Animal Husbandry



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At the start of 2020 I was asked to write a book about the women I knew, by a couple of women I knew. I hadn't written for years, but the invitation seemed to open the floodgates as I started to sum up my life.

I suppose I was the husband of the title, or perhaps I was the animal. My thoughts swing from one pole to the other, but these poems, written over year before I started to dig into my old Journals and Photos seem to indicate a certain balance. Not too far toward Husband or Animal, so let's call these Animal Husbandry.

The model posed for this set of shots in 2005, just before I got into digital photography, when film could be processed and put onto a CD. Even here I hadn't come down on one side or the other. I'm 65 now, I wonder if I will ever decide which side I'm on. For photography that's easy, I use a digital camera that looks like a film camera and I'm happy. Even happier when I end up shooting in black and white.

As for the women, I'll never stop loving them and I'll never stop regretting the Animal I occasionally was. Yes, call it Animal Husbandry.

Kim Taylor November 2021

Imaginary Photographs

Imaginary photographs Checking the specs on all the new cameras and not one will take a picture of you in 1978 as you rolled over in bed poked my stomach and told me I was getting fat.

Drifting Up 6

Sunny Sunday drifting up 6 in a warm car

I watch Pam sing along dancing to the music

Dangerous shades on her eyes as she laughs

Caught me watching $\sim\sim$

Williamsford Pie Company Loo

At the Williamsford Pie Company the gent's loo door scrapes across the tiles

I pee the frog watches don't flush the paper towel down the toilet please

When I leave the door scrapes I hope they never fix it.

Dael's Bed

I was headed West to find myself instead I found her in the Albion bar

Her place was half way to my place I slept there She was tiny she fit into my body curled against my chest

I woke many times to feel her breathe my arms around her

In the morning I had to go I tried not to wake her Her arms went to my neck inviting me to stay

I had to go I left, not having had sex with her I had to go We left 8 hours later

The Morning After

They walked in for coffee the morning after the night before blond curls, mischievous eyes

His hair just as curly just as cute Breakfast was an apple shared and a cinnamon doughnut Coffee

No words, but no phones They both read their book comfortable

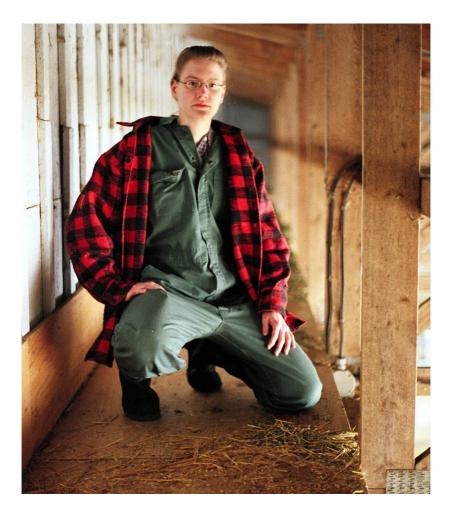
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A Night of Dreams

A night of dreams of women past

Each time I woke I was greeted by a different smile hair falling across a face a gleam in her eye every glint unique

Shall I tell you shall I speak of those I slept with but never slept with A gentleman does not ~~



A Moment Of Comfort

I always looked forward with a new girlfriend to the time we went to bed and didn't make love

It was a moment of comfort a place where sex un-done said maybe this will last Just stretch and say good morning ~~

Summer Lasted Forever

When I was young Summer lasted forever Now it flies by Birthdays brought distress Not another year older!

Now that I have died I look forward to my next year Cackling and chuckling They don't come fast enough

 $\sim \sim$

Barista on a Break

Barista on a break Face turned to a corner Head down Concentrating on his croissant

Fluffy

My buddy exploded in laughter No no, I said it's short for fluffhead

I don't know why I thought that would help

Later, buddy called her fluffy As she battered him she said Only Kim gets to call me that ~~

Seven Dollars a Minute

Seven dollars a minute From a bar in Skagway Alaska "I think we should reconsider our relationship"

It was a black payphone it was in a bar it was 4am and it was still light

I walked to the bar ~~

Not Going Back, I Promise

You're not going back to him when he gets home are you he said I'm not doing that again

No she replied

When I got home She called She came

When she called I had a girl bouncing on my lap ~~

Long Brown Rain

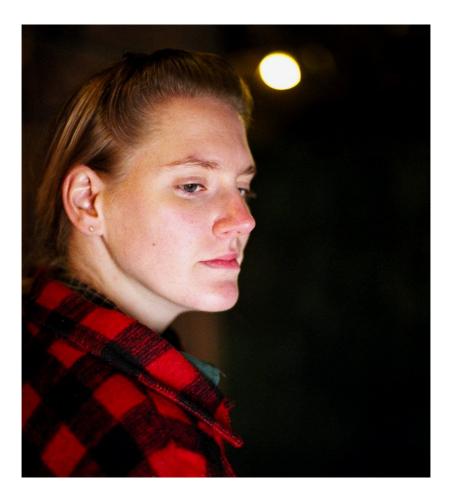
She had hair like long brown rain I used to sit on the floor by her bed

We talked hours into the night but I never got any closer than that

She had a boyfriend back home who played rugby and smoked cigars

I once drove to Toronto from Wyecombe to take her to dinner I lost a cap from my front tooth in a bread roll

Why do I suddenly remember sitting on the floor by my grandmother's bed talking, long into the evening ~~



The Critic

I don't like it she said it makes me sad

But my poems are happy funny little things

I don't like it

Nearly Famous

I lived just down the street from Hagood Hardy she said

You won't know this but that just about says it all ~~

Thanks For The Warmth

Lately I've been remembering

All the girls I never had sex with

I remember M no, that was her name a roommate from next door

I remember coming home one night drunk unlucky but not really bothered about that except

I went next door picked her up out of her bed and carried her to mine

To have someone to sleep beside $\sim\sim$

Write Us a Book

Write us a book Do it A book of poems about women Read it to us

I haven't had performance anxiety as bad as that since I was 18

It's all good now like when I was 18 I just needed an afternoon and a nap ~~

Hand Written Still

Seeking inspiration trying to write a book quickly this book

I reached for an old notebook and in it was a book written on a plane flight from Kitchener to Vancouver.

The 100th poem written as we rolled up to the gate.

Picture a Bed

Picture a bed torn to pieces but not from sex

Picture it messy blankets sideways but not from sex

She doesn't like being hot I'm always cold

Still, she's pretty cute all curled up with a single foot covered ~~

What I Remember

It's always been the curve of her flank that spot between the ass and the ribs from the back as I glimpse it in moonlight ~~



When There's No Forward

Why am I doing this dreams daydreams of the women in my life

Why now when I'm well past the drama When I have no more desire

Yet my thoughts were never about the sex I feel them all with love even though I remember them all the fights, the flights

Why now has the cancer returned

Feb 2020

She Had a Pet Skunk

She had a pet skunk old, cranky Somehow we ended up in bed the evening before I left for a meeting was I presenting a paper?

I remembered the smell of her (it wasn't skunk) all the way there it was warm, salty, oh yes It smelled a bit of guilt My girlfriend was driving

I lost touch with her even though she lived next door

I was such a jerk ~~

Problems Like That

A sunny morning time to get up for work but I couldn't both arms were dead they wouldn't move

A blond on one side her redhead friend on the other and me in the middle

Wasn't my idea really Still, nice to have problems like that ~~

The Bus Station Toilets

She spent the first two weeks after moving in walking down to the bus station to go to the bathroom

I loved that girl for doing things like that ~~

Her Sister's Pussy

I don't remember where my girlfriend was or how her sister ended up in my bedroom

Wet from the rain?

but I do remember that line of fur from pussy to bellybutton ~~

Sorry Bruce

I once called one of my friends a slut for the number of women he'd slept with

Hmm

 $\sim \sim$

Don't Think About Me

Why am I writing this certainly not for the women that I have known

They won't be amused by the women that I have known

Yet if I could I would be with them now all of them

Will any of them be at my wake

Likely won't hear of it

I hope they don't think about me at all

That's how much I wish them well ~~



23 + 3

Twenty three and three she said You find us at 23 and you keep us around for three years

I think that amused her $\sim\sim$

The '70's

What the hell generation were we?

Post penicillin Post pill and pre-AIDS

That was us And we liked each other and we were adults treated as adults able to choose

We hit university a few years after 1968 The dawn of co-ed dorms where those who would choose co-ed dorms over parental norms chose co-ed dorms

If I don't understand you Understand why ~~

She Liked Pie

She liked pie

Sometimes I will buy a pie and eat one piece

It will sit on the fridge until it goes mouldy ~~

Playing Caps

Standing at the bar playing caps for beers I won enough to start paying double for them

The bartender smiled at me pocketing the difference at closing time

Later that night my face rose from between her legs beard dripping

Don't look at me she said it's your fault

Bite My Ass

Bite my ass she yelled out the window during the usual spring nonsense at the residence

We counted four floors down third apartment corner bedroom

And off we went at a run Pounded on the front door Someone let us in ran down the hall burst into the room threw them both on the bed and bit their asses

We ran even faster on the way back $\sim\sim$

Imaginary Photographs II

Photographs? I suppose some of these are short video clips

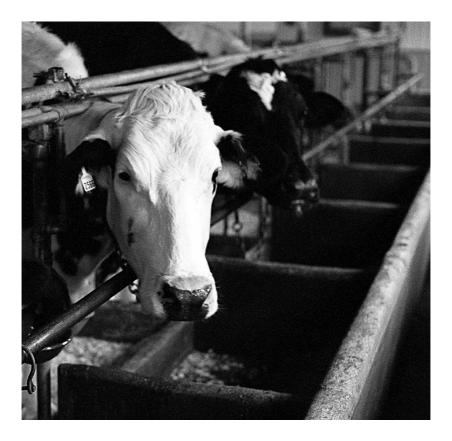
still the images are what I see when I look back in my memory ~~

Guitar in Hand

There he goes long blond hair cute as a button heading for the bus guitar in hand

Who did he spend the night with Doubtless he was playing at a party last evening

Do they still do that? $\sim\sim$



These Days

These days watching a woman come in from the cold gloves off scarf coat hat saved for the last seems as exciting to me as ever watching a pair of jeans hit my bedroom floor ~~

A Few Words

A few words shared at the milk and sugar stand before they separate

I wonder if that will ever go anywhere and as I wonder I get the nicest smile

I'm a lucky man she sat down in front of me

He's somewhere behind ~~

Mornings Are Hard

Issues perhaps?

Looking up from my notes I am in time to see a girl lean into the post box and tip it over ~~

A Secret Smile

The barista wanders over asks the fellow if he would like a latte

I can't say no to that he replies

she smiles her secret smile

Liquid Grey Eyes

Holding her Americano in both hands taking what warmth it gives

She gazes out the window computer closed on the table in front of her

Liquid grey eyes gazing at her thoughts I wouldn't disturb her for 40 years off my age ~~

I Know Who She Is

Oh dear I know who she is brown hair spilling over her shoulder soft bangs a secret smile and that nose, oh that nose

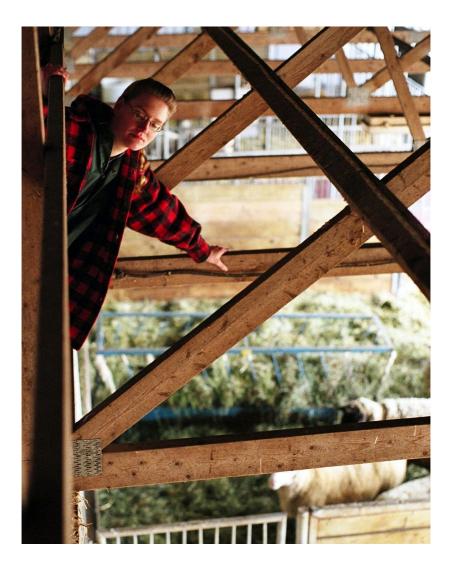
Oh yes, I know who you are and now I wonder across these 40 years I wonder how she's doing

I hope she's happy I hope she had children at her feet I hope she thought of me once, years ago with fondness ~~

Why I Shoot Into The Lights

Looking across winter fields the sun blinding on the snow

I am back in Port Stanley fourteen years old shy skinny a boy looking into the sun reflected in the water as she walks over the sand toward me ~~



Those Eyes

Over fifty years I remember those eyes how could I not?

They once gazed at me across a rumpled bed and I forgot about sex I forgot about the skin so smooth under my hand I forgot myself Everything

Feb 2020

Satori

It was there across the street riding the bus thinking of her hair blond past her waist

It was there as we went around the curve that the universe dissolved into me and I into it.

There is a Lot of Past

I don't tend to remember the past I'm too old for that it would take too long

but every so often the past remembers me and I wallow, I drown in faces in the curve of a hand the bow of a smile in that line between her eyes as she tried to understand ~~

White Socks

I can't take my eyes off of her white socks half way up her calf before those black pants begin

 $\sim \sim$

The Sweater

Oh, oh She's taking off her sweater don't look no don't stare don't be the dirty old man she sees when her head pops out again

But oh, she's taking off her sweater

Selfish

I hate women she said Mean, nasty

I wonder is that why she chased the girls out of our Aikido class

I asked once

Why should I share my boys? $\sim\sim$

A Little Overpowered

Three engines and a single car with 2x4 studs crossing the train bridge across the street ~~



I've Said Something

Big brown eyes that say so much

She's looking at me now damn I've just said something stupid

again

 $\sim \sim$

The Story is Gone

I once told a story of using a toilet in Japan I warned my audience that they'd better remember because once I told it it would disappear from my mind

I was right it's gone, the story is gone only an image of me squatting on ruined knees grabbing a pipe and looking at it in my hand before shoving it back

When I finish this poem I will flick it upward and it will be gone from my screen

I hope Oh god I hope I never treated people like that a flick of the finger and they are gone

It Is Always About Women

It is always about women I had my friends got along with them well enough but it was the women that mattered that I lived and died for

Not crying Wailing as if I'd lost my soul slamming into the wall sliding down legs splayed head down sobbing

That sort of thing ~~

She'll Get Over It

I have quite fallen in love with the girl sitting in front of me but now I must go

I'm sure there is a metaphor there something about how many women I have left before

But I'm just an old man with a cane heading out the door

She'll get over it ~~

Beware the Old Man

Beware the old man sitting in the cafe he might just be writing about you

Have you ever wondered how many of those old guys that you smiled at politely have stored you in their memory like a precious photograph of an old love

Some day when you're feeling down when you're feeling unloved think about all the old men who fell in love with you in that cafe ~~

I Want

She makes me want...

to go home and trim my old grey beard ~~

Advice to young boys

As you dither and worry about talking to that girl let me point out that you will be one day nearing your death

Do you really want to have a memory suddenly pop into your head of a girl at the mini golf who was wonderful who glanced your way as you dropped your eyes and moved on ~~



Do You Want to Fall in Love

Do you want to fall in love? think about love, it will happen don't worry you can't run out of love it's not something you own it's not something that owns you you can be in love with anyone you can be in love with everyone

Does your love, love someone else it's fine love is like a sticky bun it stays with you changed maybe to that little bulge just behind your right hip but you don't lose it once you have it

So have at it love as much as you wish love as much as you can store it up you never know when you'll need a little bit of reserve Love doesn't hurt you can't be lovesick Desire hurts You want to own someone's love? you want to own someone Don't You only hurt yourself

Love isn't a two way street it's a broad field wander where you want love where you want If you expect nothing you gain everything ~~

I Need to Write Your Poem

I feel like I need to write a poem for every girl I knew

I guess this one is yours $\sim\sim$

Still a Shit

You can love someone and still be a shit

 $\sim \sim$

No Biopic Here

I am such a lightweight I didn't drink myself to death in a haze of existential angst I just stopped drinking

I don't agonize with a pen blank sheet of paper in front of me I just write

My heart isn't broken nor am I, by a tragic childhood, broken I say goodbye and move on

I am such a lightweight I can't hold a grudge my life is not suitable for a biopic ~~

Candy

When I was in public school a girl liked me she asked me for a date said she would pay for the movie

She scared the hell out of me $\sim\sim$

Old Poets

Bukowski was too damned wordy who can read all those words On and on and on

They didn't have snooze buttons $\sim\sim$

Where's My Share

They say Picasso was an asshole and Braughtigan and all the big artists So if being an asshole makes you a great artist

Where's my share

 $\sim \sim$

Scary Thought

I was a handsome fellow but I didn't know it until University

Why are you chatting me up she said You could have any girl in this room ~~



What Women?

How many of your women did you pick up in your martial arts class?

Not as many as you might think but a hell of a lot of my girlfriends ended up there

 $\sim \sim$

She Was Furious

She was furious

I asked

Why are men such dicks why did sensei wait until the night before I leave to ask me to sleep with him

Bastard

I'm pretty sure I didn't get laid that night ~~

I Woke in Pain

I woke up in pain roaring

She had a wrist lock on my arm With the other one I slapped her against the wall

What the hell I said

She fluttered those eyelashes and said I have to practice don't I?

I fell further in love as I fell asleep cuddling my poor arm ~~

I Slept in Fear

I lived for months not the happiest time in my life Convinced that she would knife me in my sleep

Later when I told her she was stunned that I would have thought such a thing ~~

Nobody Told Me

There was a girl in high school who would cycle to my house way out in the country to invite me for a ride

Later watching a football game holding hands with another girl I got a mighty clout across the back of the head with a double handfull of books

Blind stupid boy ~~

Shiseido

My first encounter with women's makeup pricing was taking her to Sears and saying buy whatever you would like ~~

It Was One Woman

Looking over the years and these imaginary photographs I might think that it was one woman

It would be easier certainly if it was

Perhaps it is Woman $\sim\sim$



Pushing buttons

She wanted us to talk so she pushed buttons that made me scream at her

Not so much what she actually said but that she would say it

Yes we had trouble communicating a hole in the bedboard a dent in the plaster and lath wall might have been a clue

The day I touched her was the day it was over

I didn't hurt her and she didn't understand

I was going to ~~

Little Kitten

I slammed the spatula on the edge of the sink so hard it stuck in the ceiling

I spun around and had my hands on her neck before I could think

You know when a kitten scratches you and you grab it by the throat?

You can't squeeze it's a kitten

She's still my little kitten but I had to find her another home ~~

King of the Coffee Shop

I used to be the king of the coffee shop nine or ten cups a day

I would nap in the booth by the pillars in the middle the Ladies all knew me Bagel with cheese and tomato

We used to hold court at the big table there I used to chat up the girls

We played J9 Dust in the Wind by Kansas yelling the code to anyone going toward the jukebox

We played pinball and wrote, and skipped classes

It's gone now these 30 years

Like the Women of your Twenties

Where do all the poems go that I write in the car In my head as I doze off

Surely I will remember such a perfect gem by the time I get some paper and a pen ~~

How many have I hurt

How many women have I hurt by being faithful on request by the next?

See that lover coming up my stairs

See me go cold awkward

Watch the light go out of her eyes ~~

Johnston Green

At the front of the campus was a lawn with bushes near the road

Walking home from the bar with a girl I'd met

We decided to stop under the bushes and fuck

The girlfriend being at home and me being too lazy to go to her place

I wonder just how many places on that campus I'd had sex ~~

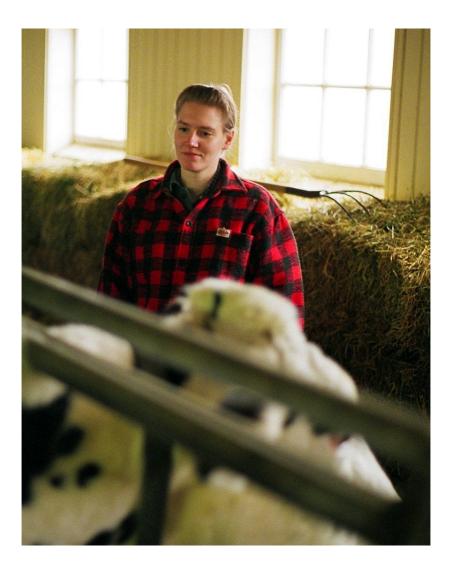
The Bullring

It was called the Bullring It's still there It's not the disco it once was

There was a central pillar and at midnight they would play Satisfaction

We would chase the girls off the floor and the guys would dance in their underwear

At closing time we would climb the pillar and afterward we would head for the pond to skinny-dip in the mud ~~



Who listens?

A buddy and I took a girl to the pond to skinny-dip

We had met her in the bar Where else and she was having some sort of trouble with her boyfriend Who listens?

It was a nice grope out there in the water on a warm night with the mud between our toes

I wonder if he knew that it was my hand on his dick

We took her back to the house and I left them to it

In the morning I asked He told me they just talked about her boyfriend

You see

91

That's what comes of listening

 $\sim \sim$

My Godfather's Chair

I had an old chair it was my Godfather's Danish a bit tattered

She used to love straddling me her legs over the arms just the right height

She would bounce there for hours

Somewhere over the years the chair was left in an old apartment

Too worn out to be worth carrying down the stairs ~~

It Shames Me

You are rich when you have more money than you need

One year I realized that I'd lost count of the women I'd slept with

You think that's bragging? It shames me I feel sick every time I think of it

Nobody deserves to be forgotten ~~

Skagway Harbour

There were no jobs so we drifted west and then north

Finally wandering backward out of the Yukon down the Chilkoot Pass into Skagway

It was a long walk two days from Bennett Lake with a can of spam and a can of beans for the two of us

When we got to Skagway I got drunk big surprise and I picked up a girl No, I mean I picked her up as we took a shortcut across the harbour and met a puddle I picked her up and started across only to realize the tide was still going out She screamed I straddled my legs, water to my waist Hold still, I can do it

When we got back to the hostel she went to the shower and I started hunting for her

My buddy's voice drifted across the room

Go to sleep Kim ~~

Four days drunk in Skagway

We were on the Alaska Ferry Heading to Prince Rupert

I had a gallon of cheap wine introduced myself to a woman also riding the deck

We talked she told me about her husband a bush pilot who had died in a crash

She was going home to New Mexico two kids already there

We got as far as the men's washroom when a kid showed up I can't do it here she said

Some time later on that warm steel deck it was decided that I was going with her to New Mexico I would build her a log cabin and we would live there She was getting off at Ketchikan I was too

When the sun rose I asked my buddy where she was, where we were

We're long past Ketchikan She told me not to wake you But she said thanks for the offer

it was nice ~~



She Was Tiny

She was tiny she taught me how it felt to lie back and watch as she squatted on my dick

Don't come she said Exquisite

Later I taught her what it felt like to be straddled on my shoulders me standing in the doorway she remarking on the dust ~~

How Many Women

How many women have you slept with he asked

I don't know but more than I've had sex with if that's what you're asking

I don't know, it depends on what you consider sex a blow job?

Making her come with my tongue?

Fingers on her clit?

It's not about sex it really isn't Sex is nice, absolutely I liked it a lot but now it's gone I don't miss it When you ask me how many women I've slept with I don't know

How many women have you met? that's the question how many have you liked how many have you loved

If you don't know, you are a lucky man stop worrying that you need to catch up to me

You already have ~~

Notches

There was a girl next door who would come over if I called

I called when I came home from the bar and hadn't convinced anyone to sleep with me

I felt a little guilty about that until she told me about the notches on her bedpost ~~

Pretty much says it all

I used to climb up four floors by the balconies at the residence to visit a redheaded stewardess

Now they have the balconies locked and they will expel you if you're caught out there

You never know

She was gorgeous used to be an eyeglasses model

One day at the bar she told me she was flattered but no

She said Turn around Look I looked at a friend

She was LOOKING at me I lived with her for several years ~~

It's Like an Itch

It's like an itch you know you shouldn't scratch

I write these things until I feel a bit sick and stop

Then I find myself writing again scratching, scratching

Who is going to read these not my kids I hope not anyone who recognizes herself I pray

I feel a bit ill ~~



Over For Lunch

Over again for lunch with no good reason Are you taking advantage of this old man?

I'll rub your back

Deal

Tennis Visor with Blinking Lights

Big brown van slapping up over the curb missing me by inches

Tennis visor with blinking lights revealing the top sensei at that seminar

How was I to know the girl I'd picked up at the barn dance was sensei's dojo wife?

Consider This a Bandage

Rapier to the breast twitch a slice to the heart staunch the wound with your hand and you bleed inside

Consider this a bandage

30 Years Married

A grunt and a sigh a hand on my ass

Maybe an accident but I'll take it $\sim\sim$

These Poems

These poems keep writing themselves drifting through my head at 4am

You think I'm lucky? you can have them I'd rather have the sleep

Writing them down now before I pull my socks on feels like pulling a sliver from my foot ~~

The Love Of People Who Own Air Conditioners, For Their Children

I love you kids I love you to pieces but it's too hot to cuddle

Don't hate me when you grow up but go sit over there ~~

When I Lost Her

I know the exact point I lost her It was when I refused to go home with her for a weekend to meet her parents

It limped along for another two or three years but eventually she moved out



Ugly White Hearing Aids

There seems to be a lot of hearing loss in the kids today

Not sure I like those white hearing aids they're kind of ugly and they don't disappear at all

I remember a high school dance being a boy too shy to be anywhere but right up beside the speakers

What?

They're not?

Oh my, where can I put my face

Still, that spinning B3 horn

I Need Mushrooms

I can be shopping for dinner Pasta Tomatoes Sausage and as I turn a corner

The way you used to rise out of our bed and walk toward the window the light framing you and that glorious ass the swing of your hair across the nape of your neck

That was 40 damned years ago and I need mushrooms

The Massage

She drives a railroad spike into the side of my leg grips it with both hands and begins to drag it down

I try not to, as long as I can, but I flinch

She giggles

Hello Winter

Hello winter, my old friend nice to see you once again

You can't trust it it's like that fire truck crawling around the corner because so many drivers haven't a clue what to do with those sirens and flashing lights

Do I go? Should I stop? Go, no stop.

Just stop already ~~

Is It You?

What does this throbbing pain in my right thumbnail mean It's been there for two days

Who is it that's trying to get my attention so I can write about her

Is it you? I just wrote about you. Please leave my thumb alone.

Rich Man

Do you want your dollar back she said What a sweetheart to give me a dollar and a coffee

What a joy it is that I would not have noticed That I have that much money in my pocket

My Grandmother

My grandmother kicked me out of my home town

I had brought home a bird with a broken wing (as my mother called them) to heal a bit, to rest away from her life

Also to warm my bed

I was heading back to school anyway and a few weeks later My grandmother called me Why haven't you visited?

The girl? She was fine when I dropped her off at her school ~~



She Likes the Snow

The barista from Edmonton says she likes the snow but it's a lot colder back home

I blinked Sorry, I was looking at your eyes ~~

The Inside Voice

A poet is someone who uses their inside voice in public

That's why so many poets are single

Hey, Kim, use your outside voice nobody wants to hear that

Old People

Old people say what they think Why shouldn't they They got laid years ago ~~

Cabin

1. Trailer

2. Nate

3. Snow blower cable

4. email neighbours

Elec: -More panels? (side) -Propane Generator -Panels Angle -Other charger??

More Panels with a switch?

Generator Plug:

220 -> ?110

And there you have it, your surrealist, beat poem for the day. $\sim\sim$

You Write Them

I reach for my notebook a list of single lines that I'm supposed to use to write a poem

I should just put them here and let you write the poems

-Look here, a rumpled bed
-Boy on the beach, into the sun
-Sister's party, split to four, gather them all together
-Where old girlfriends, not on facebook, was I that bad
-Day and night in the bar with friends, a green dress
-I was handsome but didn't know it
-Muse feels like old girlfriend, made sure my ego was kept down
-Boy, therefore I didn't understand

Good, carry on.

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