall  
and four avenues emerged

I'm convinced that I was feeling  
a nuance that was overwhelming  
with a facial expression  
reflecting the spiritual culture  
of the Japanese people today  
it's even more crude to just say  
catchy / I guess catchy is Japanese / English  
don't hesitate to do anything

Saturday, February 3, 2024

## Flaco The Eagle-Owl

the bird set free  
thousands of miles from home  
to a cold concrete city  
the bird feels fear but soon  
finds a dumpsite and rats to pursue  
the bird's not afraid of people  
so lands on sidewalks but still longs  
for a mate a thousand miles or more  
away

Sunday, February 4, 2024

## Banked Meals

chilled air breaking on steamed glass  
even the strong heavy hood fan  
over the small restaurant kitchen  
can't exhaust the pork smoke  
from the meal we ordered  
neither the steak smoke  
from the adjacent dinner  
we sit / she and I / waiting  
for the meal or whatever  
duende's blood rust deems

Monday, February 5, 2024

## Duende And Tuning

adjustments can make the tube  
amp sing sweet like an angel  
or a muse in the same way those  
two make poetry sing sweet  
but Lorca doesn't like those  
two beings and rejects also  
duende as a being instead telling  
us it's something in us and like  
death

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

## Jill

larger but still pretty  
The Boss we called her  
she still lives in her hometown  
without her everywhere would be plain  
we placed her unobtainable  
hence unapproachable / she  
was our fear of perfection

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

## The Boss

I asked her to sign  
The Boss and she did  
she knew nothing  
of the perfection we laid  
at her feet / at her head  
and blonde hair / so perfect  
the art instructors asked  
her to pose for class  
and she did / my god  
she did



Thursday, February 8, 2024

## Dual Duende

the branch suspended in the river  
may be small but a thickening  
where it entered the water  
moving past it hinted at a profundity  
inconsistent with floating  
sitting by me by the water watching  
with me the scene / whether she  
saw the branch I cannot know now  
because she's gone same as the branch  
I'll never know either whether the branch  
in its mystery of profundity  
saw her

Friday, February 9, 2024

## **No One**

how do you know  
you were never famous  
once you're old  
no one visits  
writes or calls  
no email either

Saturday, February 10, 2024

## **Dream A Little Dream**

listening to my old radio  
stored in a cubby in my headboard  
an old tube radio tuned to a music station  
California Dreaming playing  
sixty five years later in California  
I am once again the one death forgot  
one day the one life forgot

Sunday, February 11, 2024

## **Loss**

my team lost again  
third time in a row  
better to not care  
any more

Monday, February 12, 2024

## **Stones Some Granite**

stones picked from fields  
stones placed in stone walls  
stone picked from stone walls  
fireplaces / fake stone walls  
the movement of stones  
reminding us of the crust  
dropping from our lives

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

## **Bad Cam**

too many bugs in the security camera  
why can't anything just work  
and it's too far from here  
to debug as usual

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

## Floriduh

I know an old guy  
who lives winters in Florida  
he does all the old guy stuff  
in silly clothes with piles  
of other old people and his wife  
he smiles like he's happy  
what happened to him anyway

Thursday, February 15, 2024

## **I Arrive Strangely**

in Hong Kong women wait  
long for happy days  
they ride the escalator  
up and down / the sidewalks  
are inside buildings  
they say Hong Kong cars never  
park / a man in white  
plastic boots serves our soup  
after we've washed our chopsticks  
and bowls in tea



Friday, February 16, 2024

## Hiroshi Sugimoto Like

Boston seen in blur  
a form / of abstraction  
detail dissolved  
do we get the essence  
or lose to gist  
on photo paper we squint  
to rid the blur / instead  
our reckoning falls apart

Saturday, February 17, 2024

## Firing

in the end they burned  
it to the ground as training  
the house my father built  
after teaching himself how  
the fire department that decades  
earlier let my mother's dog  
die in a Christmas fire  
if I could punch one of them

Sunday, February 18, 2024

## Breeze Blur

she sat on the bench  
I sat beside her  
she watched upstream  
and the wind swerved  
each strand of her hair  
just differently enough  
that she seemed a blur  
under it / I watch of  
course because for only  
this moment I love her

Monday, February 19, 2024

## **They're Gone**

funny how they piece  
together a compelling  
place from bits  
from all over

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

## Light Not The Subject

for years I stared at this same scene  
a harbor but really the space between  
islands / a pier / a parking lot  
seen from Town Hall on a height  
across the harbor hills on the island  
but this one time the just risen sun's  
light kicked into gear / the light is  
the subject is not

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

## Dark Meals

café by the North Sea  
she sits across as usual  
one of the few places  
we can eat though  
we love the islands  
fish every night  
she takes wine and I lemonade  
tea for her coffee for me  
she is harsh / she  
stays apart

Thursday, February 22, 2024

## Green Sky

repeating the song  
longing for death  
deadly feelings of love  
I had in me a deep song  
that grew in passion  
as I became a head without a face  
a body without form  
muscles without strength  
but the repeats overlap  
soon the grass and its soil  
will be above

Friday, February 23, 2024

## Her

my bicycle and I made  
our way to your house  
every weekday no matter  
the weather / you  
didn't take either of us  
as options and went for beauty  
and the deepest worn roads  
are you lonely now that you're  
old and far from that house  
far from me / I write about you  
and you?



Saturday, February 24, 2024

## Geo Detective

there's a man  
you give him a photo  
with landscape in the background  
and no hints / he'll find it  
using google earth and google search  
really fast / watching his videos  
he bumbles / strange

Sunday, February 25, 2024

## Mother Rite

my mother died  
a woman complicated enough  
to make fun of most things  
I did / after I found a comb of hers  
tied it to a chunk of mahogany  
from her headboard / took  
the inseparable pair to the river  
and after thinking about her  
with all the kindness I could  
marshal placed it without a splash  
in the turbulent relentless flow  
waited to watch it turn a bend

Monday, February 26, 2024

## Connection Fear

I'd walk to the phone  
hanging in the piano room  
cold nights hoping to raise  
the bravery to call her  
but fear held on  
I never called her  
I tried every week for years  
I'd stand by the phone  
for hours before going up  
to bed / giving up to bed

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

## Masks

the river water  
flowing over stones  
is smooth / the lichen  
yellowing granite  
is sharply etched  
never try to sharpen  
one / never try to smooth  
the other

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

## Sound Quality

suddenly the music perks up  
better highs / sounds  
silent before / what happened

Thursday, February 29, 2024

## Come Back

some of the days are like rain  
pooling by the side of a road  
the road I imagine was just  
resurfaced with oil and sand  
the sand pounds into the oil  
from cars running everything down  
the sand slips to the side  
of the road where it holds  
onto the rainwater that just  
glistened the pounded down  
road oil / cycle

Friday, March 1, 2024

## **Dangerous Crossing**

in front of a roadside shrine  
of crosses and trinkets and photos  
a young woman stood straight up  
I watched her cross herself  
in the Catholic manner / she  
had enough faith to understand  
a car hitting a pole / understanding

---

Saturday, March 2, 2024

## Parke Mathematical Laboratory

my first job  
four duties  
help the librarian  
put salt in the water softener once a week  
mow the lawn  
program the computer to locate  
submarines using only amplitude readings  
from a towed array



Sunday, March 3, 2024

## Pygmalion

when the computational world was young  
code was simple and short  
not much did a lot  
papers about early programs look rough  
hand drawn in many places  
fonts blunt and unappealing  
deep explanations are just hacks  
someone famous for something else said this  
the mysterious way in which shapes and marks  
can be made to signify and suggest  
other things beyond themselves

Monday, March 4, 2024

## **Pizza!**

pizza is the puzzle  
of dinner / deep  
dish / lots of sauce  
tomatoes for those addicted  
cheese not too melted  
buy it / bake it / heat  
it up tomorrow / all  
good

---

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

## **Put Your Head On My Shoulder**

her head on my shoulder  
just once in the waiting lounge  
tender without meaning  
whatever / it was / it lasted  
minutes then swirled  
to hate / I have that effect

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

## Writerly Winds

undulations on the islands  
barren but for homes  
excess wind / excess salt  
good place for warm-blooded  
loves and writers needing  
to write

Thursday, March 7, 2024

## Angry Red Planet

rocks and sand  
striations and layers  
it's Mars taken by  
a robot cart / signs  
of wind and water  
flowing / color adjusted  
for human viewing  
far

Friday, March 8, 2024

## Writer Stuff

the writer cut off her hair  
sitting on its own chair  
it refused to be unseen  
she kept writing  
all the while the scissors  
sliced / can you see what  
seeing her could really mean

Saturday, March 9, 2024

## The Dig

I made my way to the cemetery  
in time to watch men dig  
by hand the hole someone loved  
would be lowered into / hot  
day and hot work / the two  
of them got it done in time  
to find a shade tree to sit  
under and drink their lemonades  
under while people listened  
spoke softly / cried  
they didn't stop me when I  
joined them / shovel in hand

Sunday, March 10, 2024

## A Rag

the man / a dog wrapped  
in an Army blanket / placed  
the dog in a wheelbarrow  
once he was across the road  
wheeled the load across the big field  
then through a gate to the back field  
then down a road cut through pines  
to an old field just starting to cover  
itself in birches / like the two men  
in the previous poem he dug a hole  
but here it was all sand / my dog  
wrapped in an Army blanket / he  
lowered her down / before he helped  
her die with chloroform in a rag



Monday, March 11, 2024

## Out To See

water rising / a flood  
this one washing away  
the rubbish from the last  
people with little  
having even less little  
as what they had rides  
out to sea

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

## **PL CFPs**

rules for conferences  
I care nothing about  
are rules I should care  
nothing about

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

## Balancing

just a clown / deflection  
fear of being found out  
if they are laughing  
they have no time  
they have no room  
for hate and derision  
but to be the best  
clown you need a good mind

---

Thursday, March 14, 2024

## Call The Cops

suppose someone took the time  
to retrace steps in your memoirish  
story and then tells you about it  
in fan mail / do you answer  
or do write more stories but  
make them less traceable

Friday, March 15, 2024

## Hey Baby

working hard but unthanked  
the more famous person  
gets the credit and the thanks  
it makes me dream of the walking  
away

Saturday, March 16, 2024

## Second Hand

in the second hand shop  
she picks and I pick  
her taste is old / mine  
better than old / she buys some things  
washes them and wears  
them the few times we go  
out to eat and are happy

Sunday, March 17, 2024

## Howling

I dreamed of tangling  
with her all night  
while something akin  
to duende brewed outside  
our thick glass windows  
and down our hardstone  
fireplace chimney  
in a small box os how  
to think of it

Monday, March 18, 2024

## I & I

I walked the three  
miles from farm  
to bridge / at Hand Tub  
House I saw myself seated  
riverside at the table  
below the bridge ramp  
near under the bridgekeeper's shack  
tolls were taken / the swing span swung  
I asked myself which way the river  
was running / I said upstream  
thinking of the ones once loved  
I said downstream



Tuesday, March 19, 2024

## I. D.

I made coffee but she wanted tea  
thinking it's more refined  
more ladylike / more cultivated  
but the coffee I made was from beans  
grown on the farm Karen Blixen ran  
in Kenya by the Ngong Hills  
near where she buried Denys Finch-Hatton  
before returning to Denmark to become  
a writer my friend admired

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

## Bench Watch

near Victoria Pier there's  
a bench / one afternoon  
I decided to sit on that bench  
all night / first day of Summer  
watch the darkness shirk its boldness  
listen as boats came in / watch  
them go out to fishing grounds  
watch the Northlink leave  
watch a different Northlink come back  
she told me it was just a dream  
I told her it was just  
a dream of mine

Thursday, March 21, 2024

## Emo Guitar

the only times I could get emo  
was during leads at parties  
in front of people I couldn't know  
listening to the tapes now  
even in those duende moments  
I sucked / what did the emotion  
get me / sweat ripped strings  
and broken ears

Friday, March 22, 2024

## Dark Sitting

on her couch facing west  
sun almost hidden in its downing  
I asked her to sit next to me  
in her head she must have winced  
but I'm too meek to fulfill her fear  
instead we simply watched the dark  
take us over

Saturday, March 23, 2024

## A Way

being strange is an end  
to the means / let each one  
guess thus wasting effort  
for a gain soon abandoned  
when someone turns away  
I complete their wish  
and turn away

Sunday, March 24, 2024

## Cover

umbrella made for two  
popped over just one  
I'm nowhere near / sitting  
by a dock with smells of foods  
covering my space / she of  
course is lamenting every minute  
and the rain / the rain

Monday, March 25, 2024

## Water Trails

the boats leaving the harbor  
leave sheen trails visible  
for hours / a trail  
when I point this out to her  
she looks at the water  
then at me

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

## Kissing

pine boughs ice covered  
light salt of ice  
on grounded needles / in  
our small hut we are nothing  
but lumps under quilts  
the times she ventures her fingers  
toward mine are nothing but the start  
of nothing becoming something



Wednesday, March 27, 2024

## Caught On

it's important to notice the fences  
barbed wire / on the bottom wire  
plastic strips caught / strips  
from sheaths covering bales  
of poor hay destined to feed sheep  
and scattered domesticates  
the wind likes those strips

Thursday, March 28, 2024

## Stoorm

the wind then the hail  
the road covered as with snow  
some said it was a July tornado  
in the Merrimack Valley  
I was under trees watching  
the river move in every direction  
my camera was there but fear  
kept it in its bag / hail  
and leaves / green and white

Friday, March 29, 2024

## Keep The Faith

all dark all the time  
a dream that blends with real  
turn on the lights  
to find the spider my dream dreamed up  
real though not realistic  
I tried to read the Bible  
but every story said the world is made of hate  
or else Stephen King's the writer  
God damn

Saturday, March 30, 2024

## Only Stars

hail thunder flashes  
Mother and me  
Snooks in the garage  
in the Buick / clear  
Snooks and Mother are desperate  
of fear / she told the story  
of lightning arrowing past her head  
only to blast the head of Jesus  
above the fireplace / story  
or memory / she shaking  
in the Buick till storm's passed

Sunday, March 31, 2024

## Lord

I promised to help  
against the feeling  
after death / to hold  
or listen / to cry  
to stay quiet / the grass  
that will grow over the wound  
will remain a green only an Asian  
can paint or a poet can surround  
my promise is a small one  
because no work I do can work

Monday, April 1, 2024

## **Black Slacks**

without Ron who would I be  
colleagues only at times  
lead and bass / he believed  
four years ago he left  
dropped from a kayak  
bagels tossed after him  
then I let him down

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

## Birches

three birches linked before dark  
sitting nearby on a stonewall  
in the near dark light sounds rise  
higher and stars come into view  
recalling now the dreams I had then  
none came true / like all the no ones  
before me I dream of those darkened trees

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

## Games

when she sings her  
voice feints as if  
tears has torn loose  
the songs are hardly  
revealed chaos and I  
tear her dress off  
as if she had asked  
reverb



Thursday, April 4, 2024

## Impossible Dream

up in the choir  
I played their entrance  
and I played their exit  
Hammond up there  
Leslie in the transept  
I did ok but at the reception  
they put me by the kitchen  
door at a table for one  
all that practicing  
was it's own and only  
reward

Friday, April 5, 2024

## Harry Perino Is Not Maris

what is the worst  
for a lead player  
to be mistaken by history  
for the bass

Saturday, April 6, 2024

## Attention

when the past is filtered  
through a multi-headed self-attention  
transformation system  
the best parts of the world  
will be like the dried  
and rotting leaves littering  
a remote forest

Sunday, April 7, 2024

## **Snow Girl**

the beauty of lights  
on all night in heavy winter  
people asleep or dreaming  
snow gathering in ruts  
streets lit yellow and orange  
the sound of no sounds  
snow brushing past snow  
underneath it all / ice  
body healing

Monday, April 8, 2024

## Passing

once dark I wonder  
whether it will be light  
again / once sitting  
I wonder whether I will  
stand again / I once  
loved but the feeling's  
faded / sitting in the dark

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

## Jianzhi

wearing her black lace  
dress using large lobed  
craft scissors she cuts  
for me her depiction  
of how we met / she  
of blueblack hair  
and a difficult dance  
with language cuts  
a swath of longing  
from blue stiff paper

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

## Gonester

the ringing of strings  
under reverb playing in my ears  
I drive down the hill to Merrimac Square  
where turning left I head toward Skip's  
but in my head it's still there and in fact  
it's long gone / not part of my kidhood  
I found it into my third wife  
visiting every year until the Pandemic  
then it was gone / I head East  
for Newburyport Thai and a new book

Thursday, April 11, 2024

## Mom

she can't remember  
from minute to minute  
she hears people not there  
sees people not there  
repeats and repeats  
we can't figure out  
how to help



Friday, April 12, 2024

## Angels At Dusk

in the vacant lot as the sun goes away  
the friend about to disappear faces  
the other way / colors are faded  
or waiting for the next day to come to life  
like days' endings the friend is getting  
ready for darkness and loneliness  
that's how it seems to me who will be  
gradually left alone / not to her

Saturday, April 13, 2024

## August In Retreat

remember the water downstreaming  
the way she walked away  
and it wasn't a gimmick  
she made a remarkable impression  
on those she walked toward  
all these looks soaked liquid  
nothing was gradual / not  
even the sun's wet demise

Sunday, April 14, 2024

## Santa Food

so we ate at Paper Dosa  
and she had a large paper  
thin crispy dosa  
with masala on the side  
and some chutneys  
she dressed up / me  
not so much / our best meal  
she was warming up  
to hating me

Monday, April 15, 2024

## Rain Bushcraft

he teaches bushcraft  
tarps / silver birch bark  
betulin / feather sticks  
stick raft / a fire still  
ways to build tall fires  
on wet ground using dried  
branches still clinging  
to trees / the joy and dryness  
of a waxed canvas sheet

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

## Wild Bear

she's not fearless  
afraid of camping near people  
afraid of cows  
scared of heights  
likely to turn her floofy ankles  
but she is almost too much  
of a woman

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

## **Snowdonia**

climb / hike to a lake  
650 meters high and set  
up camp on a small island  
a few stepping stones offshore  
nervous and cautious she teaches  
us how to live life when scared  
she seemed ready to be beautiful

Thursday, April 18, 2024

## Mass Duende

in Merrimac Square as night pushes on  
the black of the clouded sky  
reveals the meaning of death  
replacing life / demons  
replacing angels / the darkness  
does this

Friday, April 19, 2024

## Cookers

in the woods I made a Swedish  
rocket stove from a dry dry dry  
cedar log drilled out with a scotch  
eyed augur with some pine resin  
fatwood / feathered chips / a fire  
still / with all that I boiled  
a broth and cooked up some bangers  
using three stones I found by the river  
as a cooking platform

she was impressed / almost as if  
I were a man



Saturday, April 20, 2024

## River's Death

the edge of the river  
the shallow sloped bank  
oozed black mud  
I step close to it then stop  
the color / the helpful water  
memory of a smell in winter  
I cannot approach closer  
even if she asked

Sunday, April 21, 2024

## Sss

the noise and the simplicity  
when a problem comes up  
a way around it drops in  
it reminds me of black water  
the way it whistles past rocks  
in winter / the sibilance  
and the ringing after

Monday, April 22, 2024

## Walking Away

no one can guess that the perfect  
woman walking away doesn't believe  
in the power of her own ass  
not to mention her front

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

## **Thrill Is Back**

black nights and clear music  
listening all night but the days too  
I wait for perfection of the sound  
when it comes the music is all over me  
I listen while pictures of women  
I could have loved scroll past  
dual doses in the sad pool

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

## End

she dumped me off off a sideroad  
off a sideroad off a little larger  
road in a desert that hadn't seen rain  
for a decade to let me spend my last  
writing with drying fingers in already  
finally dry red sand / as if a place

Thursday, April 25, 2024

## Eating

sitting almost sunset  
by the river ordering  
Thai then reading  
a new book from Jabberwocky  
meanwhile watching her  
with her shiny leather skirt  
deciphering and then phoning  
she alone / me alone  
the sun blurring us both  
she'll return and I'll leave  
reading / phoning

Friday, April 26, 2024

## Change

no personal remarks  
only the project  
no report on progress  
nothing about the house  
I didn't even look  
at her on the screen  
much and to think

Saturday, April 27, 2024

## Island People

he walks home in the rain  
she is there not far from his door  
right has fled and a wave lands  
behind them in a cinematic darkness  
her hair barely red / her silhouette  
perfectly foreign as she reaches  
to kiss / turns away / music fades  
to end titles



Sunday, April 28, 2024

## Pulpits

she likes to speak to the dead  
finding their place they form  
a community that makes no sense  
people in charge have placed  
them together as if they could be  
friends / she talks to them and they  
strangely feel permitted to speak  
as if the truth meant something  
some speak of loves / others of sights  
or a river they liked / she listens  
trying to make a family of them  
or a town / or a circle with her  
at the center / headstones

Monday, April 29, 2024

## Rain Sun

finally the story's ended  
what seemed like tenderness  
was really just not a fight  
beneath the thick earthen layer  
a strife made of granite  
music of hammers striking strings  
all in all a melancholy not far  
from sadness

Tuesday, April 30, 2024

## Wisp

her shrine to him down  
replaced by a white wall  
her face puffed out some  
he carefully mentions nothing  
about him / about her  
she's since left / another trip  
she plans to live another  
quarter century / brags about it  
why did she put up that shrine

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

## Spells

telling stories  
into a night  
holding loosely  
setting up the telling  
it's a rhythm / off beat  
from a distance / music  
sound track to a wordy  
romance

Thursday, May 2, 2024

## **Liars**

about half the place  
I live believes lies  
and they will determine  
the fate of me and those  
I love / the fact  
they are people doesn't  
sway me

Friday, May 3, 2024

## **Baby It's You**

her skirt doesn't care  
about me / how she fills  
it cares even less  
imagine a street in the Back Bay  
with her walking down the sidewalk  
away from you / that's what reality  
is for me / her / the skirt  
rear view

Saturday, May 4, 2024

## Stooping

sitting on a stoop  
waiting for someone  
to watch walk by  
someone to story over  
in an instant build  
lives meeting / staying  
together / then me at  
her graveside telling  
stories of her tears  
or she at mine

Sunday, May 5, 2024

## Round Trip

places we went / places we saw  
places we ate / places we slept  
places I drove / a place she drove  
sandstone / living rock and brush  
clouds that software revels in  
I found that my thoughts meant little  
hers all / we went saw ate slept  
drove / drove back



Monday, May 6, 2024

## Mom

tomorrow perhaps  
my wife's mother  
will move in here  
everything will change  
for the worse  
the much worse  
panic

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

## Key Note

tired of it all  
asked to deliver  
an important speech  
on any topic  
I can think of none  
that would make  
people happy  
years ago it would  
be trivial  
today impossible

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

## Mom

she pleads for help  
her mind no longer grasp  
help / we need to impose  
our ideas on her life  
we've made this all too  
hard on us by not stepping  
in earlier / how this ends  
cannot be envisioned

Thursday, May 9, 2024

## Ordinarily Strange

the muse / who is it  
nothing but the parts of us  
we cannot ask directly  
but which pushes at us  
when we drop the barrier  
all we can do is ask  
it to be ordinary  
or to be strange

Friday, May 10, 2024

## Sand

I've lived on hills  
a mesh of lights below  
stretches of red lights  
stretches of white lights  
each one a person or some  
I knew each as little  
as they knew me  
for cinematographers such  
means a peaceful night  
in a human world

Saturday, May 11, 2024

## Dementia

when the loop reaches  
thirty iterations  
when the mind can't  
recall second to second  
it's the kind of dream  
others wake from  
and get up to distract  
themselves to save  
themselves from insanity

Sunday, May 12, 2024

## Lineage

pushing forward  
father to child  
keeping on until  
everything slowly  
changes out from everything  
and what we are  
is no more  
and is ever more

Monday, May 13, 2024

## Eldering

fog / or far away  
trees like an artist's  
drowsy dream / nearby  
the river making its  
intentions known through  
its slewing slosh and rush  
in the fog of an old woman's  
mind as time runs out  
her needs don't include  
understanding



Tuesday, May 14, 2024

## Winter

maybe AI winter  
of our discontent  
is it worth a try  
do I know enough  
was she right when  
she said don't  
speak again

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

## Pizza of Love

the bench where I eat  
beach pizza when summer  
is upon the water  
and the bridge is expanding  
its joints / a cormorant  
dives in while I fold  
the carton into the receptacle  
drinking the last of the lemonade  
with a frappe on deck

Thursday, May 16, 2024

## Early Career

when the heat comes off  
the corn and soybean fields  
into our alway open windows  
late afternoon when my fate  
is frying on a low burner flame  
the sweat on my neck feels  
like any ocean breeze  
will chill me into oblivion

Friday, May 17, 2024

## Why

after settling into my croft  
the fog came over me  
I lay under wool covers  
sometimes the wind hinted  
all night I worried  
my life to the mat  
I had Diana Krall on repeat  
one all night  
my tube amp helped by revealing  
her just husky contralto  
the sun rose

Saturday, May 18, 2024

## Unstish

we're so far north  
that we burn under sun  
part time and chill like dogs  
another part of the time  
we need a stone house  
plenty of wool  
plenty of peat  
and a feeling we never had

Sunday, May 19, 2024

## Unexpectedations

I am disquieted by invitations  
slowing down doesn't inspire  
I don't want to drool while speaking  
at a podium / fear and the reality  
of giving up / giving in

Monday, May 20, 2024

## **Discontent**

tech and the creatives  
the gap will remain  
always until tech  
learns to feel  
arrogance

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

## She

she didn't do anything  
but she was more than  
I could tale / her face  
only / nothing much else  
special / her face neither  
but something / but something



Wednesday, May 22, 2024

## Gerry Comeau

someone in my school  
almost 60 years ago  
I hated him but he  
pulled himself up  
then his mind dissolved  
today he died  
after the pain  
who grieves  
who rejoices

Thursday, May 23, 2024

## **Katja**

she is no beauty  
but I fell for the structure  
of her face and unfailing  
smile / nothing special  
everything special

Friday, May 24, 2024

## Blank

McPhee suggests the old  
man project / keep working  
on it until time expires  
don't finish or if you accidentally  
do label it volume one

Saturday, May 25, 2024

## Newburyport Cams

on the street in a town  
near where I grew up  
there are cams looking  
in all directions / in  
summer I watch the one  
that shows for some reason  
mostly people walking away  
I focus on the women  
walking away / their flinging  
hair and swinging legs  
all those unstories  
the same as my stories

Sunday, May 26, 2024

## **Inn Street South Live Cam—Newburyport MA**

lines out the door  
at Simply Sweet  
mean in the evening  
it's hot even though  
the river is there  
the ocean is there  
I am not there

Monday, May 27, 2024

## **Illinois**

flat and hot all summer  
flat and cold all winter  
not much variation  
in what grows and what's there  
but the pizza is good

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

## King Kong

King Kong / I've watched  
it dozens of times / why  
was it the sentimentality  
the strange special effects  
how over the top it was  
the dinosaurs / was that watching  
it with my father meant  
we were the same

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

## Can't Find The Time

Ultimate Spinach  
Orpheus / Listening  
Beacon Street Union  
these bands  
and we  
were the music  
that went nowhere  
some called it  
the Bosstown Sound  
they wrote their names  
in graffiti script  
ours in sans serif  
gone so



Thursday, May 30, 2024

## **Baby Why**

is beauty the spawn  
of distortion  
of decay and time  
of side lighting  
then explain tubes  
old towns  
and good photos

Friday, May 31, 2024

## Grammar

people meeting evenings  
in a side alley where  
a little restaurant  
serves food till late  
and a drama fills the alley  
stares and glances  
a women chirps then runs  
away / ice cream in cups  
is melting / the river  
is slowing down / I listen  
for more and there is none  
some shouts an adjective

Saturday, June 1, 2024

## Stay Tonight

why is what's beautiful  
also run down or running  
there / and why what's  
pretty need the best  
perspective / in the end  
my amnesia takes a break  
and I remember how to bend  
strings into a slightly  
sharp vibrato

Sunday, June 2, 2024

## **Inn Street Pants**

in shiny pants  
she was too thin  
but part of a troupe  
posing by the tree  
another in tight pants  
a low ass as Carvey  
would say / watching  
on the cam at a hot  
day near Simply Sweet  
watching

Monday, June 3, 2024

## A Memory Defeated

fell apart  
falling apart  
I wonder my worry  
will land me in a landfill  
there's one near our toboggan hill  
good for our aluminum one  
and our wood one / even  
with dogs running shotgun

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

## Marriage Day

we married in a setting  
I believed would never change  
but they decided to refurbish  
the bridge and used the spot  
to store their trucks and junk  
killing all the nice sheltering  
trees and brush / made it a desert  
predictions / regrets / surprises  
the beauty was the river flowing  
like glass to the cold sea

Wednesday, June 5, 2024

## Mom

if she can't remember minute to minute  
and cannot take care of herself  
and wants to be taken home from her daughter's house  
because she didn't ask to go there  
and believes she can take care of herself  
then what can we do

Thursday, June 6, 2024

## On The Bus

done with his life  
he waits for the roadies  
to take what's left away  
his audience that is to say  
his family friends and those nearby  
applaud in the manners they believe  
make sense / his last chords  
ring out as reverberation in the memories  
of still warm minds



Friday, June 7, 2024

## Reach

she's unclothed under  
her bedclothes but I  
resolve to keep the book  
of poems open in front  
of my bad eyes until a break  
in the dreadful night happens to us

Saturday, June 8, 2024

## Narrow Cuts

how long will the rivers cast  
their lot down their valleys  
in a dry now place the ruts  
are like perfect sandpapered  
remnants / who wouldn't be afraid  
of them / shimmying down the weak spots  
the places where my feet fall  
on fine sand

Sunday, June 9, 2024

## Tuscany

in a small apartment  
in a Tuscan hill town  
near the top with a view  
of grapevine filled valley  
everything almost works  
she has a small old blue  
table and a typewriter-like  
laptop she can write on but  
she never writes to me

Monday, June 10, 2024

## AI

AI is ready to chill  
another winter because  
the hype's so piled up  
that it's ready to fall  
over

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

## Fun Times 50 Years On

two women  
same name spelled different  
I loved them both  
in a specific order  
one was snatched from me  
I married the other  
we're still married  
they're not  
heh

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

## My Little World

her voice brushes like downy  
hair across a soft sweater  
her tone telling me it's OK  
while the sun is a slender  
shaft lifting flecks across the room  
a room I know as where I crawled  
through my first few years  
and all of it so long past

Thursday, June 13, 2024

## Plum Island Dusk

in the footprinted sand  
on Plum Island a rippling  
that seemed of water  
turned out to be  
a shadow of an arm in mid-story  
waving one way then another  
I nevertheless was enchanted

---

Friday, June 14, 2024

## Wander

I lost my way while looking  
for the bookstore in Newburyport  
I parked blocks away and the bricks  
and pockets of beauty lured me toward  
the river where my tears joined  
the rain / melt / and upstream tears  
of other men lost in thoughts



Saturday, June 15, 2024

## Lerwick

an unexpected kiss  
heavy rain by the harbor  
late or dead in the night  
a woman married  
a man without expectations  
the story someone wrote  
didn't want them

Sunday, June 16, 2024

## Santa Fe Down

I sat on her couch  
facing the sun setting  
through her window  
her books all around  
she had no feelings  
all I wanted to do was sit  
watch / linger / she made it clear  
though I was in her house  
I was not there with her

Monday, June 17, 2024

## Potsdam Spring

in a café in Potsdam  
espresso of all sorts  
pastries of all sorts  
the Potsdam women resembling  
desire in the squared off streets  
in places written Russian in Cyrillic  
dark smoke patches on buildings  
like those in cave and alcove  
based living in the Southwest  
how we knew people lived there  
years ago / the Germans did  
my friends did / some women did

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

## Laid

cooking she stood  
by the window blowing  
her hair through cracks  
and gaps / what she made  
tasted horrible but  
women were meant to cook  
she told me so I ate  
whatever she laid out  
as I took everything  
she laid out

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

## She Says

rocks and lizards  
she points a different direction  
a ridge follows us  
she never stops talking  
question by question  
we make our way to her house  
where she spends time with her friends  
and I work on our paper  
in my hotel room far away

Thursday, June 20, 2024

## State

rain on the street  
sloping down to the river  
reflecting lights from trending  
restaurants adds to the romance  
of women walking home  
hoping what they find there  
is better or more  
than the left behind

Friday, June 21, 2024

## Northerly

a warm house on a dense  
wood packed acre or two  
viewing a voe / walls of stone  
might be someone would pair  
nicely but who it could be  
is behind the fog coming  
up toward me / which bed  
will it be tonight  
a warm one or my usual  
cold

Saturday, June 22, 2024

## She's Not For That

when the heat comes for you  
respite is refusal  
a big hat helps  
wet clothes a temp out  
AC a cheat  
what about the river  
the ocean  
is there one near  
a walk where heat rises  
as a wind  
I could take off clothes  
but you dropped in  
thanks



Sunday, June 23, 2024

## Who Could

when we lived  
in that minor mansion  
in Champaign  
with its sunken living room  
ringed by arches  
restaurant quality and size  
kitchen / we had little clue  
what was ahead  
that clue was completely wrong  
but a cloudless sky  
and a distant horizon

Monday, June 24, 2024

## Cottage Grove

the second year was a cottage  
total footprint living room size  
heavy rain and our mattress was soaked  
a kitchen only one could stand in  
a couch and a table just fit  
storage in the other room  
remember our dreams or lack of  
the last year / link then with this now  
that was the derivative  
ended up working

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

## All Over Again

I mostly biked around  
Kathy had to drive  
because she worked for real  
as a OT so had to smell nice  
even in rain and snow  
sweltering or shivering  
tornado ish wind  
we believed / really believed  
in the future or at least  
a future / but

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

## Addiction

so many tomato plants  
the regular garden  
with ten or so  
then a separate one  
back by the woods  
with fifty more  
then across the road  
with a hundred more  
she'd can then in jars  
putting up three hundred  
to four hundred quarts  
my mother ate half  
me the other  
what lack were we fixing

Thursday, June 27, 2024

## At Her Side

the car in the drive  
the priest by the bed  
telling and reciting  
what's needed to move  
a woman from one world  
to another / age aside  
she counted the times  
she was happy / some  
under a man who sailed  
away once returning  
to his own solid place  
she counted the times  
she cried and halfway  
through the priest finished  
finished

Friday, June 28, 2024

## **In Kyoto**

his hand by her ear  
her skirt loosens  
drops  
annoyed earlier  
her hand heads  
for pleasure

Saturday, June 29, 2024

## Next To Her

sitting on a granite slab  
Maine coastline acting  
cold and New Englandy  
she acting cold  
and New Englandy / saying  
nothing / waiting for a tidepool  
to show her life  
still abounds

Sunday, June 30, 2024

## Janis

a girl I could have loved  
could have married  
dead now  
almost thirty years  
like lather  
the sadness I might have had  
would still  
coat what remains  
of me



Monday, July 1, 2024

## Molly Red

service station on a hot  
road in Arizona / men  
in blue coveralls  
their names in red  
on white patches  
a girl wearing a cowgirl  
skirt tends the café  
bar / Whitey and Jim  
love her but only  
one man can lift  
her skirts  
he's not mentioned  
in this poem

---

Tuesday, July 2, 2024

## Daddy

he rode his bike  
every day two  
miles each way  
to get the paper  
and maybe some sundries  
slow / hills but small ones  
when I move back there  
now he's gone  
I'll ride it the same way  
paper / sundries / hills

Wednesday, July 3, 2024

## Tycoon Joke

ah / to be alive  
as the city on the hill  
dissolves is second only  
to the same honor  
at the fall of Rome  
and to think  
all this because  
of a mere merchant

Thursday, July 4, 2024

## **It**

after practice they'd drive off  
a highway as dark lifts  
find an exit with a kiss and ride  
stop and when they were done  
not with sex but only touch and kiss  
she'd pull out her spare panties  
so her husband would not know  
yes / she really believed

Friday, July 5, 2024

## The Beginning

always something small  
no great papers  
no great books  
no breakthroughs  
marriages that fail fast  
poor parenting  
hardly any friends  
ones that don't last  
people who ignore  
the end

Saturday, July 6, 2024

## Thin Pillars

tall / thin maples  
in swampy woods  
you cut one down  
peel the bark  
and it's slippery  
when the sun's going  
down behind them  
or coming up  
in front of them  
they're like small pillars  
fronting a fine stone  
house in a place like  
country France  
just not as slippery

Sunday, July 7, 2024

## So, What Happened?

storefront doors closed  
barred / lights out  
kitchen closed and cooling  
tables outside in a scenic  
alley covered for the night  
down the alley in a tony court  
two decide their futures  
kiss and walk home

Monday, July 8, 2024

## Merrimack Valley

I got a kiddie black raspberry  
at Hodgie's in a cup  
ate it with a spoon  
from Quux's while sitting  
at a picnic table under the pines  
then to Jabberwocky to buy  
any book at all but a book  
anyway / this even if Skip's  
is not an option / Rhythm  
Café not an option / living  
there again not an option  
all that and those I knew  
from high school dying  
the river still does its thing  
and me?



---

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

## Friday Night Dance

leaning at the cafeteria wall  
watching all pony  
a band from Haverhill  
with a Farfisa and Leslie  
they wore sport coats  
all the people dancing  
talking / laughing  
touching / kissing  
on the sly / I watched  
still do

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

## Riverside Near Newburyport

I made my way to river's bank  
sitting there I watched until  
the tide turned and the river  
reversed / when it darkens  
trees become witches  
the water black is oiled  
I sometimes forget my place  
dream of the one I could  
not ask anything of  
she of course left and ruined  
her life I think / she lives  
far away / I still make my way

Thursday, July 11, 2024

## Like Shelley

she was right about stopping  
everywhere / my fear worked  
against her / we didn't last  
she had no interest  
I had than was permitted  
now she's interesting  
with places everywhere  
I'm here waiting for complications

Friday, July 12, 2024

## For My Love

someone who knows how  
wrote a song about me  
and recorded it professionally  
I think she thought I  
loved her / nice  
not special

Saturday, July 13, 2024

## Many Days Or Not

in a small town  
people live from start  
to finish / nothing  
special happens  
wives / husbands / children  
unexceptional / they  
become small statues  
their legacy some genetic  
material and a grave headstone

Sunday, July 14, 2024

## Tripping

someone walking the pier  
to the ferry is hoping  
the fog will drift  
toward the strand and waves  
and the ferry will be empty  
but her to make room  
for her hopes and trembles

Monday, July 15, 2024

## Boxed

the port and islands  
were once my favorites  
but a broken bond  
scotched them / now  
there's no way to return  
a calm place / a safe place  
now there is no one

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

## That Way

run down church in a city setting  
paint peeling off outside beams  
and doors / concrete stairs  
with corners knocked off  
crosses covered in dust  
preacher wearing worn clothes  
reading from the oldest  
of revered books telling  
stories one is allowed  
to remember / God is funny



Wednesday, July 17, 2024

## Cast Back

at the edge of the field  
a sidedelivery and manure spreader  
a mower meant for towing  
when I was young they were rusted  
wooden parts nearly crumbling  
we used the mower / nothing else  
the barn was almost as old  
as the country / none of that apparent  
to me until now / when I  
am like they are

Thursday, July 18, 2024

## Haverhill Mess

these buildings  
still here on this street  
were here when my mother  
was young / she worked  
near them / she shopped  
in them / she banked  
in them / their bricks  
have since been washed  
with steam / now they're  
brick red / every place  
there now sucks

Friday, July 19, 2024

## **Inn Street**

when they stopped for ice cream  
the men nearby leered  
the women were dressed for summer  
in loose dresses or shorts  
the men's hardwired brains  
could not understand  
that these woman wanted to cool down  
not go into heat

Saturday, July 20, 2024

## Women On Sidewalks

sidewalks on a summer evening  
women walking this way  
then that / some with ice  
cream / others walking  
to their meals with special  
people / their skirts are tight  
but that means nothing  
what's important are the clouds  
building up to the west  
and the sun spurting pink  
and red on them / later  
it will rain / perhaps a storm  
the sidewalks will be washed  
clean / the meals forgotten

Sunday, July 21, 2024

## Farewell Fair Isle

red hair with background  
of dried wheat and rye  
I found her but too late  
she had left returning  
to her red home with red  
furnishings / she left  
a photo of her in a skirt  
each night I hold it  
not her in my hands  
tears on my sleeves

Monday, July 22, 2024

## Night?

why is there night  
not why answered  
by physics but  
by poetry or even prose  
can religion tell us  
or common sense  
or does it take  
two in embrace

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

## Stating

quiet street  
during the day  
a walking encounter  
many meet / cute  
places to eat  
sea coast  
East Coast  
river town I favor  
now that Haverhill's  
lost its charm  
to overexcitement  
and no toilets

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

## Bisbee

Evergreen Cemetery  
is never green  
being on the south  
side of Bisbee  
next to Shady Dell  
trailer motel  
imagine it  
a place with a featured  
abandoned Shell gas station  
and a main street that's  
a canyon / let's  
get some Perfection  
Bread



Thursday, July 25, 2024

## Wichita

plains / what else  
is there to do but  
work and write  
songs / stories / wheat  
weather won't give in  
urban those can never find me  
because it's no place  
to look / nothing  
there to see

Friday, July 26, 2024

## **Inn Street**

slow walking on a brick street  
unsteady gait / wavering  
cane in one hand / a simple  
but dull seed cap on his head  
he and I born around the same year  
our mouths can't taste no more  
our eyes are clouded but when  
the right skirt goes by  
our memories perk right up

Saturday, July 27, 2024

## Words

nothing like the silliness  
trying to explain a simple  
thing but botching it no end  
even with simple words  
and sentences no one mistakes  
but yes / mistakes / I make them  
my reward is try again

Sunday, July 28, 2024

## Art And Wine

the booths closed up  
the fair is taking  
the night off / ice  
cream shop at one end  
river at the other  
but my vantage point  
just a computer screen  
thousands of miles away  
my parents in their graves  
just fifteen minutes away  
from there / can I go?

Monday, July 29, 2024

## Ophthalmologist

eyes getting worse  
but the eye doctors  
seems unpanicked  
it's a race  
to the end

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

## Hubert Street

where is Hubert Street  
where was it in 1937  
the impossible search  
I found what I could  
using up time needed  
for more other things  
puzzle or mystery  
either way irresistable

Wednesday, July 31, 2024

## **She Don't Know**

the stones were well piled  
when we had the farm  
since they've been knocked  
and nicked by stonerobbers  
I even took one thirty years on  
soon the walls won't be  
only trees and the scattered bush  
and a stray metallic meteorite  
along that road of mine

Thursday, August 1, 2024

## Ellie

Ellie the hairdresser  
loves to make her clients  
yak / her memory is good  
so she asks about old yaks  
when she washes their hair  
she massages their scalps  
I imagine old guys  
fall for her / young  
hands on / listens



Friday, August 2, 2024

## **After The Same**

the red light born  
of fires to the north  
turns green leaves  
a funny color and behind  
them a red sky  
warns of danger  
promises a certain sound  
melodies prefer  
warmth / unneutral

Saturday, August 3, 2024

## Shawshank Scam

no one I heard of  
complained about the stone wall  
in Shawshank / Buxton Maine  
but not a single New England  
stone in that wall / stones  
from a landscaping place  
rough and western / not the smooth  
worn granite gray but red pink  
but rough and hard cut  
the oak tree sure  
the corn fields sure  
the stone wall / pure Hollywood

---

Sunday, August 4, 2024

## Don't Fear

in 1967 I'd have  
a month before school  
and I'd be planning  
how I'd disappear  
before then and not  
the romantic way  
but the bad moon  
rising way

Monday, August 5, 2024

## Cables

silliness of audiophile listening  
expense / what to spend on  
every link can break you  
sound / judge your ears first  
see what you can hear  
listen to your ears  
does a little more clarity  
a little more airiness  
a sharper bass / the peanut  
butter sound of old bass strings  
do these things make your tears  
sweeter / then spend / buy

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

## Mom

she takes aging  
to be punishment  
for something she did  
that we keep her here  
is because of a bad thing  
she's done / where is she  
whose house is this  
who are you / are you  
my sister / when did  
I come to America  
who is Daddy / tears

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

## Jazzi

jazz sounds better with better equipment  
soundstage needs to be wide and accurate  
need a flat spectrum and quick response  
a good recording even streaming  
I neglected all this so far

Thursday, August 8, 2024

## Harsh Mistress

my father and music  
he studied it  
taught it / loved it  
but listening in that era  
was not possible outside  
Boston / so he tried  
every other thing a man  
can do and settled  
on little he loved  
did he notice me

Friday, August 9, 2024

## Peat Cutting

a pickup loaded  
with bags of peat  
heading for a storage  
croft and we'll burn  
it all winter for its  
warmth and Scottish odor  
we'll put a tall stone  
behind it to force its heat  
to us / outside the wind  
outside the sea-lead storm  
inside us and her warm body  
all night



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Saturday, August 10, 2024

## Elder

words and wordings  
good but not great  
I spew and spread them  
because those around me  
are even worse I seem good  
I've learned all I can

Sunday, August 11, 2024

## Eucalyptus

adjusting / adjusting  
the realm of thought  
better in warm colors  
made a mess of plans  
but execution can repair  
there's a woman who laments  
something about us  
I stayed here / the better  
to deflate the past

Monday, August 12, 2024

## Her Silence

we ate side by side  
in silence except  
for one monk reading  
from a history or bio  
monks circled the tables  
offering food / terrible  
food badly cooked  
evenings were the Gregorians  
sung badly / most in robes  
one or two fresh from work  
in work clothes / silence

Tuesday, August 13, 2024

## A Trip To Skip's

they held a yard sale  
all the paraphernalia  
associated with making  
greasy 1940s food at Skip's  
a reason I traveled back  
there every year gone  
change and its offspring  
solidify the need for memory

Wednesday, August 14, 2024

## **As They Say**

wanting a cuddly companion  
I angled every direction  
not even the long sit  
by the river on a cold night  
achieved the hankering  
now all the options  
have been defaulted  
to nil

Thursday, August 15, 2024

## Builder

a sweet wide branching pine tree  
adjacent to a patch of maples  
in a boggy stretch of swamp  
I climb it and prepare  
to form a tree house from spare  
boards left on a pile  
nearby in a field  
however / I'd need skill  
instead I drop things  
mishit with hammers  
jam screws / cut wrong  
the sweet pine prepares  
for sadness

Friday, August 16, 2024

## Dope

he is so stupid now  
others will need  
to oversee him  
the only good thing  
he knows it

Saturday, August 17, 2024

## **Afraid Writing**

when will I be able  
to write again after  
falling into a pit  
of fear and depression



Sunday, August 18, 2024

## **Old Man Fear**

still hard time sleeping  
I wish I could be more optimistic  
reason says all will work out  
but my fear likes to win

Monday, August 19, 2024

## Maybe

made headway  
there is now a path  
it can still go wrong  
at least I can start  
practicing

Tuesday, August 20, 2024

## Of Roads

the world of roads  
is leading us to famous  
romances / stupendous  
opportunities  
sometimes to a band  
that plays a song  
that leads to a dance  
and then a clutch  
and finally a passel  
new to the world  
of roads

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

## **My Only One**

far hopes / times forgotten  
we all need finding and hoping  
warm place to soak or a massage  
people we don't know pretend  
to care / their hands warmer  
than a friend you hope to love

Thursday, August 22, 2024

## Michele Simonds

Michele and Bill  
walking toward a future  
toward Rocks Village Bridge  
on Bridge Street in October 1966  
Michele walking away from her  
future here toward a different one  
when the future is unapproachable  
what time is left for us  
how to time to write letters  
to that future

Friday, August 23, 2024

## Ended

when love is over for a woman you know  
because her life has ended and yours goes on  
you plan a trip to the ground she remains in  
because life is king and she is still queen

Saturday, August 24, 2024

## Unmanly

I stood by the phone  
standing on the two-step stairs  
it was brown hanging on the wall  
the room was cold and my plan  
made over and over for weeks  
was to call her and ask for a date  
I did this many times for many years  
I never dialed / I could not and cannot  
ask a woman for love

Sunday, August 25, 2024

## Benched

on a bench by the harbor  
on a pier crooked partway out  
big boat tied up and its crew  
sitting around a bolted down table  
eating snacks and playing backgammon  
I'm sitting there / she's with me  
after a long absence we blurted  
recent news and now our arms  
are touching / the boat rocks  
when ships pass



Monday, August 26, 2024

## Benched by AI

we sit together on a bench  
by the harbor  
perched on a pier  
it juts out crookedly over the water  
a big boat is moored nearby  
its crew gathered around a table  
bolted down to the deck  
they're snacking and playing backgammon  
laughter and the clatter of dice  
filling the air  
after what felt like an eternity apart  
we blurt out bits of recent news  
catching up on everything and nothing all at once  
our words slow down  
the urgency of updates fading  
now our arms brush against each other  
a quiet comfort in the touch  
the boat rocks gently with the movement  
of passing ships / the rhythm of the waves  
echoing the silent understanding between us

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

## Jazzy

in the jazz club  
a trio folds the music  
to their imagined  
origami making from the single  
sheet of a plain song  
a Dali crane or a bottle  
of oatmeal / that is  
my love song

Wednesday, August 28, 2024

## Santa Foo

she wanted to travel together  
but once I agreed she make plans  
to visit and visit and visit  
I spent half the time alone  
in the hotel working on our paper

Thursday, August 29, 2024

## Waiting

a long wait for the ferry  
she'd booked it weeks ago  
to come to me on the islands  
to stay all winter she promised  
I waited on a nearby pier  
watching it come around the point  
deeply heading into a gale  
I had buckets of peat waiting  
waiting / waiting / waiting

Friday, August 30, 2024

## Good Shepherd

Fair Isle and birds surround us  
we made two friends here  
that was enough  
meals were lamb and today caught  
fish from down a cliff near our comforter  
night nest / when we sleep  
I sometimes loop my arm over her back  
turned to me / sometimes she kicks  
when I snore / you might guess  
we're touchy but only when  
it comes to ideas

Saturday, August 31, 2024

## Free Falling

I slept near her  
many nights  
though we never touched  
she came to dislike  
me as much as if  
we were long term lovers  
rubbing out hate

Sunday, September 1, 2024

## **Thank The Lord**

she came to my home territory  
declared it abominable  
harsh and depressing  
cold and uninviting  
later she came to my home  
declared it unspecial  
not interesting  
to think I admired her

Monday, September 2, 2024

## Turn Away

she hated the mountain place too  
hints like that I never got  
I believed them aesthetic facts  
not a comment on my repulsiveness



Tuesday, September 3, 2024

## Down

entertainer / writer / bon vivant  
my partner in speaking  
a serious scientist / everyone respects him  
my trivial flares are taken as his brilliance  
by the audiences who flock to him  
meanwhile I pack up

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

## On My Way To Friends

the water pump in the West  
Newbury Training Field  
lifts the coldest most  
refreshing water I've ever  
tasted / when it's in the 90s  
humid and the bike resists  
I stop to drink / no priming  
needed / perfection

Thursday, September 5, 2024

## Dreams Ago

my father would scream  
sometimes / his dreams  
I never asked about it  
my mother never spoke of it  
only a few times but I  
still can hear it  
a dream of death  
a dream of his continuing life

Friday, September 6, 2024

## Kind of Blue

old style classy jazz  
out of date perhaps  
listening to each player  
tapping / blowing  
plinking / I like  
it because it's like  
wandering through woods  
between rain storms

Saturday, September 7, 2024

## Luck And Strange

moon through nearly unleafed  
trees like fireflies  
under a tarp after a meal of curry  
in a public forest / sneaky  
sultry woman next door  
listening on earbuds  
to David Gilmour jamming  
in a barn / one of these  
means love

Sunday, September 8, 2024

## Flower Circles

dahlias / peonies  
cannas / my mother  
had circles of them  
all over our yard  
every evening in summers  
she'd tour them  
my father and I'd tag  
along / proud of them  
the weather helped

Monday, September 9, 2024

## Practicing

attention and practice  
seeing all hazards  
driving without fault  
am I able / can I see ok  
can I think fast enough  
will enough practice work

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

## Parked

sitting / watching the water  
the river / the wind  
feeling the air / smelling  
cut grass on the air  
remembering and then dozing  
until the time is ripe  
for me to cross the bridge  
head toward home / head  
toward where it once was



Wednesday, September 11, 2024

## Reason / Reasons

sitting / this is the reason  
I travel thousands of miles  
to where home was  
the cemetery too / I sit  
there / sometimes with a beach  
pizza / sitting 100 yards  
from where I was born  
where I recovered from surgeries  
looking down on grandparents  
whose bad histories / sad histories  
still reside in a mist  
sitting for reasons

Thursday, September 12, 2024

## Real vs Mood

songs simpler long ago  
more simply put together  
stronger melodies  
not pure atmosphere  
real instruments are too real  
you need digital ones  
to blur melody to mood

Friday, September 13, 2024

## Whistling In A Darkness

down the street & around the corner  
echoes and reverberations of a melody rich  
whistler / I imagine a backing band  
sidemen of light percussion and a wah-wahed  
guitar / perhaps a mellotron but imagine  
my shocked eyes when the whistler revealed  
herself / and what a blonde / at that point  
a sax joined in / secret seduction

Saturday, September 14, 2024

## Papa Del's

finding my way west  
first to Illinois  
where the simplified  
strangeness and diminished  
danger helped me learn  
some of life / having  
a woman partner righted  
my ever tipping confidence  
her bad decisions were decision  
nevertheless / righting  
those figured as maturity  
and the pizza!

Sunday, September 15, 2024

## Road Work

brambles and sumac  
along our space of road  
sand still odd from oiling  
ant hills spilling  
once I found a stretch  
of coins strewn and lonesome  
maybe a few bucks worth  
since then fear's my game

Monday, September 16, 2024

## Yell

keeping company all winter  
with a woman who dislikes  
you / just one big bed  
a stove burning peat  
huge winds / huge waves  
huge darkness / she never  
relents / you'd think  
they're friends  
from the way they talk  
but there is nothing  
human between them

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

## Guardian Angel

darkness as a state of flux  
suddenly there is no more summer  
coldness too  
I started to accept it  
a long winter on my mind  
I want to be able to be calm  
I thought age brought that  
instead more winters

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

## Why Illinois In Autumn

flat to very horizon  
dusty in autumn as combines  
cut and thresh  
what once took many  
now needs only a complex group  
of machines tied together  
and driven by one man  
but I ride by on my bike  
coming from a day of hacking  
and going to a night of pointless  
dreaming



Thursday, September 19, 2024

## Failed Romance

on a plane ride to NY  
I sat next to a woman  
from Sheepshead Bay  
I rented a car and drove  
her home where her mother  
urged us to date  
I didn't think anything  
of it until now some  
45 years later

Friday, September 20, 2024

## **Moon's Pleasure**

in the dark we looked for our rental  
the moon rose and a path of light  
arose / following it for no reason  
except the politeness of the moon's  
light we came to our croft  
where we spent the night in the absence  
of desire and understanding

Saturday, September 21, 2024

## Rainy Season Start

rainy season  
gale season  
wind punches our windows  
a salty aftertaste  
tonight the moon is to rise  
full and orange / a harvest moon  
I offer it my apologies  
the rain and wind  
make for a warm bed

Sunday, September 22, 2024

## **Tomorrow**

fear has grabbed me  
for weeks / tomorrow  
I will see what  
will happen

Monday, September 23, 2024

## Reflection

same as two  
years ago  
driving test waived

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

## Mouthway

our stone croft  
the mouthway of the door  
open to autumn wind  
whistling and whirling  
through it and out the chimney  
everything about this  
reminds me of her sighing  
voice calmly not telling  
me why she'll not return

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

## Wind Voices

one day / wind  
in the birches  
deep in autumn  
she told me later  
that sound was the mouth  
mimicry of the season  
speaking to all  
in a voice that flew  
away while time  
drew apart

Thursday, September 26, 2024

## **I'ce Storm**

up north at my place  
a place she hates  
winter drizzle forms  
ice on pines and waits  
with irritation / anger  
disappointment for the snow  
to seal all feelings onto fragile  
branches / she decides to read  
all night



Friday, September 27, 2024

## Wrong Death

bent over / slumped  
low / an upside down  
world where mother  
outlives daughter  
snow hanging on knots  
waits to fall  
wants to fall

Saturday, September 28, 2024

## Eshanness

cliffs define distance  
a woman waits by the car  
sheep trample feathers and peat  
I made my way there on invitation  
not a hug / no one better  
to say hello / these boulders  
were thrown here / she gets in the car  
rolls up the window / imagines  
me somewhere else

Sunday, September 29, 2024

## Peatland

so cold that the moss  
covering the peat  
has frozen much as hearts  
do with experience  
to get back home I step  
onto the frost until it's crippled  
and pushed down or away  
what does this have to do with spring

Monday, September 30, 2024

## East Wind

east wind combing  
through her loosened  
hair judging her  
and me / she's stern  
as a willow / trunk  
firm / her thoughts  
scattering

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

## Tarweed

the heat dropped  
from the sky  
blurs the trees  
and grass / tarweed  
in the sun

Wednesday, October 2, 2024

## **After Years**

after our last together  
meal her face out our  
window bashfully slinks  
away under a gale made  
haze hidden moon

Thursday, October 3, 2024

## **Windsack**

she tried to tell  
me that spring  
saved up wind in a sack  
letting it fly as summer  
approached helping  
the blossoms open  
as the swished in all  
directions

Friday, October 4, 2024

## Special Rain

no special season  
rains heavy as usual  
such a hard constant sound  
on our shared roof  
the blossoms are soured  
as is her mood  
upon my second return



Saturday, October 5, 2024

## Hair Spray

once upon a time  
she'd rub her hair  
against mine  
and I'd mine against hers  
our hair was so hard  
to please then  
now her hair's white  
and thin and mine  
near gone / our love  
?

---

Sunday, October 6, 2024

## Loss

time to recalibrate  
I stake my self view  
on externals I don't control  
time to begin ignoring  
them / they ignore me  
seems only fair

Monday, October 7, 2024

## Drifting Geese

lower clouds drift slowly  
upper ones in a fit of layering  
blast past out to a waiting sea  
reminds me of us / and the geese  
who live near

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

## Pointers

sitting with her by the river  
just upriver from Plum Island  
I watched the sailboats  
slowly turn about their anchor  
points from pointing upriver  
to pointing out toward sea  
as the moon worked around  
its daily routine the way  
we used to

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

## Harsh

she wrote me letters  
now burnt on their edges  
her writing like rake marks  
made after reflection  
her letters loose on my desk  
falling or failing  
some wait for a strong wind  
to push them to the river  
where they will indecide

Thursday, October 10, 2024

## **Moon Watch**

slim figure of moon  
tonight we don't sleep  
there's no bedtime  
we will watch the white  
star band swivel in the night  
far from firelight and moonlight

Friday, October 11, 2024

## **Moon Sawn**

gazing out the window  
looking through our twined  
feet at the near end  
of a sawn log still white  
before the sap's yellowing  
behind it the moon coming  
up / so cozy yet unlikely

Saturday, October 12, 2024

## Peak Snow

readying to write  
pen in a holder  
ink in an inkwell  
sheets of good paper  
piled at the edge  
of her special desk  
facing west in a storm  
in the morning  
the peak was snow covered  
the sheets torn to bits  
except one with her last  
note to me



Sunday, October 13, 2024

## Rising

smoke from tea leaves  
burning in the hearth  
the sky responds by dropping  
rain which turns to snow  
which mixes with the tea  
smoke forming signals  
and signs fanned by the pages  
of the book she reads  
or did she write it

Monday, October 14, 2024

(E)

in my darkened listening room  
with speakers my father made  
I listen to classical on a reel  
to reel tape player recorded  
I imagine to high standards  
for the time / but aside  
from the music and the sound  
of it what I attend to is the tape  
slowly unwinding here and rewinding  
there / the motion

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

## Cousins

the cousin who worried  
she said  
that she had lost me  
has never called  
or written or emailed  
since she found out  
I didn't owe her money

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

## Less Like Love

when she first arrived  
she surveyed the rocks  
beneath a dynamite cliff  
above the sea / after a year  
she gazed into the rocky depth  
the cliff presented above  
the sea / after another year  
she saw the rocks / the cliff  
the sea

Thursday, October 17, 2024

## Nakedless

just out of the shower  
she's all there  
a long time ago  
she'd take advantage  
a long time ago  
my eyebrows would rise  
it's not that she's not  
alluring but that every option's  
been explored and now  
what we think matters more

Friday, October 18, 2024

## Greaterness

the mountain ahead of us  
it's too hard for us to climb now  
age and reticence in the way  
many times though we'd done it  
in each of our pasts  
we loved the climb and each other  
sometimes too / we thought  
this all was great and so did  
the great books

Saturday, October 19, 2024

## Art of All

she liked nice things  
as defined by her refined  
ideas of beauty and grace  
food and houses especially  
the only houses she liked  
were hundreds of years old  
and built on stone streets  
not one inch straight  
food had to be cooked  
roughly and by older women  
if she liked nice things  
do you think she liked me

Sunday, October 20, 2024

## Docking Time

there is an old dock  
I like in a lake  
near my old place  
and I'd like walking  
out to its end  
and watching water  
be water and wind  
and waves be waves  
and wind but now  
the planks that make  
up the dock have rotted  
and caved in and my favorite  
thing now is to admire time



Monday, October 21, 2024

## **LA Ever**

tired as hell  
from driving bad roads  
tomorrow to LA  
and my final talk  
ever

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

## Water Log

looking past her  
toward the narrow  
strait from this island  
to that / boats passing  
creasing the water  
which jumps at the dock  
boats heading to find  
food for us all  
boats taking people  
away or could it be  
here

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

## Prescott to Seligman

one day under the hottest sun  
in Arizona a woman so soft  
and kind was placed by a tree  
and a stone lifted there  
everyones' tears were the lone  
wet points / later her sons  
put a fence around her

a hundred years later I came  
by / down a dirt road to a path  
past a dead cow and rain dug  
tracks to the fence fallen down  
her name worn away and her headstone  
ready to topple / who was she  
does no one still love her  
I guess I will

Thursday, October 24, 2024

## **AI: Winter of Our Discontent**

talk today  
not a disaster  
but I felt lousy  
some said they liked it  
only my opinion matters  
to me

Friday, October 25, 2024

## Home Afraid

to drive home  
leaving here  
to go to an unhappy  
place though welcome  
is hard / wife and place  
just ducky / mother-in-law  
is difficult

Saturday, October 26, 2024

## Temporary Paint

the place I live  
has a thick wall  
covered in peeling paint  
uncovering a palette  
of pastels and sitting  
by my low table the voice  
on the other end of my mobile  
is telling me she's done  
at first her face was on  
my screen but she video  
muted it or is it blinded it  
maybe we can dance again  
one day when I get back  
and she stumbles onto me again

Sunday, October 27, 2024

## Rhythm Café

the best dinner  
I had with her  
was in Merrimac  
in a former bank  
near the Square  
run by women  
featuring heavy  
meals with heavy  
sauces / poor  
ventilation and so  
in November our meal  
was steamy in a corner  
that's the last  
time we were  
friends

Monday, October 28, 2024

## Princess

princess pines  
Decembers I'd  
pick bags full  
my mother used  
circled coat  
hangers and baling  
string / we called  
it wire / to secure  
the stems of several  
at a time in a circular  
formation to create  
the floofiest Christmas  
wreaths in all of Christendom



Tuesday, October 29, 2024

## Waster

when time's up  
it will turn out  
I slept through  
most of my life  
playing instead  
of accomplishing  
what a sad day  
I'll have for  
my last one

Wednesday, October 30, 2024

## Riverside

I'd sit by the river  
until the darkness  
was absolute  
I'd listen carefully  
to the stillest wind  
I'd offer to sniff  
everything green  
or flowering  
if only the people  
who knew me would promise  
to stand out of sight  
until that darkness

Thursday, October 31, 2024

## 75

slow day after  
74 years  
I wonder how  
time will unfold  
quiet day  
silent day  
alone day

Friday, November 1, 2024

## Hold On Tight

I sat in her darkened room  
looking out to a narrow bricked  
street watching local rain  
making slender puddles in the cracks  
upstairs in her warming bed  
she pulled the covers over her head  
to avoid the sound of rain  
and memories of me

Saturday, November 2, 2024

## Ely NV

on the walls mounted  
heads and antlers  
she ordered the lamb  
and I a random pizza  
we both had a savory broth  
and chunks of cake for desert  
when we left I held her hand  
as she crossed a patch of ice  
the best sex we ever had

Sunday, November 3, 2024

## **Effection**

it was funny how  
when we were waiting  
in Aberdeen for our flight  
to Amsterdam she put her head  
on my shoulder as a woman  
might do to express affection  
but she had another reason  
I don't know what it was

Monday, November 4, 2024

## Dead Of Night

when she fell asleep  
I pulled out a book  
she had written and read  
it until dawn when she  
woke up and made me  
recite the parts I  
loved

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

## Islands

we loved some islands  
we loved the rides and talks  
we were with each other day  
after day / yet we didn't  
love each other or at least  
she didn't



Wednesday, November 6, 2024

## **Worst Day**

to learn your country  
doesn't deserve your  
respect and to learn  
it so near the end  
of your life

Thursday, November 7, 2024

## **Distorted States of America**

the country will drift  
downhill and people  
who need help will receive  
scorn / a country once  
almost moving slowly  
toward civilization  
will fall quickly  
back to ignorance  
and anger

Friday, November 8, 2024

## Herring Girls

she is standing off  
by herself in the cold  
of the North Sea  
washing her dress  
with the other women  
after working herring  
but unlike them  
her shape is the source  
of life in the human  
world

Saturday, November 9, 2024

## CSN&Y

in 1969 folks loved  
folk music thinking  
doing that made  
them cool to women  
and the hip and good  
harmony showed you  
cared about your  
fellow musician  
the more the merrier

Sunday, November 10, 2024

## Homemade Speakers

in a dark room  
in a cold room  
I listened to music  
as if obsessed  
repeating songs  
for hours / sometimes  
holding and cherishing  
photos of girls  
I wanted to love  
but as night taught  
things got only colder

Monday, November 11, 2024

## **Brazil Nuts For Fun**

Thanksgiving always in South Boston  
two rooms and a small bedroom  
a large closet / toilet outside  
the door at the top of the staircase  
third floor / I was bored  
moving room to room / dozing  
on Boston Nana's bed / watching  
last minute cooking / listening  
to uninspired talk / my mother too  
bored while my father and his mother  
spoke Lithuanian / I found the stuffed  
hawk in the closet / it was  
not enough

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

## A Love Like This

a rain like no other  
dropping its small hammers  
in a rush on our metal roof  
and after the news of the decay  
of our homes we want to hug  
and hold but that would mean  
tears would join drops  
and all of it would just flow  
down to the voe and out to sea  
I lit a fire and hoped for warming

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

## What The Heart Wants

I want to live where  
night rules the day  
where darkness falls  
more than light / where  
rain is the norm and clouds  
blank the sun / melancholy  
and sadness make the sun  
go down and stay down



Thursday, November 14, 2024

## Replaced

the trees and woods I  
wandered as a boy  
have been cut down  
replaced by a field  
there are lots of ways  
to cry over this

Friday, November 15, 2024

## Cold

what happened today  
decades ago made me  
do what I am doing  
right now / typing  
this

Saturday, November 16, 2024

## Death Stairs

the alleys are narrow  
with steep stairs  
the only railings  
are the stone house  
outside walls  
I made my way up them  
every evening  
to a narrow bed shared  
with an unenthusiastic woman  
and every morning she  
and I would come down

Sunday, November 17, 2024

## More Enough

snow reaching above window  
level / almost to roof line  
still snowing but sounds  
are hushed and the snow packing  
keeps a lid on the cold  
we've enough food for weeks  
of this / enough books  
for years / and if we run  
out of things to read  
we will write more

Monday, November 18, 2024

## Above Powell

into a short evening  
we watched a movie  
streamed on my laptop  
in a hotel in Page Arizona  
you'd think this would be  
prelude but it was a completion  
we were too little / meant  
too little / and it was too late

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

## Manly Lines

some prose is tough  
as a manic man  
laced with jerky words  
so that even a woman  
with subtle but plentiful  
small freckles goes  
unnoticed

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

## Overlook

I showed her some trees  
I climbed when young  
oh sixty years ago  
as much as they meant to me  
was how little they meant  
to her / etc

Thursday, November 21, 2024

## **Snow Likes Her**

a lot of snow  
roads plowed  
after a long while  
meanwhile we wait  
by pot belly stoves  
using up our dried  
quartered wood  
piled under a lean-to  
by the side door  
the woman with me's  
upstairs under down  
quilts and wool blankets  
even such a storm  
can't fix things



Friday, November 22, 2024

## Stay

she stood on the plot  
we had up in Tamworth  
the place where I loved  
for the first time  
and she told me the place  
was horrible / terrible  
how could I tell her  
I loved it all the same

Saturday, November 23, 2024

## Guitar Player

he stood there alone  
on what could be called  
a stage and played soft  
guitar / a song of harsh  
sadness / we listened  
we sat / we mourned when  
we learned he died  
just days after  
the notes still reverbing  
into & through the room  
—all

Sunday, November 24, 2024

## Mid November In The North

the moon's a big factor  
strumming the tops  
of small wind waves  
across the strait  
distant lights signaling  
the actions of men  
in our croft we wait  
as always for the wind  
to drift off and one by one  
we'll drift off and then  
away

Monday, November 25, 2024

## Jeff Hoyt

he told me about my grandmother  
my grandfather and was stunned  
that his father proposed  
to my mother / just died  
the other day and all chances  
to find out more gone  
only four years older than me

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

## Her Law

she could never  
believe junky stuff  
has meaning so she  
deprived me of mine  
low class and lower  
a lesson I suppose  
I was required  
to master / never  
did

Wednesday, November 27, 2024

## Interweaving

sparse music delivered  
with clarity and resolution  
who knew perfection  
was in the hands and fingers  
of old guitar players  
and jazz drummers  
outside storminess  
and wailing winds  
clublike rain against glass  
the pulses of perfection  
against one tide of nature  
and she hits the sack

Thursday, November 28, 2024

## Having Fun

playing every week  
you'd think I'd be better  
other players watching  
us play thought I carried  
the band / it was how bad  
they were that made this true

Friday, November 29, 2024

## **And Not A Photo**

I wish I could go  
back and listen  
to this music as it sounds  
now but in the rooms  
where I lived as a kid  
so my melancholy  
would be based on a clear  
understanding of the deepness  
of sadness



Saturday, November 30, 2024

## Lineman Songs

sad songs go with the flat lands  
in the middle of my country  
Kansas / Nebraska / maybe Iowa  
because the views are long  
and hiding is an inner experience  
when the sun is killing you  
the burden of relentlessness  
demands a still running river  
surrounded by cottonwoods  
sadness is a lack of options

Sunday, December 1, 2024

## After Time

after years away  
I went home / the grass  
outside my mother's window  
was brown / dried by autumn's  
mastery / her hair was tainted  
white and her eyes set in creases  
days later I needed to depart  
she filled my hands with a treasure  
box locked with a wispy key  
never open it she said  
years again later on hearing  
of her death I passed the key  
into the lock / shadowy smoke rose  
out of a brooding emptiness

Monday, December 2, 2024

## Springing

coming across a foreign  
field of grass or grain  
after a week of dulling  
travel I stopped  
under a tree / on a stone  
wall / when a woman  
dressed in all colors  
came by I asked her first  
the name of these greenleafed  
grasses gesturing in the wind  
then I asked

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

## Explanation

I sat in the square  
all day / not speaking  
nothing to eat or drink  
I watched the women  
come and go / I watched  
the river come and go  
come and go / life

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

## Near An Ice Cream Shop

watching a child  
sitting on cobbles  
in a blocked off  
lane / sobs / something  
about the end of Spring darkens  
her sadness

Thursday, December 5, 2024

## Boxed

first tonight was a drizzle-filled  
sky welcomed by the dry everywhere  
later the harvest moon's floodtide  
surged up to our unwelcoming front  
door marking the start of our love

Friday, December 6, 2024

## Revised

why when they restored  
Notre Dame did they update  
some of it / everyone in history  
revises everything they touch  
no one can avoid it / my friend  
called it pissing eg on the code

Saturday, December 7, 2024

## **KnottGPT and Me**

a full moon pinned to the sky  
shape like an empty bed  
glass windows rejected close moments  
behind each mirror streets whispered  
of dust and echoes remained  
what we could not wake nor bear  
left



Sunday, December 8, 2024

## **Bad Morning**

hard to know how little  
love remains as age claims  
the last bursts of envy  
the lovers part while  
one wants and the other waits

Monday, December 9, 2024

## **Ever River**

what a wonder  
that the river  
continues to flow  
decade after decade  
even in rain lean years  
water comes from everywhere

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

## For Her

she asked me to fetch  
a bucket of water  
from our deep hand-pump well  
cold water and a bit hard  
bitter too is the cool air  
coming down the hill I  
climb / my bucket half  
filled with water is half  
filled with some of this cool  
air

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

## Hillsiders

we live among hills  
between us and the sea  
between us and everyone else  
the town's near but over  
a rise / near its square  
a church uses its bells  
each evening and noon  
but we've learned  
to not hear it / wrong  
reminder

Thursday, December 12, 2024

## Contrasts

looking down on a widened  
city at night from my arriving  
plane / the blue hour  
with yellow lights / cars  
white coming / red going  
big / crowded / lonely

Friday, December 13, 2024

## Voe Says

walking past rocks  
past stones and walls  
made of them / when wet  
they form jewels in the sun  
but we struggle while wind  
celebrates / in my head  
complicated songs unfold  
and the tune of the stream  
filtering by us invites  
us to bed under a warmth

Saturday, December 14, 2024

## Brush Sizes Up

facing the empty canvas  
my brush draws up paint  
inspired by the ice melt  
starting to flow to sea

Sunday, December 15, 2024

## Icefish

for fun / for practice  
I set up by the river  
and pulled out icefish  
piled them by a fire  
I made from shaved tree  
meat curls / after it hailed  
I cooked them up and ate  
while a nearby crow  
headed to the town market  
figure the connections



Monday, December 16, 2024

## Back To The World

when I last saw her  
she was on the pier  
looking toward Bressay  
her back toward Lerwick  
the wind behind her billowed  
her coat and flung her hair  
toward the reach of water  
I wondered / was her back  
also to the world

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

## Anyhow

one day something  
will happen to the very  
all of us one by one  
anyhow / somehow  
snow alights on leaves  
preparing to become  
left

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

## **Funny Love**

I took her to the north  
end of Hampton Beach  
my foot in a cast  
after dark I asked her  
later when I sat on my mother's  
bed end I told her we were marrying  
she said something like tell  
me something I don't know

Thursday, December 19, 2024

## Sway

bare trees loaded / branches  
gripped by ice / snow  
they crave it / nearby fields  
a man tills forward / back  
mows back / ahead / craving  
the last chill to grip his arms  
his remembering / his last self

Friday, December 20, 2024

## Cooling Freshness

a cooling freshness  
arriving minutes  
before the relent  
attributed to the end  
of autumn / start  
of replenishment

Saturday, December 21, 2024

## Stone Seat

up on Chocorua  
spacing out on the view  
of roads and lakes  
the coolness late  
in the day seeps  
into the granite  
seeps into me

Sunday, December 22, 2024

## Austin 1984

I drove her to my motel  
all that she ever wanted  
I granted / she was a surprise  
when I called for my car  
to drive her back I told  
the valet to not say  
a single word / the next  
day was wiped

Monday, December 23, 2024

## Fountain of Age

what's nice about Merrimac  
and all the towns around it  
is the hidden monuments  
statues / water fountains  
guarded by goldenrod and milkweed  
until the day / the time  
you stumble on them and it's like  
the people who made them  
can step out / say hi



Tuesday, December 24, 2024

## 1960s Christmases

we favored simple blue lights  
for Christmas in our window  
no one drives by / we were so far  
out / a tree not visible  
from the road / wreaths  
made from princess pine  
strung around a rounded  
coat hanger held with baling  
wire / we called it  
Boston Nana and Mike  
came up / we played cards  
maybe toboggan rides  
up on Hoyt's high hill  
nothing much / nothing special  
not for me

Wednesday, December 25, 2024

## Lerwick

checking morning smear  
over the strait / tall ships  
highlighting the blue scene  
lights like flares on sprinkled  
windowpanes / cars caught  
stationary under the light  
reminds me of a woman  
who chose everything else

Thursday, December 26, 2024

## Underlying Truth

there's always a way  
to remember the life  
that makes you into the hero  
and a way that shows you weak  
neither is the truth but who  
ever cared about that / which  
is the better story / it's never  
obvious which it is or should be  
but I'm guessing it's the one  
with prettier sentences

Friday, December 27, 2024

## Melancholy & Holy

life's a sequence  
of injuries and pains  
in the end everyone  
is their scars piled  
on each other / why  
sadness is the most  
popular sort of song

Saturday, December 28, 2024

## Lone & Love

called an elder  
I turned away  
from spotlights  
away from questions  
even when my works  
are called exquisite  
I turn away still  
long past I'd sit  
in a dark cold room  
listening to music  
on repeat / these days  
I repeat again

Sunday, December 29, 2024

## Enclave Living

what would happen  
if a husband and wife  
become father and mother  
didn't bother their only child  
with the idea and practice  
of love / how would that boy  
approach his own wife / his  
own children / and what if  
that experiment was conducted  
on you

Monday, December 30, 2024

## Hello Goodbye

here's that song I played  
two caveats / "an' knew  
for the rides" is almost certainly wrong  
but the closest I can get  
"a new horizon" makes more sense  
but doesn't sound like that  
one of you can figure it out

the chord F#m aug3 is the notes B C# F#  
but is not right  
maybe one of you can figure  
out what it really is

Tuesday, December 31, 2024

## Grow

in Paris I found a way  
to eat oysters and never  
sleep / I learned the plan  
that makes a dull woman superb  
I found out how cities  
clean shit out from under our feet  
in Paris I saw that quality  
weighed more than a pile of cash  
not to mention the paintings