

Crow and Me



Kim Taylor copyright ©2023, all rights reserved
Photos Kim Taylor copyright ©2023, all rights reserved

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	6
Crow.....	7
I Need a Nap.....	8
A Little Trip.....	10
The Mechanic.....	11
Crow the Author.....	13
The Police.....	14
Crow Defeats Evil.....	15
Elegance.....	16
I Was White Once.....	18
Crow is Grumpy.....	20
Crow Knows Swords.....	23
The Biker Chick.....	24
The Real Girl.....	26
The End.....	28
Out Brothers Out.....	30
Crow Knows.....	31
A Long Roar.....	32
Crow Depressed.....	33
Birds Don't Talk.....	35
Crow Never Liked Her.....	36
Crow and the Eyeball.....	37
Vegetarian.....	38
Waiting for Instruction.....	40
I Was There.....	41
My Old Man.....	42
Painter Crow.....	43

The Beast With Eight Legs.....	44
Crow's New Hat.....	46
Explain Us.....	47
Intolerant Crow.....	48
Crow Explains War.....	49
I Believe Crow.....	50
Crow Needed Glasses.....	52
Crow's Amazing Eyes.....	53
A Deal With Crow.....	54
Crow Was Bored.....	55
Wrong Speed.....	58
It Was Crow.....	59
Crow Smiled Happily.....	60
The Next Table.....	62
Not Mine.....	63
Make Me Some Lunch.....	65
Crow and Religion.....	66
Crow Hears the Universe.....	67
Crow's Good Story.....	69
Crow Explains Oil.....	70
Crow Finds a Worm.....	71
The Smoking Gun.....	72
Crow Finds Us.....	74
Crow Watched.....	76
I Made You.....	77
Crow Opened His Mouth.....	78
Weirdo.....	80
Human Feelings.....	81
I Wonder.....	84
Caw.....	85
Black Box.....	86
Playing Was Fun.....	87

Days Like That.....	88
Me.....	90
Our First Christmas.....	91
Stillborn.....	92
It's a Boy.....	94
By a Silver Ring.....	95
The Shadows.....	96
Unforgotten.....	98
The Diet.....	99
So Long Gone.....	100
Our Bar.....	101
A Day Off.....	103
Standard Time.....	104
Get Stuck In.....	105
I Don't Remember What I Said.....	106
Like a Ten Year Old.....	108
Thoughts in a Store.....	109
I Don't Have Her.....	110
Shelter.....	111
Bones.....	112
Cold.....	114
Dettol.....	115
Get a Job.....	116
Her Mother's Eyes.....	117
Her Parents.....	119
I Should Get Out of the House.....	121
A Week Later.....	123
Four AM.....	124
It's You.....	125
A Rabbit Snare.....	127
Protestant Work Ethic.....	128
She Never Offered.....	130

Sunday School Blues.....	131
Forgive or Forget.....	132
So Very Slowly.....	134
Three Tarot Decks.....	135
I Let Her Go.....	136
The Orphan.....	138
Two Men of God.....	139
All Without Words.....	140
Me As a Teddy Bear.....	142
Made for Each Other.....	144
Not Knowing.....	145
The Headache.....	147
Writer's Dilemma.....	148
Three Point Clean.....	149
Broken Once.....	150
Cigarette Burn.....	152
The Harmony.....	153
What Hope is at 67.....	154
Except When I Squeeze.....	156
Sister in Law.....	157
Art Resale Blues.....	159
For my Mother.....	160
Pearl Necklace.....	162
Revenge, She Shouted.....	163
The Assassin.....	164
A Kegal Pull.....	165
A Loose Can.....	166
A Hard Month.....	167
More.....	169

Introduction

Crow once accused me of being a needy roommate. “You don’t think so?” He said, “Write some poems about us and then about you when you didn’t have me around.”

And so I did.

When I was done, Crow said, “Take some photos of the old neighbourhood.”

I did that too.

The photos are from 2023.

~~

Kim Taylor, November 2023

Crow

Crow has been with me a very long time. I've collected some of the poems I've written about him, just to see what he's doing these days. He never changes.



I Need a Nap

I need a nap
said Crow

It's still morning
what's up with that

I was up late
studying
so I need to catch up

Crow you left school
decades ago
what were you studying

Well I had your telescope
and you know that new couple
moved in next door

Crow...
~~



A Little Trip

I'm a magic bird you know

So you keep saying
but I never see it
Just a dusty black bird
hopping around
crapping on the carpet

Oh, really
well here you go
smart arse
a bit of a wing
a bit of a croak

Crow...
Where the hell did you dump us

~~

The Mechanic

Crow came in laughing

What have you done

You know that guy
next door
who is constantly working
on his car

The one who starts it up
about fifteen times a day

Well I took some old feathers
and a couple of sausage
and put it on his engine

Now when he starts it up
the feathers will fly around
and he'll have grilled sausage
all over his manifold

Crow...
Well done
~~



Crow the Author

I want an editor
to make sure my books
are perfect
and will be best sellers

Crow, you don't write
you don't have a book
to get edited

You have to write a book?
Can't I just get an editor
who will correct it
into a book?

~~

The Police

They're not here for me
said Crow
Those police are after
someone else

They asked for you
by name, Crow
it's you they want

No, I was home here
all day
You'll tell them that
won't you

I wasn't home
so I don't know
if you were home

Oh I was, I really was
~~

Crow Defeats Evil

You know that evil thing
the one you're always
going on and on about

Yes

Well I ate it
I grabbed it by the neck
beat the hell out of it
and ate it

Evil, or do you mean a snake

Aren't they the same thing?

~~

Elegance

Crows are ever so elegant
said Crow
as we went walking to the beach

Are you serious
do you believe that

It's true, it really is
we are the most elegant of birds

Just then, some poor kid
dropped an ice cream
and Crow pounced on it
Butt in the air
Beak buried deep
guzzling loudly

Yeah, I thought
Elegant as hell

~~



I Was White Once

I was white once

Crow...

No seriously, I was white
but now I'm black

How does that work

Well, one day I was white
and I saw this woman
she was beautiful
and I wanted her to look at me
But the sun was white too
too white
and she couldn't see me properly

Crow...

No really, so I decided to beat Sun up
and tell him to tone it down
I gathered all my strength
and I launched from the highest tree
on the highest mountain
and made it all the way up
into the sky
Where I attacked Sun.

Crow stop....

No really, and I beat Sun up
never a contest at all
but just when he said uncle
my poor feathers got singed
and so now I'm black

I know I'm going to regret this but
What about the woman

Oh, it turns out
When I stood in front of her
with my black feathers
I couldn't see her
No reflection, you see

~~

Crow is Grumpy

Why are you grumpy Crow
why are you snapping at me
complaining all the time

I'm not

OK see ya later

Wait where are you going

Out, I'm going to go shopping
someplace where folks want me
where they smile at me

They just want to sell you stuff

Sure, but they treat me nicely

OK, OK, I was cold
it's winter out
and I was shivering
while trying to collect some stuff
so I got irritable
and I yelled at you
Sorry

Good, good for you, Crow
you need to do more of that
More trying to figure out why
you do the stuff you do

Really? Where's the fun in that.
~~



Crow Knows Swords

Crow hopped onto my sword
Whatcha doing he asked

I'm trying to stop this sword
at exactly this position

Why are you practising to stop
isn't a sword meant to go
Go through your enemy, I mean
That's what they did in the old days
What's with the stopping

Well I have to stop it at a precise spot
so that the judges can see it is there
so that I can pass my next grading

Oh, you're doing a sword dance then

Crow, you're heavy
get off my sword
and go find something else to do
~~

The Biker Chick

I was in love
with a biker chick
said Crow
But it turned out bad
she dumped me
while we were speeding
down the highway

Physically dumped you

Yeah, at about 140
she elbowed me off
I was riding behind her

Were you hurt

Dude, I'm a Crow
I just flew on ahead
and told the police
she was speeding
then I flew home

But to fly off her bike
at 140
Do you fly that fast

Biker chick, right
I was used to it
we argued a lot
~~

The Real Girl

I wish she was real

Who

That girl that keeps invading
my dreams
The one with the black feathers
and the black eyes

A Crow girlfriend

Sure, why not

I thought you didn't like Crows
~~

You know, said Crow
What you said back then
about brains
and how they are smart

Well I've eaten a lot of them
and I'm no smarter than before

Wait, I didn't mean it like that
~~

The End

You know I'm going to see
the end of you people
I'll be around for that

Crow, I thought it was cockroaches
that would be around
after we kill ourselves

You calling me a cockroach?
Are you?

I covered a grin with my hand
~~



Out Brothers Out

I am so tired of that guy
He is such a drag
on the company

If you hate it so much, Crow
why don't you quit
Just chuck it all

I would, except for the work
I like the work
and the people I work with

But it stresses you out
why don't you quit
and see them after work

Maybe I'll form a union
and go on strike
so we all get fired

~~

Crow Knows

You'd think
as long as he's been alive
that Crow would know everything

Crow knows football
he said once
Crow knows baseball

When did you play
I asked one day

Play what?

Football, and baseball
When did you play them
You said you know them

You're joking
I'm a bird
I don't play games
~~

A Long Roar

A long roar
from outside
and I have trouble
deciding what it is
Motorcycle?

Crow swivels his head
and fixes me
with a beady eye
It's the train you fool
the freight train

~~

Crow Depressed

Crow would get depressed
every once in a while
and he'd sit hunched
as if in a great rainstorm
his wings up by his head

She's at it again
he would say
Telling me it's impossible
telling me it can't be done
All I ever ask
is that she try

Perhaps she's tired
I say
Perhaps she is lazy
and doesn't want to try

Not helping
said Crow
~~



Birds Don't Talk

Birds don't talk, she said
They never have
never will

But you've seen me talking
to Crow
Hell you've heard him answer me

Nope, couldn't happen
No way
Birds don't talk

I gave up
and went into the next room
to talk to Crow

~~

Crow Never Liked Her

She wasn't good for you
said Crow
She made you crazy

Only in the last year or so
really Crow
I was with her for a very long time

I never liked her

You loved her, you introduced us
you told me to ask her
to live with us

I was just faking it
said Crow
~~

Crow and the Eyeball

There was a fight
not so many years ago
and a guy lost an eye

Crow was excited

Well not so much lost it
as it was hanging down
It looked good
But he had hold of it

Do you think that maybe
if he'd pointed it at his other eye
he'd be looking at himself

I went to the kitchen to get some water

~~

Vegetarian

Once upon a time
I decided I would eat plants
instead of animals
no more eyeballs
no more livers
Just blueberries and such

That's noble of you Crow
how long did you eat that way

About as long
as it took the thought
to drift out of my head
which was about as long
as it was until I spotted
the next grub

I mean really
a nice fat grub
or a celery stalk

You do the math
~~



Waiting for Instruction

You know, I waited a long time
after creating the world
for some sort of instruction
as to what to do with it

But nothing ever came
no word
no flash of light
not even a faint fart far away

I'm sorry Crow
I never knew
that you created the world
or that you did nothing afterward

Oh, not nothing
I mean I found you guys
and generally helped out
I just thought there'd be more
~~

I Was There

You were dreaming, Crow
go to bed

No, really, I was really there
in your home town
sitting on a bench
looking out at the lake

Dreaming, go to sleep
Well, maybe I will

~~

My Old Man

The old man sat smoking
watching the wood fire
I saw him there
every time I would visit
What are you doing
my old man
what are you waiting for

Crow left a while ago
and said he'd be back
so I'm waiting
because he's my friend

I never had the guts
to tell the old man
that Crow was with me
had been for years
I asked him to visit
that old man
but Crow only shook his head
~~

Painter Crow

I'm going to paint
and Crow did
he painted his beak
and his feet
and most of his wing
the left one
before I could get the paints
away from him

~~

The Beast With Eight Legs

You know that thing
about the eight legged animal
who got cut in half
and goes around looking
for its other half?

Sure I do Crow
it's man and woman
split apart
and looking to be whole

Yeah, so how come
you keep making
the beast with two backs
instead of the one
with eight legs?

~~



Crow's New Hat

I like to shop early
I like to buy presents
and think about how folks
will like them

You're an idiot
said Crow
It's November
You understand
November
Christmas is in December

Nah, Christmas is year 'round
Presents are always good

Such an idiot
you can't give presents
ahead of Christmas
unless it's for a birthday
Don't you know anything?

So, um, your new hat
the one I bought last week
I'll take it back will I?

Crow walked away
Must have had something to do

~~

Explain Us

Dude, you've got all the shiny things
on your side of the room

You don't want them
said Crow
You don't like shiny things
so I take them over here
to keep them out of your way

Honestly, I was speechless
Crow was shameless
blameless
and it was famous
the way he could explain us
~~

Intolerant Crow

You're very intolerant
I said to Crow

How can you say that
There's no intolerance here

The constant vacuuming?
The muttering when I drop something
or bump a table
or misplace something
or tear a sleeve?
What is that?

That's just me noting
when you screw up big time
When you don't do something
the way I do it

Ah, the right way

You got it, and this poem?
It's not balanced

~~

Crow Explains War

I shall go to war
the boy said
and fight for the equality
of all men

Crow shook his head sadly
Should he go to war
he will achieve his aim
for all men are equal in war

They are all the same
on the battlefield
a meal for me
and my brothers

Should I speak to him
I asked Crow
Explain to him
what you have said

Best to simply cripple him now
and leave his dreams of glory be
Cripple him now
and keep him home you see

~~

I Believe Crow

Believe you me
I'm telling you the truth

Crow, you lie all the time
I'm not going to believe you
even if it is true

That's not fair
you have to believe me
otherwise...

Otherwise what, Crow?

Otherwise I can't fool you

I believe you
~~



Crow Needed Glasses

Crow needed glasses

I don't need glasses
my eyes are just fine

But he needed glasses

Look, I said
we can get you contacts
and nobody will know

Crow had pale blue eyes
and when he saw the black contacts
he was very happy

~~

Crow's Amazing Eyes

I've got amazing eyes
said Crow
Really?
Oh yes, I can see in front
and behind.

At the same time?

OK if you're going to be picky
I'm not talking to you
said Crow
~~

A Deal With Crow

Hey, how about a deal

I looked at Crow and thought
this isn't going to go well
but he was my boss
Or so he said

Sure, what about a deal

Well, how about you do something
and I'll do something
and then we'll both be better

All right, I said
already knowing where this was going
I suppose I do mine first

Sure, you go first

And so I did
and I never heard anything more
about our deal

Good old Crow
I hope he never changes

~~

Crow Was Bored

Crow was bored
all he did was hang around home
and look at the internet
but there was nothing there
no news
no olds

Just a bunch of people
who didn't know much
but talked about it all the time

Why do you stay home
and look at the internet
I asked

They are my people,
they make lots of noise
and never say anything
I'm comfortable there
in my chair

But you said you were bored

Bored is good
excitement is dangerous
you ought to try bored
some time

And so Crow and I sit
and look at the internet

~~



Wrong Speed

Slow down
said Crow
or speed up

Slow down or speed up?

I can't hop that fast
and you're not fast enough
for me to fly

~~

It Was Crow

I found you guys you know
in a clam shell

I thought that was your cousin
Raven

Crow frowned at me
Raven!
You think he could find you
in his underwear
if you poked him
in the ass

It was me, I tell you

Well thanks, I said
~~

Crow Smiled Happily

I've been there
said Crow

Where, I said

All the places you've been
I've been there already

Oh, is that important?

Damn right it is
I was there first

I see, well there you are
so much better than me

Crow smiled happily
~~



The Next Table

Crow looked over at the next table
Those guys have never stopped talking
since they came in here

They came here to talk
why would you get angry about that

I can't hear you
shouted Crow
What did you say!

~~

Not Mine

Crow was getting old
his feathers were falling out
black exclamation points
one of them in Cat's water dish

Hey Crow
said Cat
You want this back?

But Crow denied it all
Not mine, not mine
~~



Make Me Some Lunch

Make me some lunch
said Crow

Why should I do that
said I

Because you like me
said Crow
and I have no hands

Wait
I said
Did you invent us
to make you lunch

Crow didn't answer
but had the grace
to look embarrassed
~~

Crow and Religion

What about religion
I asked Crow
I suppose you invented that

Crow looked hard at me
If I say yes
You'll call me a stupid Crow
and if I say no
You'll laugh and tell me
those stories are real

I stepped back
I hadn't thought
I didn't want the answer
and I told Crow so

But he started to talk

~~

Crow Hears the Universe

Cover my ears
Crow pleaded with me
So I don't hear
the groaning of the Universe
the grinding of the stars
the hissing of the gas giants

What are you talking about
you stupid Crow
You can't hear that stuff

You think so
Shows what you know
you stupid Man
I can hear it all
the whole of creation
and so can you
If you'd only listen

So I listened
as hard as I could
as long as I could
until I noticed Crow
snickering

~~



Crow's Good Story

Don't you dare
cough up that hairball
you stupid Cat
Not on my nice clean dirt

But the Cat hacked
and coughed
and Crow screamed
but up it came

And out of the hairball
came the first man
who strode upon the earth
and multiplied

Crow, I said
you are so full of it
I came from a hairball
coughed up by Cat?

You don't believe me?
It's a good story
better than the real one
Where you came from mud

~~

Crow Explains Oil

What about the dinosaurs
I said to Crow
when he was bragging one day
about making the world

What about them
I didn't like them
and so I clacked my beak
and they were gone

What about the oil
I said to Crow
where did that come from
down there in the ground

If you must know
I ate a dead dinosaur
and got the runs
That's all Crow shit

~~

Crow Finds a Worm

I made the mountains
said Crow
I found a worm
and pulled it out
and the ground came up
into the mountains

That must have been
some worm
I said

Not so big
said Crow
but he held on
real tight

~~

The Smoking Gun

Beside Crow
on the ground
a smoking gun
And over there
an old man
dead in a chair
where he was writing
something or other
that would never be finished

Why shoot him
I said to Crow

I didn't
said Crow
I've got a beak
two wings
and two feet
How do you suppose
I would shoot him

But there's a smoking gun
isn't that proof
that you shot him
I mean there it is
and there you are
You did it
I'm sure of it

Not a chance
it was him
it was suicide
and as he died
he threw the gun at me
way over here
I swear he did
~~

Crow Finds Us

I suppose you found us
hiding under a leaf
I said to Crow

What? No
Under a leaf
are you crazy

I found you on the leaf
eating it
Like a bug

Oh thanks so much
What did you do
to make us like this

Not a damned thing
Don't blame me
for your mess
~~



Crow Watched

I saw creation
Said Crow
The first hints of stars
the first spaces
between them
and I watched
as the planets appeared

So you're God
I said
the one who made it all

Oh no said Crow
I just watched
I don't know who made it
I never bothered to look
~~

I Made You

I made you
said Crow
angry at me again
for something
I can't remember

Maybe taking a tail feather
to write this down

I made you
and then tore you apart
so you were man and woman
forever trying
to get back together

Ah, big joke was it
to tear us apart

I was angry
but watch out
I'm angrier now
and I can put you back
Put you together

Don't bother, I said
It's more fun like this

~~

Crow Opened His Mouth

Crow opened his mouth
and from it came death
black, unending death
the death of everything
the end of the universe

Oh shut up
said Cat
Nobody wants to hear it
Your black moods
are a real downer

~~



Weirdo

Weirdo!
Crow yelled at Cat
You have such a stupid howl
Who can understand you
with that catfood in your mouth
as you try to lick your teeth
all sticky
all fishy

You're one to talk
I thought as I watched
Crow hopping around
nattering at Cat
while Cat wandered off
unconcerned
to the furnace vent
to sleep
~~

Human Feelings

I never felt
the warmth of a mother
the womb-comfort
of her belly
The best I got
was the warmth of her ass
as she sat on my egg
and then a bit of bug
as she fed me
before she kicked me out

Stop whining Crow
at least you had a mother
and knew her a bit
Unlike Fish
or Snake
who woke up
chipped out of their egg
and wandered off
Lost to any human feeling

Crow cocked his head
looked at me
with beady eyes
the only ones he had
and said
Human feelings?
You expect those
from me?

~~



I Wonder

Nothing but a croak
or a scream
He never said shit
just croaked
or screamed
and he expected me to know
what he was saying

I ignored him
as I walked to the edge
and when it gave way
I heard a cackle
Since when do Crows
sound like hens
I didn't have long to wonder

~~

Caw

His name was Caw
or that's what he told me
but I never believed it

I mean Crows don't have names
Not even the ones
who talk to me

~~

Black Box

He was so black
that Crow
From the tip of his beak
to the end of his tail
and his moods
all of them black
what a downer he was

but you know
he was right
It's black here
in this box I've created
to live in

Stupid Crow
it was his suggestion
I'd find it peaceful in here

~~

Playing Was Fun

Don't get involved
Crow said
You'll just regret it
all that nonsense
about forms and games
and competition
Why would you want that
even if you win
eventually you lose

Crow was right
but I'll never tell him that
he's so smug
But I competed
and I won
then I lost
and I didn't like either
I just wanted to play
The playing was fun
~~

Days Like That

Crow warned me
there would be days like this
where nothing ever went right
but I had to live them anyway

Stupid Crow
every day was like that
every damned day
He thinks he's so smart
~~



Me

Not everything in my life revolves around Crow. Sometimes it's just me and Cat.



Our First Christmas

That first Christmas
I bought a plastic tree
for a joke

But she bought ornaments
and put them carefully on

It was a tiny tree
but big enough
for the presents we could afford

When we opened them
they were the finest presents
I had ever received

~~

Stillborn

Who has not
I thought
wished that born
I was stillborn
or died in the womb
without seeing light

I really thought
that everyone felt
at least once in their life
like I had felt
as I lay on the street
outside my house
waiting for a car

~~



It's a Boy

When the baby came
the nurse said
It's a boy
and a boy he remained
for just as long
as he had to
and not a moment more
~~

By a Silver Ring

I gave her a silver ring
there was no money for gold
and a poem

Not by the golden light of the sun
but the silver light
of a silver moon

Or some such
It was a ring
and I meant it

I meant it, as she left
but I could not let her stay
There are no sunless days
but there are moonless nights

~~

The Shadows

For days it has rained
and the woman says
at least I don't
have to shovel it

Me, I don't mind the rain
it's a soft, soft light
that guts the shadows
that haunt me so

~~



Unforgotten

However many boys
she has had
and lost
They will all be forgotten

But her mother's ring
that she lost in a field
or down a sink
or some foreign bathroom

Her mother's ring
will be an empty spot
in the middle of her life
that will never be filled again

~~

The Diet

Cheese

no

Crackers

no

Apple

no

Chips

no

Peanuts

no

I try them all

and nothing satisfies

So I continue to snack

while trying to lose weight

~~

So Long Gone

We had not the money
to dine out
fancy food and fancy table

So I will dine with you
the next time I am out
in a fancy restaurant

I will turn to your chair
and raise a glass to you
and wonder

Will you be raising yours
to my memory too

~~

Our Bar

This bar I attend
We never were here
you and I
but our bar is gone
Thirty years gone

and the next
and the next
So I declare that this bar
where I sit and drink my stout
this bar
is our bar

and I reserve the right
to think of you
at any time I wish
while I am in our bar
~~



A Day Off

I move from work to work

Poems to write
for the next book

Photos to sort
for the recent book
newly edited and titled

A chapter to write
for the novel

All could be done
but I cycle from one
to the next and stop

Perhaps it is an off day
A Day Off
~~

Standard Time

I fall asleep
during a historical video
and decide to go to bed
a bit earlier than usual

And so this morning
at 4am
I'm awake and at 5am
I'm up and making coffee

Blame it on the time change
if you wish
but I don't think so
I blame it on the cat

Howling to be let out
at 5am, instead of 6
he doesn't understand
Daylight savings time
~~

Get Stuck In

What is it with these poets
that they can't get stuck into it

it's all flowers for pussy
and tall trees for dicks

Is there anything wrong
with saying what you mean

~~

I Don't Remember What I Said

I don't remember what he said
when he told me she was leaving him
What did I say, I wonder
probably something bland, harmless
a sort-of expression of sympathy

He seemed to be in shock
I remember that
and he nodded when I said
whatever it was I said
Then he wandered out the door

That was the last I saw of him
I heard he moved away
to some other town
but I wonder if he had the strength
to do that

~~



Like a Ten Year Old

I can still come you know
like I did when I was ten
soft dick
but a junior level orgasm

Nobody offers to help
this old man
so I sometimes do it myself
like a ten year old

Maybe once a month
Out of curiosity
What is that
It's like a shiver
~~

Thoughts in a Store

So I'm walking through a store
and I suddenly remember
the feeling of her tongue
on the bottom of my prick

Nice, I think
but sort of sad
it's been five years or more
since the damned thing
has been hard

And I don't know how long
before that
when that tongue
was anywhere near
it
~~

I Don't Have Her

Here it is again
the sweat that comes
when the hormones kick in
as they do several times a day

Today there's a sharp pain
in my left biceps
Thanks to the drugs
one or three of them I'm told
will do that to you

And through it all
I keep typing this poem

Except to kill a call
more spam
or some idiot
looking for his girlfriend

poor bastard
I don't have her
~~

Shelter

This too is a shelter
I think
as I hug her in the cafe
before sitting down
to say hello

She left me long ago
but we still talk
and I shelter in her presence
like I used to shelter
in her bed on cold nights
when I couldn't stop shivering

She would wrap her arms
and her legs around me
tuck in the blankets
and hold me
until she was shivering too
Taking that cold from me
and into her

~~

Bones

Bones, under skin
under muscle
under fat

I keep thinking about bones
it's where Prostate cancer goes
when it decides
to have a little trip
through the body

So I think about it
making holes in the bones
making the bones weak
like my neck
when I stumbled
and lost an inch in height

Or was that my knees
where they are getting shorter
the bones getting closer
because I'm getting older

~~



Cold

Waiting, in existential dread
I suppose
for the first snow

The other shoe
from a lovely autumn

cold
No that's it
cold

Like the house is cold
and my wife says
put on a sweater
~~

Dettol

Dettol and Iodine
those peculiar metallic smells
from my childhood
I swear I smelled them
when I was in her bed
Dettol and Iodine

I would ask if she felt well
and she looked at me
with a frown

Why do you ask

Nothing, I would say, nothing
but I checked her bathroom
for pills

I watched her closely
but she never seemed off balance
never had a cough
never showed any pain
One day, I called
her roommate answered
"I'm so very sorry"

~~

Get a Job

He unbraided his hair
and then did the same
to hers
before he lay her down
onto that white-covered bed
and started to make love

He said he was going
to make her his
Just an innocent thing to say
just a sort of playful thing

And the next he knew
he was naked on the street
his clothes coming at him
from the doorway
"Get a job, you hippy"

~~

Her Mother's Eyes

A shiver went through her
every time someone said
you have your mother's eyes
or you have your father's nose

She couldn't imagine
how she got those things
while her mother
her father
still had theirs

She worried
that someone was going to say
she had her aunt's legs
or her brother's ass

All those parts
Which ones were hers
or was there anything
she could call her own
~~



Her Parents

She told me she hated her parents
that she was glad they had died
They divorced
and used her to get at each other
she saw that from the start
as they both told her
how evil the other one was

"I almost thought I must be evil
if I came from two evil people
but I realized
thank goodness
that while they were both right
about each other
It wasn't me."

It was a close thing
I knew this
because late, late at night
she would talk in her sleep
Talk about how bad she was
how much it was her fault

I would hold her tight
as she thrashed
and whisper to her
that I was there
that I loved her
that her parents were gone

~~

I Should Get Out of the House

I wanted to go to the mall
to look for presents
it being that time of year

but when I dropped Lauren
at her rehearsal for the concert
I noticed a craft show
in the church

Somehow I didn't go in
and on trying to turn left
onto the main road
to go to the mall
it was too busy

I went home
~~



A Week Later

She threw her bones
studied them for a long time
walked around the table
looking again

She looked at me
and I raised my eyebrows
What do you see?

Nothing, nothing she said
but a week later
she told me she'd found someone else
and moved out
~~

Four AM

It was a strange cat
always looking at me
when I visited her place
I liked it better
when she visited me

I told her once
the cat watched me
and she told me not to worry

He only changes after 4am
up to then he's just a cat
so if you have to piss
do it before that
or hold it until the sun comes up

I have to tell you
this did not make me feel better
Not at all
~~

It's You

She was an artist
working in textiles
I found her one day
making a doll
That's nice, I said

It's you, she said
look I used one of your socks
and dressed it
with an old shirt

I looked closely at her
when she asked me
for some of my hair
to use on its head

~~



A Rabbit Snare

She had this snare
like you'd use for rabbits
and she kept it in her place

She told me once
her grandfather had made it
and I believed her

Sitting at her desk one day
I caught something
in the corner of my eye
she had slipped it over my head
~~

Protestant Work Ethic

I'd like to think
that I have something important
that I need to do
But there is nothing

I'm waiting for the sauna
to heat up
so I can go and read a bit
and sweat a bit

It's pure decadance
pure pleasure
surely it's a sin
and somewhere deep down

I know that
~~



She Never Offered

She had cuts on her wrist
and all up her arm
before it was popular

I asked her about it
and she said
if you want to bleed out
cut the other way

She wasn't trying to die
She said
she was trying to live

I never understood
because I never asked
what had caused her
to substitute pain for life

She never offered to tell me
~~

Sunday School Blues

My mother would take us
to the Presbyterian church
God knows why
I was baptized Anglican

but one Christ
is much the same
as another

We would flip the benches down
and kneel
when everyone else did
and sit back again
to avoid getting our hands squashed

Follow along
do what others are doing

Go to Sunday school
and daydream of warm summers
out among the trees
or playing by the creek
~~

Forgive or Forget

Perhaps, all my life
I have not
as I thought
forgiven
So much as forgotten

But either way
it is a blessing
from deep inside my head
that I can leave behind
those trespasses

Those debtors
as the Presbyterian teacher
used to say
in that morning prayer
before those were stopped

It is a blessing
to leave behind
the detritus of my life
so I can breathe easy
Now
~~



So Very Slowly

I watched as I drove
the car ahead turn
slowly, slowly
across the lanes
and into the grass
separating us from them
coming the other way

I stopped
crossed the road
and found him outside
on the ground

Smelling no gas
and thinking a stroke
I covered him
with my big surplus jacket
last worn
in the Korean war

I waited for the ambulance
and before they lifted him
I took back my jacket
and drove on my way

~~

Three Tarot Decks

Three decks of Tarot
I have bought
in the last year

Three decks
and this one
I am hiding
tucked amongst the mess
of my desk

in hopes
that nobody notices
and says to me
they would like it
~~

I Let Her Go

I let her go

Gods forgive me
in my pride
and my arrogance

I let her go
through that door

and never asked her
to stay

~~



The Orphan

She was an orphan
and glad of it

Too long in that house
before she escaped

before she left
to make her own way

and in her mind
an orphan

~~

Two Men of God

That stone house was cold
and always damp
God's house
he called it
that man of God
they called him

Cold, damp
No, more than damp
it was wet

Just like the other man
who knew what he was doing
to her
while he did nothing
to stop him

Wet, like that man of nothing
representative of nobody
self satisfied
self important
borrower of false authority
Just, damn him, Wet

~~

All Without Words

Months later
I saw her in the bar
we talked a few moments
"How are you"
"OK, and you"

It all came back to me
the swelling up inside
of the giant hole
she had left me
when she left me

But as she turned to go
back to the new man
I flicked my gaze at him
when I looked back
she somehow said
All without words

It's too bad
how it turned out
we might have wanted
to stay together
but it wasn't to be
I still love you
And I know you love me
~~



Me As a Teddy Bear

Oh I must love him
she would tell me
for he is my life
he is my joy

Go then
go to him
be with him

Oh I can't
I am afraid to find
that he might not feel the same
and then where would I be
I would be nothing, nobody

I can't help you
you are frozen in time
trapped in your own dream
There is nothing I can do

But you must
your really must
I need you here
to make me feel better

And so it went
for many years
On and on and on again
~~



Made for Each Other

It was like some artist
had painted us
each in a gilded frame
hanging on opposite walls
in an elegant room

Made for each other
but forever separated
by the whims of decor
never to be together
or even side by side

~~

Not Knowing

I never minded
the other men
or the other women
that slept with her

It was not knowing
where she was
when she went with them
to their beds

A note
a quick phone call
something
so I would not worry
~~



The Headache

My head hurt terribly
a migraine
or too little water
Caffeine maybe

but as I sat
she came to talk to me
and she stood to one side
I wasn't sure why
she stood there
instead of in front of me

until I realized
she was blocking the sun
from my eyes

~~

Writer's Dilemma

I have a book to edit
but that means reading
something I've already written
and I'd rather write
something I haven't read yet
because that way
I could learn something new
and if nothing else
write something new

~~

Three Point Clean

Just what is the point
every time I look in the mirror
there is another line
another spot
another bump

I could grab the loofah and scrub
trying to reduce the bumps
but there's just another bump
Today it's a three point clean
and out of the shower again

~~

Broken Once

I glance up at the clock
to check the time
and hear a hell of a snap
at the back of my neck

I don't feel it
nothing happens
Just that snap

Fine, I think
snap all you want
It's nothing to me

But always
that uncertain feeling
down deep
~~



Cigarette Burn

After he died
my Grandmother gave me
my father's cable knit sweater
one she'd made for him

It fits you, she said
and I noticed a cigarette burn
in one sleeve

I suppose that's his I thought
and then never thought about it
again
~~

The Harmony

In the Harmony restaurant
in that small town
I called home for a while
they had table jukeboxes
fixed on the wall

The booths were leatherette
Red, I think
at least that's what I remember
I left that town
for a long time

Coming back, I noticed
the Harmony was Chinese
instead of burgers
but not a thing else
had changed

~~

What Hope is at 67

It was cold today
almost the first cold day
of the winter season
and like always
it was a shock

Half a year of shivering
to look forward to
but perhaps, I think
I hope
I will see it warm up again

~~



Except When I Squeeze

Forty years I've squeezed
some stick or other
with that little finger
Forty years, and it grew
a tremendous bump
and began to drag my finger
toward my palm

Oh it will never be cured
said my doctor
but if it gets bad enough
we can shoot it full of steroid
and soften it up
I nodded and forgot about it
and slowly it's been shrinking

~~

Sister in Law

She didn't much like
the girl who married her brother
a bit forward
a bit too bossy
where her brother was kind
she was a little bit hard
or so it seemed to her

~~



Art Resale Blues

We walked through the gallery
looking at this or that
I stood a long time
in front of a Kent Monkman

You got it
but weren't that interested
in bad things that happened
not long enough ago

As we rounded the corner
we came to a field of colour
big, sure, but you looked hard
and thought about the price

"Explain that to me" you said
and I tried, but the best I could do
was to explain that it was worth a lot
because someone was willing to pay
a lot

Finally I settled on
"He didn't get that price for it"

~~

For my Mother

It was a big spider
you'd say it was huge
but it wasn't moving
and so I nudged it over
with my sock feet
and it skidded, rigid
toward the fridge

Must be dead and dried
I thought to myself
and forgot about it
as I got some water from the tap
As I turned around
it was walking across the floor
bold as brass
You would have screamed

~~



Pearl Necklace

I'd like a pearl necklace you said
and I frowned

I can't afford something like that
you know we haven't much

You laughed for a long time
on your back on the bed
kicking your feet in the air
And then you explained it to me

~~

Revenge, She Shouted

Do you remember that day
I bent you over the split rail fence
pulled down your pants
and had my way with you

You were so angry
the next day
when you found the rash
all over the front of your legs

You made me rub lotion
all over them
and when I was good and hard
You slapped my dick

Revenge, you shouted
as you ran laughing
to the bathroom
and locked the door against me

~~

The Assassin

For several years
when I was young
I worked for the government
as an assassin

There was an assignment
in Niagara Falls
you may have heard about
A young man

He was, it was hinted
selling secrets
but they never really told me
and so I did my job

He was the fellow
who suddenly climbed the fence
above the falls
and jumped in

~~

A Kegal Pull

Damnit, I've pulled a kegal
she said

What?

To be fair, I was young
and let's face it
kegals had just been discovered

She laughed at me
anyway

~~

A Loose Can

Having missed the garbage
on the basement landing
I stepped down
in the dark
hoping, very much hoping
there was nothing there
to trip over

~~

A Hard Month

It had been a hard month
and I was exhausted
I was lying on the floor
hands under my head
staring at the ceiling cracks
almost asleep
when she came into the room

Poor baby
are you really tired
I'll make you some food later

I smiled
and then she stepped over my head
and looked down
I looked up
she wasn't wearing panties
under her skirt
~~



More

You are going to find more writing from Kim Taylor at:

non fiction martial arts books

https://sdksupplies.com/cat_manual.htm

https://sdksupplies.com/cat_manual-free-ebooks.html

poetry, novels, and photo books

<https://180degreeimaging.com/TaylorBooks.html>

180mag (Photo magazine monthly) - 2005-2014

<https://180degreeimaging.com/180mag/180archive.html>

Iaido Newsletter / JJSA (monthly) - 1989-2001

https://sdksupplies.com/cat_manual.htm

EJMAS (monthly) - 2000-2017

<https://ejmas.com/>