

JUNE 2020

100 Poems, more or less



Sauna Selfie Time

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These book of poems is presented to you more or less “as is”. No attempt has been made to put them into chapters, or to make them any more connected than they are by virtue of being in the same book. Some you will like, some you will not. Feel free to delete those you don’t like.

Why no theme? I don’t actually live my life to a theme, that’s something that an editor might invent later. Since this is a free ebook, there is no editor being paid to make it look nice, and I feel no great urge to edit it. But you may do so if you wish. If you have made the book wonderful, feel free to pass it along in your form.

Pass it along anyway if you wish, I have no desire to control who or how many read this. If you like it, cheers.

Extinction Event

Somewhere
in the distant past
of our ancestors
something flipped
in the brain
and cooperation was a thing

Not just sticking around
to raise the pups
but something beyond this
some abstraction
that made us all pups together

Then for millions of years
we got better at this
We learned, as all animals do
but we learned to teach
we learned to pass knowledge
down more than a generation

Such power
such might
and we have become God
We control the earth
and the oceans
and the sky
And there is nothing
to stand against us
to keep us in check

So we must do it ourselves

For some, the switch has flipped
back to ignorance, and greed
and the solipsism of a dog
rooting for its next meal

We will do it ourselves
~~

When did I first die?

When did I first ask
not to be famous
not to be remembered forever?

When I was a small child
my mother had a book
about Pompeii

Looking at the plaster casts
of the bodies
of the people who had died
so long ago
Nameless
All dead
Rich families dead
Poor families dead
Tyrants, dictators
Healers, philosophers
All dead
All forgotten

I see so much desperation
from those around me

Desperate to be rich
To be famous
To do great works
and I see Pompeii
I see a town gone
in a flash
and all the famous
the rich
Those whose works
will live forever

Forgotten

But I saw a mother
holding her child
as oblivion approached

I saw kindness
The charm bracelet
of a small girl
on a beach
Each charm lovingly given

These are what is important

Not the puffed up leaders
Not the opinions of the ignorant
In two thousand years
they will be gone
all their efforts forgotten
their deeds, forgotten
their names, forgotten
As mine will be

But today
Now
There is room for kindness
There is room to hold your child
To be with a friend
Then comes oblivion

But in the instant before that death
there is room for kindness

~~

If I forget all else

I must remember
not to be suspicious
or cynical
about your care for me

My boy's body
is gone
and even the man's body
I so admired
with its powerful stomach
has faded into the muddy side
of a creek
like the one that flowed
behind the house where I grew up

Like those clay banks
I seem to be sagging
and yet
and still
you are with me

If I cannot believe
that someone would care
for this old man's body
I must accept
that you find something
To love?

Even if you are here
out of habit
with no place better
to go
I must appreciate
that you are here

Still, as I glimpse a mirror
I think
How can this be?
How can anyone be interested
in this used up hulk

Even my mind
once sharp
has faded, words flee me
where once I was eloquent
I am now word-spent

Yet you wait patiently
for the thoughts to come
watching as my hands flail
my eyes roam
sometimes giving me a hint
and then suffering
as my anger at myself
turns on you

I must remember
not to be suspicious
or cynical
about your care for me

~~

In the cloud

All these words
preserved forever
in the cloud

Nothing is ever forgotten
in the cloud
we say

Perhaps we need laws
to protect
our right to be forgotten

Turn off the computers
for only an instant

That magical place
that we call the cloud
is simply someone else' computer
and it can be turned off

Books, if burned
leave at least some ash
but the cloud
once passed overhead
swept along by the wind
never existed
except in our brief memory

Go into the caves
and you find messages
from ten millennia ago
still there
still frightening

Frightening
for our inability
to understand them

They will last
another ten thousand years
if we do not blast them away
for a few ounces of metal
or a few houses
But the message is gone

Like the clouds
that pass overhead
like that other cloud
already gone

Gone except for our faith
that someone
has backed it up somewhere
on another computer
in a format
that we can read
in twenty years more

~~

Four Feet of String

Once, while I was trying
to chat up his sister
I told a young boy
to get four feet of string
tie it together
put it on the grass
and look

He was there for hours

I know what's there
I've pressed my nose
into the soil
and looked

but then I pulled back
and the further back you pull
the more simple things become
The bugs and worms and weeds
become "lawn"
the lawn becomes "subdivision"
the houses become "city"

Keep going and it's all the same
it's all simple

Choose the right vantage point
and it's "us" and "them"
Don't move closer
Don't look from further away
or you'll lose the message
from those who yell
"us" and "them"

~~

Teaching Budo

As I look for the phrase
that will describe
what I want to teach
I descend, down our lineage
back, back
to those ancestors
who would grunt
and gesture.

I grunt, and gesture
and try to get across
some concept
that cannot be told
that I feel somehow inside
that I try to communicate

This, this, look, this

~~

Frog in a Well

You are like a frog in a well
she said
You only see a small patch
of the wide sky

Really, I said
please come show us
this wide sky
I will send a ticket

And she did
she came
and she read us
that same tiny patch of sky

~~

Suburban Tanks

Suburban tanks
roll through downtown streets
in search of panini and crusty rolls

The homeless watch
as they pass

The parking is terrible
but it's worth it

There's this little ethnic shop

~~

Zero Tolerance

Boys will never change
testosterone poisoned
won't behave
can't get them to listen
won't do what they are told

My son once risked
being thrown out of school
for defending a younger girl
from an older boy

No thoughts of consequences
Just like a boy

~~

The Golden Age of Sci Fi

Even when we paint our women green
Those damned aliens
just keep stealing them
We're going to have to teach them a lesson
Get the ray guns
we're going to get your ma back

~~

Moriyama's Dog

Moriyama's dog
may not have had a great life
but I'm pretty sure
it didn't moan about it

~~

NWO

What did I learn today?

Oh yes

Artist Marina is the head
of the international cabal
that's invented antibiotics
which have nanites
that report where you are
to the world's richest people
Because they want to know

You Are That Important!

~~

Today it is Warm

Today it is warm
it will always be warm
it has always been warm
I know because last week
it was warm

Warm is natural
it is the will of the gods
We must not disrespect
tradition

Today it is warm

~~

Spy Phones

They say the government
is going to spy on us
through our phones
with this new contact app
so that we know
who gave us the plague

Before I die of the plague
I want to know who it was
that gave it to me

I will denounce his ass

~~

The Best Collection

I like loungewear
I keep up with all the trends
and am always on season

I just wish I had someone
to wear my loungewear

~~

They Deny

They deny
they lie
but we know it's true
Our lizard masters
just want our women

~~

And Horses

I am just going to leave this up here
for those who think
our problems
are new problems

We must protect
our Medusas
from the evil aliens
It's always been
evil aliens
Good thing we have guns
and badges
And horses

~~

Been There

We've all been there
haven't we?
It seems so nice
It is going so well
And then, it turns out
that you've got to run
That you've got to leave your pants
behind

~~

Some Big Lug

To a wife (or an atheist)
Satan is just some lug
who can't seem to use the front door
and leaves his bloody pitchfork
in the corner
where it falls down
and makes a mess of the carpet

Sort of like your sensei
just some lug
that taught you
until you know more
than he does

Off you go then
find another sensei
who is amazing
Or find another god
to be thrilled about

I bet Mrs Thor
talks a lot about Loki

~~

Cabin Fever

Some folks flailed
when the plague hit
and some were in their element
Most, though
just got on with their life
such that it was
A very few
really knew
how to use their time

~~

Pink Frogs Floridate the Water

Is this what it's come to?
Have we run out of enemies
to feed the people?
Have we included everyone
in the good guy camp?
Are the lizards now our best mates?

Do we have to bring in the frogs,
the pink frogs
who are after our women?

I mean seriously,
look, I'm not voting for a strong man
who says "I will save you from the pink frogs"
I'm just not
OK?

~~

In Season

When fighting death rays
from the sun
it's important to remember
that summer clothing
is a must

When trying to destroy
the giant magnifying glass
that is burning the Earth
it is important
to use overwhelming firepower

You must dominate
that floating ring
and it will disappear
by the spring

~~

Salt, Sugar, Fat

I'm sure, I'm positive
that the next generation
of cell phone towers
will create some sort
of triangle thing
and the aliens will come through

Not the robot lizards
that have ruled us
for the last fifty years
but the new ones
that come into our heads
on radio waves

The ones that are really small
and eat holes in our brains
so that we act stupidly
and eat lots of salt
and sugar

Microscopic alien robots
love salt and sugar
They make us love it
Too

~~

My Heroine

When I am helpless
and cannot move
will you be there?
Will you come to me
like Tara, the pirate queen
with her electro-foil
and carry me off
to the blessed relief
of the bottomless sea?

~~

Is That a Finger in the Dyke?

What more
could a woman ask
than that two men
are fighting over her
while she reloads her revolver

Such perfection!
Unless of course
one is in space
and fighting is just silly
and to use that bullet
inside a space station

Well...
At least there were two men
fighting over her
One of them is now
a plug for the hole

~~

My Animal Totems

The Mayflies
on the window
of the laundromat
like curtains,
the machines in shadow

And on the sidewalk
the exhausted, the failed,
you take countless lives
with each step

But mostly, their dance
The dance of the dead
Up, up, and drop
Up, up, and drop
Spending their few hours
looking for love
Or at least sex

The Junebugs
lumbering, dull things
reaching toward the light
hitting the windowscreens
with the force of newborn kittens

The crunch they make
as you step on one
having gone outside
for some air
and not looking down,
is truly dreadful

Doubly so
for these brief lives
are also looking for love
or at last sex

Brief, brief lives
all looking for love
some finding it
most, food for skunks

~~

More than I Deserve

On my screensaver
a photograph
of a girl from my past
2/3 of a lifetime past

Such a lucky man.
I can count six or seven more
more than the one
on my screen
That I have loved
and perhaps, that loved me

Perhaps there are those
who spend a lifetime
searching for someone

To have found more
than my share
is a comfort in my decline
Or should be

I find myself wondering
why I failed
so many wonderful women
and I wonder, especially
that I am not alone

How many years
did it take me to understand
what I had?
How many years
has it taken me to see
what I have?

In the blink of an eye
I will be gone
but such a thing
holds no fear for me
for I had such love

An afterlife?
What is that to me
compared to what has been given
through the years
I have already had

Fights, yes
Cruelty, of course
life is no heaven
no daydream land
of hearts and flowers

No, I have had much better
than a heaven,
any heaven you can invent,
I have had life
with women who walked
beside me
Women who were my betters
yet walked beside me

I have more than I deserve
and I understand that
at the end,
I finally understand that

~~

Old Teddy

This was in my budo notebook, from 1997. I don't think I ever wrote the story but for those who are of the literary bent, please finish the job for your little ones.

Not the world's most complex plot, but you don't really need to get too complicated for 3 and 4 year olds.

- Daddy gives Old Teddy to his little girl
- She has other, newer teddies, but she loves this one
- Daddy says Old Teddy will protect her in her dreams
- One night, she dreams about a pirate, he comes and grabs her
- She is away from Mommy and Daddy, away
- The girl is sad, and wishes someone would come and help
- Old Teddy comes over the side of the boat and both of them grab sticks and swords and chase the pirates off the boat
- They sail back home and have some ice cream
- Suddenly, the little girl is back in her house, there is Mommy, there is Daddy and there is the sun coming up, and the dream is over.

Sept 2, 1997

Are you happy?

I understand
that it takes two to dance
and our tango was good
if a bit rough around the edges

I understand
that it was you and I
and not simply I

But I couldn't actually know
how you feel
I can only know how I feel
and watch what you do
to guess how you feel

When you told me you were happy
I took your word for it
but I didn't know for sure

I was happy
I'm still happy for knowing you
I'm happy for our time together

Are you happy?

~~

I Dreamt of you Again

Last night I dreamt of you again
second night in a row
Nothing dramatic
and that was just the best

We were in a bar
or a restaurant
Pick one, it was a dream
We were eating and chatting

I took my pills
and told you all about
my old man ills

You trilled that pixie giggle
with your hands over your mouth
and threw those coy eyes at me
like you always did
when I was too serious

Each time I woke
I kept you in my hands
like a sleeping kitten
so you would be there
when I slept again

~~

Pangolins

Bloody Pangolins
I could have been dreaming of you
But all night long
nothing but Pangolins

~~

He's looking at you

Here is a fellow
just out of the shower
He smells good
That's Dior

He's looking at you
as he walks by your room
Are you looking at him?

~~

Will She?

You know I'm blind right?
said Daredevil to Catwoman
so I need to feel you
to know what you look like
Is that all right?

But I've tied your hands
behind your back
she said.

~~

Kissing

Here we are at an image,
does this bother you?
Two good looking men on the street
under one umbrella?

You do understand
that the Supreme court
of the United States
the CONSERVATIVE MAJORITY
supreme court
says this is OK

Can we get our heads around that?
Supreme court
United States
Good for them

~~

Trick Knee

Why is it
that she gets all lovey dovey
while you are perched
on the edge of the couch?

Ooooh Sweetheart
you smell so good
do you know
how much I love you?

While you are thinking
My damned ass is going to break
and my trick knee
is about to play a trick

They are never as light
as they think they are

~~

Ansel and the Antichrist

Anyone Ansel Adams
called "the Antichrist"
deserves more than a footnote
in photographic history

In our old club
were a couple of books
by William Mortensen
on portraiture

I hope someone rescued them

~~

Anthropology

Do you know me?
Do you have a name
you call me?
Do you know my culture?
I don't know you
or your name
or your culture

I am dead
but I'm pleased
that you're pleased
to have some photographs
to remember me

~~

Coming Out at Fifty

The kids have grown
and left home
John looks at Mary one day
and says "I'm Gay"

"I'm going to move out
and room with Albert
It's nothing you did
I've just denied my true self
for the sake of the children"

Mary isn't too sad
It wasn't her
and John moves in with Albert

Fishing, boating, trips to lovely places
Cigars when they want
Whiskey at noon

And what they do when they are at home
they would like to stay private
Thank you

Albert told Bernice he was gay
too

~~

Bedroom Window

Sometimes I feel
like I'm in a Hopper painting
waiting for my life
to begin

~~

An Empty Bed

I get confused
I get confused when I think of you
I don't know how old I am
I reach for your hand
and an old man's hand grasps nothing

~~

Rumpled Sheets

How do you see
an unmade bed?

Is it sad, because there is nobody
to make it
or to make it for?

Or is it unmade
because there is no time
between sex
and running for the bus?

~~

The Blankets are Gone

She spins
I swear to god
she is possessed
she spins
and when she does
she wraps the sheets
around herself
and then dumps them
onto the floor

When that happens
those icicle feet
are headed for my crotch

~~

Fairy Love

You want a fairy
for a girlfriend?

She will burn you
She will take your heart
from a hole in your chest
that she has burned
with her love for you
Are you sure
you want that?

There is no going back
There is no other love

You are burned up

~~

Pickpocket

You think you have her
in your back pocket
Watch out
She has you
in her eyes
and you will drop
through time
until you have never
ever
been anyone but hers

~~

Looking Through a Bottle

You
she said
are living your life
looking through a bottle
of perfume

No matter how long you look
you will never smell nice
You will have to open the bottle
you will have to swim in what's there

Get wet

~~

When I woke

When I woke
she wasn't there
I walked down to the lake
and watched her
in the water

Her dress from last night
flowing around her

Silken waves
to match the ripples
of our little pond

I held my breath

~~

Cafe Mule

How many relationships
started
and ended
over a cup of coffee?

It was personal
It was a kick in the gut
going both ways

I know today
we swipe right and then left
(is that right?)
but, on the whole
I'd rather be kicked in the gut

~~

Without the Pill

If I had lived
in an age without the pill
I might have had
a dozen more kids

They would turn up
on my doorstep
and say “my mother tells me”
and I would invite them in

We would have coffee
and I would be surprised
and it would be awkward
and disappointing for them

Of course
if I had lived
in an age without the pill
I may not have got laid
at all

~~

Luxury Train

She lived in a railway car
below a canal

She wandered the woods
gathering up strays
Which is how I met her

I was out of a job
out of luck
and out of doors
but she found me
and took me home
She fed me,
and filled a metal tub
with hot water from the kettle

I sat there, knees around my ears
and thought this
the height of luxury

~~

Playboy

Sooner or later
it all ends
No matter how much money
how good looking
how popular

All there is
after the pool is cracked
and drained
after the furniture
is riddled with worm
all there is
all anyone will remember
is how you treated them

You see, nobody keeps score
with cash

~~

Tourist

Travel to exotic locations
and beautiful streets
holds no interest to me
if you are not there

You are my need for adventure
you are my foreign destination

You are my world

~~

I am a Pilgrim

I am a pilgrim
searching for you
I have travelled my whole life
to get here
it has taken all my years

Please let me fall to my knees
and look up at your face

Just that
That will be enough

~~

You Come to Me

Sometimes I get depressed
and I want to give up

You come to me quietly
and lean your head
on my shoulder

I know you will stay there
So I get up
tell you I feel better
(and I do)
and go on

~~

He Sits in That Dark Room

He sits in that dark room
The flickering light
of the projector
He can no longer see
the screen
He sits unmoving
tears on his cheeks

We look in
through the window
Image following image
on that screen

A small boy
riding a bike

~~

My Beautiful Daughter

May you fight for the right things
my beautiful daughter

May you never tire
But take some time
for the little things

Be like Lee Miller
taking a bath
in Hitler's bathroom

~~

You Struck Me

You struck me
like lightning hitting a tree
and I burn inside

This can't last long
I shall die
from the inside out

Save me

~~

Pop Quiz

That moment
when you open her dorm room door
and she has invited her friends

That moment
when you realize this is a pop quiz
and you haven't prepared

That moment

~~

A Fisherman's Son

Ah the girls
off the yachts
in my home town
looking for a bit of the rough

They would bat the eyelashes
at the local boys
so much more exciting
than their boyfriends across the lake

It sounds fine
until you realize
these girls off the yachts
expect you to buy the drinks

Poor fisherman's son you are

~~

My Sweet Pixie

My sweet pixie
You always looked
like you should live in the woods
your shy gaze

but when you opened up
it was sardines in tomato sauce
not quite too strong
but damned close

~~

Caught You

You know,
I caught you
more than once
dancing in a puddle
my little pixie girl

You would hop
and stomp
and sing
and I would watch

hoping you didn't catch me

~~

Budo in a Time of Plague

You ask me
how to keep
your martial arts alive

Get new students
I say
But how?

I can't think of a single one
of my girlfriends
that I didn't drag to class

~~

Cottage Life

You know
that bullets skip
over the water

But, you think
as you run toward her
does she know?

And does she know
her ex boyfriend
lives across the lake?

~~

You Should Not Love Me

You should not love me
my beautiful children
like I love you

I must die before you
this is the way of life
and you must let me go

As you grow
do not love me more
but learn to love me less
The idea of you grieving
over my poor carcass
makes me unhappy

Please understand
that I could not love you more
and that will never change
but when you have your own children
you will feel as I do now

You will want them
to let you go
when it is time

~~

Salmon

When the world
is heading in one direction
but you know
that direction is wrong
What else can you do
but turn around
tip your hat
and head upstream

~~

Foreign Travel

Soon sweetheart
he said
I'm going to take you abroad
We'll have a fine vacation
away from it all

She smiled
Mmmm Hmmm
and washed another dish

~~

Piano Stairs

It's a wonderful idea
he said

He can learn the keys
when he goes to bed
he said
And even step out his tunes

So what do we have?
A dancer for a son
A dancer I tell you

~~

How Old am I

How old am I?
Old enough to build a screen door
and scrap it
when it needed to be scrapped.
It was for a sunroom
that was also scrapped
So

Old enough?

~~

Inheritance

The old man
drank rum and coke
"Rum cures, whisky kills"
he would say

My son
drinks rum and coke
Once in a while
Not enough to worry me

I drank beer
because I figured
I would stop
when I got fat

Hah.

~~

Second Date

She was never the same girl twice
Each date was an adventure
Made more exciting
when she insisted I meet her
in some dark bar

I mean, seriously
she was never the same girl twice

~~

Advice to Incels

Be careful what you wish for
that girl you meet
when one finally says hello
after another of your complaints
about the girls you know
who won't give you a chance

That girl who nods
and says "what a shame"
might not be the virgin
you think she is

Zappa said it best
"Why does it hurt when I pee?"

~~

Once we Knew

Once we knew
what was good for us

It was hard
We had to remember

But now
all we have to remember
is which side we are on
and our dear leaders
will tell us
what is good for us

You see
The future is easier

~~

Trophy Wives

How are we to show
our buddies
what manly men we are?

When they come to our den
and see those trophies
on the wall
(it doesn't matter what trophies,
just that we won, bought or killed something)
they will know
what kind of men we are

~~

The Future

They promised us
synthetic food
but the closest we got
was food that tastes
of plastic

They promised us a say
in everything
but nobody counts the ballots
we leave on our favourite
social media silo

It's noisier
and it tastes of plastic
I guess we made it
Sort of

~~

Pulp SciFi

Yet another book
that starts with an asteroid
hitting the earth

Oh No
let's get everyone to the moon
so we can save the human race
I mean airless, waterless, sterile dust
has got to be better
than an asteroid-struck earth

I just hope I get to go on the rocket

~~

Hollow Woman

I search the internet
for "hollow woman"
and find hundreds of images
of shoes

I don't know what that means

~~

A Coffee

Early morning
An open door
I watch your legs
as you turn

Thinking, what?
Returning to work
I feel as if
I've had my second cup
already

~~

My Side

Waking up slowly
I reach for you

After all this time
I reach for you
from the edge of the bed

I never learned how
to use more space

~~

High School

We would drive the back roads
a two-four in the back seat
the empties would go out the window
at the stop signs
which were for other people

It's a country thing

~~

Late to the Cafe

I was late
to the cafe
I was held up
and when I got there
she had gone

I never met her
the love of my life
because I was late
to the cafe

~~

Right on the Ass

Somewhere
between the sauna
and the house
I got nailed
on the ass
by a mosquito

It didn't remind me of anyone
and a strange image
didn't pop into my head
It just itched

~~

More Room

I would wake up
deep into the night
sliding across the bed
heading for the edge

When the fog cleared
it would be her
back to the wall
hands and feet on me

~~

Your Own Sauna

When you build your own sauna
you should probably consider bodies
But it's much more fun
to build it
and then try to find a way
to sit in it

Me, I gave up
I lie down along the bench
I was never good at sharing

~~

It's a Japanese Thing

Is Mishima playing Mifune
or is Mifune playing Mishima
It's important to know
Trust me

~~

I Never Told Anyone

Deep in the woods
near my house
the one I grew up in
There was a sheet
hung from a tree
and it was ripped

Once, when I was brave
I looked through
and on the other side
were women
snakes
and they were speaking Japanese
I never told anyone

~~

Basho Waits for a Plop

A frog
You can hear him
There
Behind the leaves

He's out of the water
Is there anything
more relaxed
than a frog sitting
and waiting
for the next thought

It might take a while

~~

A Naked Girl

My buddy had a Gremlin
You know the car
ugliest of three designs
on a sick bag
in an airliner

It was amazing
what you could get
into that car

~~

For You

I will gather for you
your dreams

I will climb upstairs
and step on the moon
and in the morning

I will give you
a handful of stars

~~

With Fries

In Calgary
there is a Wendy's
When I visit
there is just enough time
from the airport
before we reach the class
to get a burger

I'm not usually a fan
of fast food
But this is a tradition

~~

Oh Let Him Sleep

Over ten years
65 undergrad courses
for a 40 course degree

How many times
did I wake up
in an empty classroom

Late nights

~~

Fleabag Motel

I've never been good
at travel
I borrowed my dad's car
and took her for a trip

I drove too long
not knowing how to stop
and when we did
it was at a fleabag motel

You know, she's long gone
and the car?
Wrecked in a ditch
by my mother
but that motel,
It's still there

~~

Cross Country Butterfly

There is something special
about watching a city wake up
after you've been driving all night

It starts slowly
a light here
a sign
then, like a butterfly
opening it's wings

You
the breeze
that waves the flower

~~

Blue

Lying naked
in a field of flowers
looking up at a blue sky

you never think
of the blue of the sea

~~

Like Cool Water

The slick wetness
of a flower
moving over your chin
and down your neck

That long, pale neck

~~

When You Go

It's impossible
that I would not miss you
when you go
and I know you must go

I'll come falling down
and finish
in a heap of bedding
which will feel
like crying on the shoulder
of a tiger

~~

Idol Dreams

You are an idol
and I am the manager
who wants to keep you
for himself

It's an old story
and we all know how it goes

You will find someone true
and I will be left
if not dragged away in handcuffs
at least
staring out my office window

~~

That Small Thing

We carry with us
all
that small thing
in our stomach
that will escape
one day
and grow into a car
that will kill us
on a lonely
dark
back road

~~

Make Up Tokyo

It's late
Make up Tokyo
I'm tired and
I long for my bed
Sleep
tonight

Sleep with me tonight
in Tokyo

~~

Without Sleep

Without sleep
I won't dream
and without dreams
maybe
I can forget you
I will not sleep
I will not dream
and you won't be gone

~~

Poor Mad Fool

I am the poor mad fool
who sits
with the rabbits
in the field
and, on moonlit nights
watches you dance
wearing the clouds
for a dress

Poor mad fool

~~

Life Model

Long after she had graduated
she would creep
into the empty studio
and pose

Some times
some parts of our life
are hard to let go

~~

Tiki Surf Witches

The Tiki Surf Witches
are returning to Hawaii
They are hideous
they wear masks

If you are on the beach
in Hawaii
you must not cover your face
lest the witch-hunters
mistake you
for a Tiki Surf Witch

~~

Gatekeepers

The vanity of men
to build such monuments
to themselves

And beneath
the towers
lie the worlds of darkness
The poor
who must eat
and so turn to crime

But what crime?
Why the taking
of that which belongs
to the great men
is the only true crime
The men who control the police
who make the laws

The men who build
the monuments
to keep the poor out

~~

Pandemic Silver Lining

It is too late
for me to die young
to be forever young

I was born in the '50s
and so I am old
but perhaps
I have a few years left

Unless, yes
I still have a chance
to die before my time

~~

Pygar's Lament

Everyone gets an angel
Said the Patrician
Barbarella got an angel

Me, I got several
So many that I thought
angels were just folks

Where did they go?

~~

Rockabilly Octopus

If you left me
and moved to another town
but wanted me back
I'd be there
like a rockabilly octopus
half crazy on hooch
I'd be there

~~

Banana Split Special

The Woolworth's lunch counter
in our town
would have banana split specials
once in a while

You would eat your split
and then pop a balloon
and if you were lucky
it would say free

The poor kids
would wait
until Brad's mom
was on the counter

This one?
No, maybe that one
her eyes would say

Outside
the guy with no legs
on his board with wheels
would be selling pencils

We would always give him a penny

~~

Land Yacht Chill

In 1977 there was a blizzard
One of my buddies
drove downtown
and back to campus
so that we could be stuck
in The Keg
with beer money

My girlfriend walked home
but it was blowing so hard
she grabbed some guy's coat
and let him pull her
to her apartment building
Half an hour
to go a block

I was probably having another beer

~~

Flavour Crystals on the Moon

Perhaps the first time
I got drunk
was on a mickey of vodka
I found in the old man's shop
It was tucked up near the ceiling

My buddies and I
got some powdered Tang
(Drink of the astronauts)
and poured it in

A little shake
and off to the beach

~~

Baton Corps

My sister took baton lessons
two feet of steel
with a big end
and a little end
of some sort of hard rubber

Enough to crush your skull
without making you bleed

~~

Bondi's Pizza

Two or three times a year
my mother
would bring home
a Bondi's pizza

Bacon and mushroom
So much grease
it would slide right off the crust

I'd give a lot
to see one in her arms
as she walks through the door

~~

Epilogue

You will find more free ebooks of poetry at: <https://180degreeimaging.com/TaylorBooks.html> should you want to see more.

As for the theme, which I mentioned in the prologue, June is my birth month. Perhaps we can say this book contains the various thoughts that an old man has around the time of that next birthday.

Kim Taylor, June 2020