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The Storm Before The...

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5.06" x 7.81" (12.85 x 19.84 cm)
Black & White on White paper
92 pages

ISBN-13: 978-1499281842
ISBN-10: 1499281846

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THE STORM BEFORE THE CALM

Poems of Unquieted Love Unrequited

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Printed in the United States of America

ISBN-13: 978-14992-8184-2

ISBN-10: 1499281846

First Edition



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THE STORM BEFORE THE CALM

- ONE Shift
- TWO Rain Dance
- FIVE Kelly Zuniga
- SIX Double L Spells
- SEVEN Fire Department
- EIGHT Player Piano
- ELEVEN Candid Date
- TWELVE Make-ready Team
- THIRTEEN Doorstop
- FIFTEEN Indifference
- SEVENTEEN Call and See 'Em
- EIGHTEEN Pair of Shooters
- NINETEEN Kelly Matters
- TWENTY Plastic Men
- TWENTY ONE Fed Up, Contrition Down

TWENTY TWO Phone Ex

TWENTY THREE Tell No One

TWENTY FOUR Cross Stitched Heart

TWENTY FIVE Suggestion Boxing

TWENTY SIX Broken Pencils

TWENTY SEVEN Blue-green Crayon

TWENTY NINE Midnight Courtesan

THIRTY Tore, Churned & Keeled

THIRTY ONE No Surprises

THIRTY THREE Waiting by the Window

THIRTY FIVE Misses Tomato Head

THIRTY SEVEN Café Gruene

THIRTY EIGHT Kelly's Zoo

THIRTY NINE April 5th

FORTY ONE Polygluttons and Mutton

FORTY TWO Whys, Old Owl

FORTY THREE The Louisa

FORTY FIVE Leave It, Beaver

FORTY SIX Sub Limpin' Doll

FORTY SEVEN Wind At My Back

FORTY EIGHT Mad Liberator

FORTY NINE I Left

FIFTY ONE Arch Inner Me

FIFTY THREE Repainted Memories

FIFTY FOUR Collar ID

FIFTY FIVE Tweed Suit

FIFTY SIX Infinity Pool

FIFTY SEVEN Meet the Mean

FIFTY EIGHT Charge!

SIXTY Celebrity Gossip

SIXTY ONE Awful House

SIXTY TWO Before Late Then Never

SIXTY THREE Sacred Assholes

SIXTY FOUR Twenty Red Nails

SIXTY FIVE Don't Remember Nothin'

SIXTY SEVEN Veiled Time in a Day

- SIXTY EIGHT Coroner Store
- SIXTY NINE Waiting on the Welcome Mat
- SEVENTY ONE Sparkling Eye Doll
- SEVENTY TWO End At the Start
- SEVENTY THREE Good Morning
- SEVENTY FOUR Sensei Billy
- SEVENTY FIVE Seven Teen Sikh Aunts
- SEVENTY SEVEN Baby Lawn
- SEVENTY NINE White As Snow

I spy these poetry forms in the following order. Can you see them too? Perhaps you can see more.

Construction worker with lumber, Chinese waiter with tray, Man in top hat, Bird bath, Rain forest tribesman, Salad bowl, Goblet, Church bells, Gavel, Couple carrying trays, Hourglass, Genie rising from bottle, Frog on pedestal, Hourglass, War medallion, Me without my hat, Godzilla roaring, Policeman, Lighthouse base, Lighthouse light, Two anvils falling on a toddler, Model ship, Pill bottle, Screw, Dumbbells, Stand mixer, Butler with tray, Bird bath, Fancy urn, Nerd in beanie, Silver bell, Spittoon

4. EWAN 4not?

INSPIRED BY LILITH, BABYLON AND

KELLY YVONNE ZUNIGA

You are the woman of my dreams and fantasies.

I can tell the truth so many ways, Kelly.

Come hear it from soft, silent lips.

Seriously. Soon.

Really.

SHIFT

Finally got some quiet
No dropping beats now
Hear calls from catacombs
Whisker's mist forming 'round
499 days of neutral eyes
Focus fades with no surprise

Busy working on... What was that?
Now again it's face to face
Don fruit leaf over my mace
Wild horses gallop aside me
Cross eyes of mighty girls
Carry miserable loads
Forced by sickles to cells

Springtime break's almost here
Time skims by when I'm 'wake
Moon rises, eyes open, feet march in small quakes
They're filming a movie, their camera has croaked
Zoom is full featured, but Pan seems to be broke

Venture is spelled with a capital V
My name is quilled in uppercase LILLICII

RAIN DANCE

Pitter against my window
Patter upon the street
Could it be rain outside
Or some high wire feat?

Balantyne's mass ache here
Constant teen age angst
Chap from hell draws near
Blaming all who give thanks

Simple eye drops for red iris
Knotting my backyard's chords
Washes down taking sadness
Cleaning up their dirty words

Twinkle twinkle Betelgeuse
How I won her they can't know
Don't forget my offered truce
Abused by bugs drawn by your glow

Hopping on and off the bed
Lights flicker, codes misread
Semaphore for the unwed
Skull bump braille for us instead

Falling faster with the sun
Shadows race up from the grass
In the din I hear the one
Chased by men, yelling morass

Month of Pisces in full swing
Age of which is walking out
What a manly spender's thing
Repeating lines for their own clout

Torrent reaches highest gear
Thirsty worms are thankful
Desert rain comes twice a year
Six months per the tank full

Fellars flock from far address
Two shallow A's on the mountain
Spring has sprung on time no less
Hands limit ways of countin'

Tried to teach to use their toes
Now feet under water
Bubba's hubcap rodeo
Flees from fresh sea water

Checking gauge and almanac
Seems to be right timing
Picking up their gunny slack
Current's strength is climbing

Charging out with thunder splash
Nervous that I'll miss her
Chances scarcer than the cash
Best to seal the fissure

When I finally meet my mate
For the thousandth time in years
Nickname callers of blind date
Will have to face new fears

Patience is a finite source
Our geometric heel
'Cept in premature divorce
Clarifiers make them squeal

Slowing rain shine drizzles now
Think I heard reel knocking
Staff and rod can't mow them down
Clear water ends the stalking

Tip-toe dance amongst the trees
Weeping willows seem to be gone
Sun rises golden after fleece
Her hand is nearly won

Another knock, then two or three
Rushing back to greet her
We cart each other through degrees
Tie goes to the winners

Will the dancer take my lead?
Time and crowds may tell
Out of mind and out of speed
Pollution destroys well

Remember metaphorically
Our world is yin yang parts
Know need for new allegory
Slinky's soar faster than darts

KELLY ZUNIGA

Chased your car down the block
Must have been the wrong lady
Got a phone call from the cops
You set me up! I'm not shady!

Been so long since we felt the same
It's not your right to be silent
Your choices led to broken glass
My volume never gets violent

Take your black flag down
We've crossed a sea of time
Too much wasted, too much lost
Blame is easy to assign

Take your pick of who's not here
Just do it later, after this
Our wedding date is coming near
Seal commencement with a kiss

I love you, Kelly Zuniga

DOUBLE L SPELLS

Fifteen months and some odd days
Suspicion grows with the maize
Why do women take their time?
Why do men give past the line?

So many petty thoughts
Too far gone to backstroke now
Sea of jellies jammed

When does hope run out?
Plenty ways to pout
They all lead to her
My s-car goes blur

Here in much is lost
Outside chance of recompense
Still not safe out there

Perhaps she knows better than
Carefree Barbie veteran
No, that's not her character
Too much angst to factor

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Local P.D. hasn't been nice to me
Caught them on a bad day
Marshals filed orders resembling guile
What's a clean record anyway?

911 clerks rushed and hushed me like jerks
311 seemed preoccupied too
CIA, FBI, NSA all say
"Thanks for calling. Now be on your way."

Interpol at least let me send them her face
U.S. Marshal's night watchman kept friendly pace
Boston sheriff's dispatch I'd have to say "nay"
Demanded concern for my love was hearsay!

With librarians firmly in my corner position
There's but one group left on this rudimentary mission
People with helmets that dress on their pole
Will they care for my stripper to have and to hold?

Any gang with Dalmatians and shiny red wagons
Surely must have love for the purest of dragons
If not then at least they don't threaten my life
Not as much as cops, marshals, neighbors or my wife

PLAYER PIANO

Soft song and dance rise from the wall
Marsupials assembled
Pouches in pooches greedy hands
My true love made to tremble

Who are the criminals I see?
None evident, still lucid
Bored room chaired by families
Libran die-o-rama spoon fed

What tickles their tusks of ivory?
Only hurtful pranks
I warm her hearth decisively
Show guns shoot me down with blanks

P.T. Barnum watches close
Lest melody expire
Claims he is our game show host
Contract lost in house fire

Hucksters, grifters, sharky fins
Circle green well spring
For light to write their bitter ends
Whose paths line each as king

Fat men fly and hoot owls walk
Bizarre it is indeed
Those cast aside by outlined chalk
Killed by a pustule's creed

Eye saw pairs of L's flip chart
Met a four before the start
Now twos must line up to depart
No way icebergs sink our ark

Notes may calm the savage beast
Savage ate the clientele
Chianti and some fava beans
Might teach them how to spell

Music class draws to a close
Detention hall for most
Those fools who stole piano's key
Can pray, but won't help most

School is closing due to funds
Vacations open early
Need a tiller for these Huns
My sheen does for the surly

Been a year since budget cuts
Cleaned my clock with sea gulls
Hanging by convenience store
Pigmy's shrink their skulls

"How did they make 'lectricity?"
"How to refine the fuel?"
Hindsight's the proof that faithless need
To spare their wolf-clothed mules

Want your music from a harp
Tuned perfect in just one key?
My ring may fit the janitor
But I'll sweep her off you'll see

Down the road, just one flight
Then stares are all I get
Purposefully improving spite
One method – to torment

Every war had casualties
Now survivors beg to follow
Victims of a structured sea
Plotted waves in which to wallow

CANDID DATE

Miss Terry's crying again
I hear her through the walls
Romance is a game she just can't win
When bright lights and dark men call
She's off like a gust through the hall

Year after year men line up
Year after year they fall
If it's weren't for her little dog
Miss Terry wouldn't know love at all

In different times
In different measure
Yet all tossed off the same
She needs a man that can see through her lies
Who's not interested in laying blame

Terry, just give me a call

Beautiful smiling lips
She's kissed a whole river of toads
In search of a prince to iron things out
To straighten up her curvy road
Wish I could lighten her load

I hear her crying out my window
Shatters my heart at the sound
Her tears are feeding the shadows
That follow her body around
Grinding her love into the ground

MAKE-READY TEAM

Voices at 4AM purposefully scream
Pitters and patters of multiple feet
For once not in my direction they beam
Nicely surround me with friendly matched beats

Make-ready team has taken vacation
Spring helped me grow as it put on the brakes
The shift clarified clarification
Moments of pause grope successful mistakes

Two score and eight hours to the lifeline
Keepers of water juggling their last
Soon the bright smile of my love casts off brine
Makes human slav'ry a thing of the past

Then when her battery reaches full charge
Justice and a dream will present their might
Until they appear I'll sit and recharge
In this cold, dark castle absent her light

I worry often 'bout the Make-ready team
They play by the rules yet never to win
If they right their course to musical theme
We'll call them our muses, no more vile D'jinn

DOORSTOP

First you say you're gonna come in
Set the table, pour the wine, then
Wait until the clock strikes ten
You're lately absent fair sky friend

Every night you promise
I make you swear you're honest
Thought I was your fondest
Now the truth looks very clear as I see

Don't let the door stop you, Honey

I hear your car come rumbling
Run and open for fumes again
Maybe your red wagon tire's flat
Psycho girlfriends are good at that

Don't come late I'm over that
I called and verified by chat
Are you searching for me too?
Are we lost and locked in this kiddie zoo?
Lower expectations or raise white flag?

Make me just one deal
I've got no time to steal
Life is chaos and I feel
You're the center of the strongest onion I've peeled

Get it back together
We can be birds of a feather
Gone in summer weather

Has become regular hell here
If you can't grow up
Grow horns and honk as you flee

Don't let the door stop you, Honey

INDIFFERENCE

You said you were angry
Then walked away for good
Now two years later
I'm won'dring if we could

Called you once
Each hour for 500 days
Feel so alone
Tried so many ways
Sent you postcards
Flowers in a vase
Wrote you poetry
Pretty words don't take your place

Now I'm
Looking for some kind of
Small respect
Seems like you owe me
I suspect
Some other man must be
Keeping you
From showing the soft side
That I knew

Keeping silent isn't right
I struggle here each night
Memories march up
Talk at my door
Love's always open
Come get some more

I took you for granted, ranted, bought your evil lies
My sentence punctuated by solemn cries
Tortured and beaten, jailed by the local bar
Still looking for your friends, still hear your grumbling car

I showed you love
You must admit
Why torture me
If this is it?
Minutes of time to you
Years of wait
Calendar's open so
Save your date

Your indifference is different than most
Call back soon, Kelly Lee, my favorite ghost

CALL AND SEE 'EM

Waking every hour just to ring your number
Clock strikes three you're still out on the town

I waited long
For your short conversations
You party on
Shore leave in foreign nations
When you get a chance
To return those annoying phone calls
Don't bother me with
"Sorry" or "I was busy" at all

Look me straight
Crooked date
Which lie lays closest to the truth?
You said no games
Now again
Your losing ground and
Hounds chase your kissing booth

I call
No answer
You scream
I run
We fall
Ever faster
Play your stupid games
I've lost, you won
Can I call and see you now?
Our love's undone
Our love's undone

PAIR OF SHOOTERS

Since Valentine's Day
Arrows been flying 'round here
When darkness fills the sky
Sticks and stones and nameless gnomes jeer
Crying about the same old blues
Each day of whatever month of the year
Finally found a sidekick from the club who's
Got her shotgun loaded against a pellet of fear

She parachutes into town
Around 10AM in the day
From an invisible plane full of clowns
That circle as we run away
Back to the protection of small towns
Good people, slow paces, always
Just past the city limit the hounds
Wait with a hunger so crazed

Used to catch me off guard
Now we're on point in the game
For them strays that eye our yard
Evil growls that just won't be tamed
I used to throw rocks at them nightly
Holes in my heart and the wall
Her flood of love pours so brightly
I see 'em coming now tooth and paw

My doll can sing, my doll can dance
She knows all the moves by heart
We're two ragged toys done fooling around
Tired of acting, now we're writing the part

KELLY MATTERS

Auntie, what's your trouble? Cauldron bubbles?
Snakes on planes, horse without reigns?
Wise or serious or truthful? Aged or youthful?
There are at least two sides
Yours and the one I listen to first and last

Kelly's

PLASTIC MEN

Subtle tones and bags of bones
Are thrown like trash outside

Splinter heads stick to their beds
Glued eyes swoon to objectified
Risk playing wicks eternal flame
Unknown soldier's resistance ceased

From out of moors come moss wrapped oars
Cracked with keno codes

Corked bottles lashed with tendons
Buoy my makeshift life-long road
Passenger passed on ghost ship cruise
For sun cat's three mile island views

Architects and lunars tick men forward once per piece
Measured by Ruler's thumb

FED UP, CONTRITION DOWN

Fingers of ice weave in place of all the light
My massage of pain from the girl that shares the blame
Lickin' good and learning keys
My door's unlocked for all the thieves

Thebes and cameras peep in over holey walls and rubble
Not a place for love
A cemetery 'fer the trouble
Cops check in on me with spotlights at ten to three
Headaches, earthquakes, no mistakes, milkshakes
Season of ice peppered with spites

Her heart meant everything to me
Her ass meant her heart would have to wait

PHONE EX

Line that coils runs past the hall to top of thirteen stairs
Finally conquered, patience, what a wait
Down below a crumpet blows, what a bunch of hares
Keep it down, can't hear, when's her due date?

Try to keep my kisses and gentle reminisces
To myself but smiling smacks won't 'bate
There to my surprise out from the line of guys
Those eyes
Threw a glance, love caught a chance
Ten more minutes of deep romance

TELL NO ONE

Take me up on my offer, ring or knot
Makes no difference to me
Show your face little hopper, do not ring
Just stroll in deference to me

Summer's single fingered wave was the worst
Until Fall fell on my head
Now Winter encroaches here, roaches wait
While dingoes yip south of my bed

Lean in close and take my hand, look closer
Kelly Yvonne's Wonderland?
Robotic chicken layin', roosters peck
'Round etheric barnyard pets

Roll left and right
Or up and down
Criss-crossing seams
Stretch out the town

Strolling 'round just Kel and I, she's got a
Perfect smile, she's made for me
Our secret made us friends, more than life
Two thousand times, one for luck

CROSS STITCHED HEART

Kites flew by at the park today
Everyone's laughing in pairs
Little dogs growl as the swimming swans play
Looks like I'll be the only one alone
You're still stuck in my mind I'd say

You'd say no way
Vanity stays
Own the past dear
Nights are empty here
Never later than sunrise
Every exit needs a goodbye

Is it cold in your house with his locks up on the door?
Should I think he's just a friend or is that lie too much a
bore?

Babies crying in their strollers
As I stroll past with a frown
Bet your headed somewhere fun
You're always disappearing from this town
Last that I heard your wedding is coming soon

Only one thing that I can offer is a gift I've had since June
Namely this broken heart, cracked and empty, fiddled
out of tune

SUGGESTION BOXING

Ringside seats are tossed by square
Lights dimmed all trimmed body hair
Sheets shudder where doors stood frail
Slim male clothed in burka veil

Curtains part as if by gusts
Two land parts, one called one putz
Ropes colossal bind hostel
Forced ache killing my fossils

Trilobites replace teras
Waves hush all but preparers
Red trunks swim around corner
Blue trunks try to inform her

Announcers draw lots to speak
Betting's closed, take your seat

BROKEN PENCILS

Broken pencils adorn the floor
Each betrayed a vow
Not as much the words that they swore
Those they don't allow

For instance, I sat domestic
Preparing my shack
Each action was more authentic
Still wishing her back

Yet all of the words that came forth
Seemed to boomerang
Triangle circled straight henceforth
Foreheaded she-bang!

Why didn't she get my letters?
Why not return calls
Alone in prison for debtors
Pay per thinning walls

Please Blackwing do me some justice
Don't let me die yet
Write words to defeat Augustus
Horse 'n eels force it

BLUE-GREEN CRAYONS

Von's eyes reflect obsidian
Black jewels two of a kind
Her ruby slippers tap in code
A sign for me to know it's time
Yell 'fore hit rewind

I seen her then she saw red
Ran after phantoms, flat, dark and dead
Scowered the island, ship sailed
She's hemmed up, I'm stuck
Lit up so inhale

She rolled the dice too many times
Picked handsome ponies that can't race
Now the odds are in my favor
Check the program
Ease all her fear
Paint happy clowns and mimes

I'm weary, get little rest
Pressing conf'rences, still I confess
I'll make the best of worst times
Some say retool it
I say she's real fine

Catch and release these fissures that
Trip me up, punch my card
Christmas carols from the hallway
Cajolers sing off-key on time, never trust that bard

It's been so long I'm losing count
My half-life is decayed
She stole my love, I let go of
That dove
She flew across the sound to my heart's dismay

Op'ning cases, trail is hot
Instinct and luck might be all I've got
Paddle nipped by sharks behind
Iron hulled tug boat
Will arrive on time

As far as happy endings go
I'll go as far plus one
My car goes fast on icy roads
Though towed
That's incidental, mind is rocket fueled, son

She and I will meet
Clock is ticking, talk to me sweet
Flightless birds flying feat
Running on heart is hard to beat

MIDNIGHT COURTESAN

You rose like the blue sky
Chasing the moon
Is our time almost over?
Don't leave too soon
I heard you sleep talking
Recall one thing
Your whispers called my name
Like hummingbird's sing

Swooped into my room
Just in time my dear
Waiting a lifetime
Staring year after year
Out a cruel window
Reflection of pain
Shattered and breaking
You saved my remains

Midnight courtesan
File in, lay your hands
No fines, no pleas, just be at ease
Your love is my command

Rainy Friday night
Clouds crashing like waves
Splashing, thrashing, so near to catching
My mermaid as she swims away

Midnight alone in empty bed
Looking out a cruel window

TORN, CHURNED & KEELED

Up and down the alleys looking for a smoke
Thought life was a journey, not some kind of joke
Hecklers crank up my jack, no top on this box
Staying steps 'fore a dog, easy for a fox

Circles of life
Turn upside down
Shakes your money all out
Kicks you out of your town
Troll bridges and monsters
Force pay day to play
While simple miracles
Crash and then fade

Styx and stone swords
Part life and part death
When you're waiting on mercy
Don't dare hold your breath
Blow out your candles
Lights are sparkling inside

NO SURPRISES

You disappeared again
Friday afternoon
Valentine's for one
Same as last year

Do you remember when
You chased the haloed moon
Your hollow day surprises
Echo torture in my ear

Not again
Change your ways
Keep your vow
Follow for now
Each time we climb
You see the peak
Summit this time
Noah up the creek

Surprise me
With no surprises

You had me wait
Out by the park
Snuck out your house
Right after dark
Didn't know
Didn't see
Something wrong
Obviously

We can start again
No one will steal you, jewel
Diamond finger cuffs
Chain gently when you pull

Pinball is fun for little kids
Time has come to peer amid
Our dreams before they fade
Close your eyes, still head this way

Surprise yourself
With no surprises

WAITING BY THE WINDOW

Yesterday I thought I had won
Patiently watched for my prize
Today it seems nothing's done
Hoping you materialize

Waiting by the window
Eternally it seems
Hoping that someday she'll understand
When I hear the wind blow
Her voice whispers too
Promised me I'd always be her man
Promises are all she ever had

Neighbor's conversation
Runs me to the door
Welcome mat is all I ever find
Last night she walked by
Must have been a ghost
Same one that keeps stealing what was mine

Inside this room
It's cold and still
Time stops as years pass
Outside it blooms
People paired up

Windows cracked
Curtains torn
Don't open anymore
Just like the heart
She emptied as it wore

If you see my girlfriend
Tell her I waited here
At least as long as any other man
Tell her I still love her
My time was just all up
I tried to do as much as I could

Tell her to visit down here if she would
If she doesn't, tell her that she should

MISSSES TOMATO HEAD

Thursday night attach bag to right
String of pearls shine by moonlight
Three-inch heels down to scale
Make babble on time to catch a whale

Home to change my emperor's clothes
Eyes are red, drips from fauceted nose
Tripping on crumbs and rubbled despair
Reaching out for your hand and golden hair

Almost have you, then you pass
Cracked the shell on my hourglass
Flipping every few minutes now
Dreams of beaches fade fast down

Last thing I remember
You ran scared from that house
Down a well-lit street
Like a demonic church mouse

Why don't you cackle when I give you a call?
Why don't you help spackle my demo-logical wall?

Your sisters are here
My cousins
Aunts are in queue
Yet line doesn't move
It's stuck waiting on you

Come inside, fly in don't knock
My heartbeat keeps time

With a broken down clock
These eyes need a cleaning
Crusted with Salt
My ears don't hear meaning
Details locked the vault

Open your own door
Mine has been shattered so
Celebrity is nice
Money makes men you know
I know something you don't
Hope that you can
My arrival is destined
Sit by my right hand

Listen to songs
Then hear what's spoke
Cottonwood trees
And that garden's big oak
Little details
Hold a pocket flashlight
Take your path through the woods
Noon or midnight

Calm as a cucumber
Until another weak points
Out my window
Your hopping onto next joint
Blood pressure is rising
While my blood's seeping out
Marry me, Miss Tomato Head
Don't ask me to shout
I'll shout this anyway, I love you

CAFÉ GRUENE

If you expect t get the check
Get the attention of your waiter
Catch of the day tastes suspect
Captain must not be a master baiter

Before, and after, this poem gets puerile
Rinse with baptismal schisms
River water clarifies truth and style
Pick your blame from list of the -isms

Even river water flows to the sea
Inner tube with a friend and her giggle
Banks are too close to ferry a yacht, see?
Flexibility soars with sea gulls

KELLY'S ZOO

Fuck the zoo
It's easy, me – you
One, two
E.T. phone home
Kids all grew up
We need those kids back

APRIL 5TH

Tick tock pick pocket lock it up when you leave
Hem haw gem causes gnawing teeth when received
Will my will will her still after bills fill my worry?
Hu only knows, hues come and go, one hue still cries fury

Welcome on over, con's over, non-owner's waiting

Willkommen well announced
Tell me twelve ounce, where are you?

Bienveniu won't you?
As venues go it's not so bad

Aloha laughing clouds
Can't be humorous in the dark

BiTaemo is ok
In place of resume if you need a restart

Failte lamps
Sketchy faucets draw cold sometimes

Dobro pozalovat'! as the Russians say

It's the 4th, get headed North, wait a thirty-second
Parallel worlds perhaps, synched calendars no, just maps
It's the 3rd, nest easy red bird, practice hardest word
Sorry, this is it! Others offer more than this nerd?
Take it, a chance I mean, that you mean too
Something new, barring what's owed I lend sky of blue

Act now then pay me, waiter
Loan is up first second of the sixth day
No interest in anything but principles
Those who plot are too course
Fine time for honest play

POLYGLUTTONS AND MUTTON

Pick a shape and take your time
Not as flippant turns out
Coils turn into light
Circles pace 'til dark
Sin waves bye to miracles
How does this stanza feel? Sea!

Pause
Now see
Path is lit
Yours just, like mine
Customized detail
Munchkins have their own too
All lead to Em'rald City

Take a horse if you must
Colors up to you
If you're synched you can trust
That horse is taking ewe

That's the trick, superior chick
Metaphysics goes every way
Surround your soul with better shtick
Or attract it with ballet

WHYS, OLD OWL

Yelling at me from the porch
Huntin' puffin' in the parking lot
Empty handed 'cept for my torch
Another fool done took his shot

You're mad at me again
You got me on my knees
Diggin' through the carpet
Still tryin' to find the keys
You took your time with torture
Racked my brain without a break
Now it looks like leasing time
Bought you a critical mistake

Whys, old owl
They're all that ever show

THE LOUISA

Took us all day and most of the night
Fighting swift moving currents no end in sight
White tips and cold dips twisted our canoe
Now we're on board this sinking ship it's just me and you
We lingered too long up the creek down there
Soldiers at the fort got restless triggering your hare
They may act mean toward us, might offer up a glove
Just ignore the growing crowds
We're in this for the love

Sent trolls after ya'
Sent boozers after me
No more bridge tools remain
No gin to nick us with it's flames
Playing stick ball up on deck
Can't scratch my bones so what the heck

The noose is tied up
Next to the altar
Preacher's running late
Knees about to falter
We came so close
They torpedoed our plans

Come on let's hitch up anyway
Married on execution day

Got two bridesmaids from the galley
Groomsmen swept in when he married Sally
After rings are swapped their cinch their hoods
Tonics for the gin they'll shoot us

Knock on wood

There's still a chance
We'll make it free
Come on rabbit
Hope with me
Take a step
Next to the edge
I'll catch you
Falling from the ledge

Just like a tigger
A wonderful thing
At very last second
There rose the spring
Our canoe hit the Louisa
Crewmen scattered for life
Left us necking alone
One man and his wife

LEAVE IT, BEAVER

Dam finally bursts when you're just about drowned
No warning nor fast getaway
Nearly fell for it then fell through the stars
Straight up and now headed our way

See the rock rolling
Hear the green moss
Crying its heart out
For such a hard loss
Touch a few people
Taste sweet success
Sorrow's so bitter
Don't settle for less

Cameras unloaded and film sent away
Wish I'd taken much more
Thoughts of her linger in smoke stained windows
Into my heart's door, she stays

Picture the future
No framing for free
Takes gold to spin me
Listen and dive to see
Love and respect her
Before she's all gone
You'll resurrect feelings not felt in so long

SUB LIMPIN' DOLL

Where do you go when you take off at night?
Long weekends are lonely, did you run from a fight?
Are you sitting alone like me?
Are men swarming on you?
Is it asking too much to ask which lie is true?

Birthday parties on Valentine's Day
Turned up my brow as you scurried away
Christmas and Easter had you traveling far
Your vacation schedule is ruining my day

I'm counting my blessings
Are you one of them too?
Why do strangers know more about
Things that happen to you?
I sit worried senseless
Sensing you're out late
Swimming with sharks
Toasting at sunrise
Playing men who share marks

You prance when you walk
Sparkles in your wake
We've weathered rough seas
Blind as bats on the march
Foreign movies and concerts
Hunting shoes off the rack
But when Friday night's sun falls
You're slipping out the back

WIND AT MY BACK

It's in every song three ways to say
Love had, love seized, love ripped away
Ivory towers reduced to piano keys
Unlocking the pain from my joy withering
Starlight of the New Moon
Shone on my old friend south of Nekker Isle
Bright as the star she reflected that night
Delusion of grandeur, grander in spite

Kelly's chords
Tied my wings
Hold me to the ground

Kelly's cries
Above the din
Most disturbing sound

Kelly's calls
Never ring
Is she sailing out?
Or does she like to listen to
Every tortured shout?

It's back again, kids at play
Staying all night they howl and nay
She's inching close, I'm running again
She's changed her mind, no way to win

Years of tacking in tactless wind have beached my boat
and I go at it and then I remember why I turned my back
that day with the wind at my back. Leave them at play.

MAD LIBERATOR

Slow down, you don't understand
Explain, before reprimand
Think twice, Details are quicksand

She's still a queen
Not fleeing the scene
Give her some help
Then she'll help herself
She's cool like her porridge
You know ankh courage
Escorts you when court is on

Hey, Goldie!
Stop playing mad liberator
Can you fill in for Blanca later?
Adjective additives make you a hater
Walk on down, clown
You think
And you cry
Then you fall
Wondering why
Don't lie
Here I see
Your frustration
Concentration
Let's water down

I LEFT

Hey there crying lonely
Do you think you're the only
Don't let your crocodile tears
Leak on my new shoes
I've only got a few more nights
Before they turn out all the lights
If you're not helping me shine
Let your dark fade away

I thought it was bolder
Not to turn a cold shoulder
To the pain you rained down yesterday
I can see by your squirming
You're still out here to sermon
So batty, calling you just to say

We had fights up flights of starry nights
Comets hailed our whining anyway
Now the weather's not so fair
Can't see your side nor do I care
Shine your darkness
It's all you've got left
When you fall I won't be here, I left

Now that I'm older
And after thinking things over
You've got nothing to offer but grief
So empty that duffle
Tell your hound dogs to muzzle
And I'll forget you're a love muscle thief

I sit and drink, mix and think
Juggle memories 'fore they sink
Now the clown is gone, no mem'ries just mimes
Cupboard is empty
Yesterday there was plenty
Trading chicken stock for shares of time

Thought I'd have my little quail
After all of this mail I mailed
Soft sonnets guess they're centuries late
So much for an opposite's date

ARCH INNER ME

I'm not gonna cry or whine for those among us
Tearing out our hearts and minds
You're the one I sing about for debt here owed
Clothed by but a voice and pearls

Don't weep for me
Arch inner me
Why tread by sea
Dark fantasies

Days have turned to weeks
Moat leaks have molded castle
Barefoot pacing moors my nervous feelings
Focused on your pain, our gain, no shame is spoken
Broken falls, tsunami walls hail all

Strum your palm away
Arch inner me
Iron or it's me
Miracles will be

Kelly is a name, a girl, a gentle meaning
Memories held as creed
Names flip, hints slip, boiled quips
Clips of horror stain my mind

Bowled lettered moon
Light out of tune
Always high noon
Withstood cartoon
Loons march away

When ya gonna come?
Cycles over and I'm numb
Keats, Yeats, Poe and Eye we know
Wait in the dark
Arch inner me
Someday you'll see

Your love was me
Your love was me

REPAINTED MEMORIES

Strolled by our favorite joint the other day
Forty to five by the way
You and I painted this town red
Now colors swirl inside my head

That tiki bar was bright and green
Your sippin' gin while Elvis sings
Three years later the walls are brown
The chairs are crooked, sign broke down

Didn't we color
Our life with smooth strokes?
So why did a ripple
Peel our devils down to the yolks?

We sat...
Whoa! I couldn't finish that.

COLLAR ID

Her number sounds like xylophone notes
Dinging and dialing downstairs
After two years of her cruelest hoax
High octaves fall into low snares

Drummer boy
Sets the beat of the war
Soldiers stew
Beefeaters, GIs in revolt
Shouting out
Foreign dances in dry desert air
Sends her ghost but she's never there

Where Alice? She'd love this band
Shaking spears, "Never never" shots land
Must get Alice and whisk her away
Save ceremonies for another wet day

Is she tied up in the chords
That some gentle man sang
Or a boy from her afternoon class?
Is she home in the hollows
While I wait bathing by moonshine
Was she a girl or a ghost?

Her car is gone and weeds move on in
Seems like she faded away
Now I'm hoping the doll's collar ID
Sends her right back to my doorstep one day

TWEED SUIT

I put on my birthday suit
The one you liked the best
Walked down to that garden
Two hours early, no waiting
Closed my eyes and imagined us
Exchanging hearts and vows
It's three hours later, where are you now?

I wrote the lines
The preacher said to do
Check on the invitation
Not sure you got yours too
Was it something I said
In the pale moon glow
That made you disappear
I'm sure I might never know

Crying out on the corner
Looking out over the sea
Speaking out to all the trees
Hoping that you know it's me
Making plans is hard to do
When you're one without your two
Please come back for one more night
That can last Forever under the moon

When I wake at dusk I walk out in the dust I see your
shadow must be hanging lonely in the window by the
cherry blossom tree that rustles lightly in the breeze that
started as a sigh so lightly slipping on the tears that fell
by accident I guess. I'm always here. Never forgetting.

INFINITY POOL

Staring in my glass
Stepping back in time
Trapped in ice cubes melting away
Wish I could dive in
The nickel of moments now lost in time

Sea shells she sells tell
Tall tales of two
Coils of truthfulness inside
Perspective changed
I jump right in the gin pool that rocks my boat

Swimming this stormy sea
Lighthouse flickers
Too far to sea
Too far to go
Too far behind
Endless waves
She's safe inside

MEET THE MEAN

Went downtown to wander round old hideaways
That old bar she danced bizarre synth in sideways
Caught her eyes in my heart
Irish princess Keltic spark
Doubled down
Slip out of gown
Rolling in the dark

Party girls take me higher than I dare play
Six days in, low as sin, wave bye and pray
Babylon tore my soul
Lilith filled up the whole
Raising up
Novice luck
Nepotism pays

Somewhere along the way
Clouds gather up and stay
Trading rain for a pain
Sugar cane takes my limp away

13 months and two fortnights
Finally turned off my lights
Ran away, faceless frey
Still tracking them today

Yellow cab, snatch and grab
Is better than rehab
Love your girl, Love the world
Makin' red toes curl

CHARGE!

So much for the sleep I lost
For six or sixteen days
Slips of pink pack o' germs
I yelled at right away
All that I can say for this
Is that I lost my cool
I'm still the warmest heart for her
Here or at angler school

Will to test me flowing in
Tidal wave crashes beach head
Storming cliffs without notes
Beg harps from me no end
Blue suede, green velvet or just calico
Details have me struggling to recoup any dough

Above all this there is a harm
That trickles as I pace
Percent per minute ticks me off
My phone is losing face
Mississippi person's missing again
Mustard seeds relish her grave

Charge!
Why can't a call get through?
Charge!
Why do so many crush the lucky few?
Charge!
Reformed school of piranha swimming up
Charge!
Shelter full of angry growling pups

10% of callers get her voice right away

Another 10% get called back when roses are in play

70 in age and rate are glad to leave their name

9 more are calling errant numbers
'Cause they're in the game

That leaves 1%
Opposable polar position
I'm freezing in it as I write
Excuse my disposition

What usually is an honor is remanded as a harm
To catch her on the phone I'll need a spell book and a
charm

CELEBRITY GOSSIP

Too many stories, myths out of the blue
Lies march up ark like animas two-by-two
Tie girls tails down to their seats
Camels hump it double-time as straw counts increase
Four days, twelve months, seventy-four hours lost
Bottlenecks too wide to hold the ring tossed

Pull the tab and count of three
Throw pillars out to shallow sea

War is on it comes and goes unawares
Who drew first blood? What yardage gained? Who cares.
Heat the stove, time for your bath
Canning sour pickles ranting to grapes of wrath
Ten men ate teens then eight times ate again
Don't count on family, girlfriends or friends, life is lost
Sit tight, fuel fast and talk slow
Nothing here as is us

AWFUL HOUSE

Silent films with wall of sound
Unsynchronized hail raining down
Promises made by mirrored souls
House of horrors sideshow moles
Trigger happy Clydesdale rustlers
Shooting mouths off big bass hustlers
Micro fishing tadpoles race
To steal another love's disgrace

Who is best to crash my brain
Blue screen 'top?
Lap dance champagne?
Egotists with dentist's chair
Pulling teeth, got all my hair
Dent all assistants slinging stones
Goliath shouts deal liar's bones
Skeleton's have cow, see em?
Only pets see in the hear the hum
Bullies pull easy women down
Starlet Scarlets turn into clowns

Rage took forty weeks to build
Built Rome on day one then chilled
Glasses stole my focus first
Sunny with no chance meeting rehearsed

BEFORE LATE THEN NEVER

You're right on time, always late
Still I wait to meet you
Smiling back my tears to greet you
Kelly, come back this way, straight to me
Crows have flocked to see you
Rush past open arms that steal you
Now's our time, Kelly, here at last
Forget burned bridges, that's the past
Future's ours, mine and yours
Focus eyes to see
Look again, it's me

SACRED ASSHOLES

Pissed off red faces swing mace to face
Brushed aside, lichens to rolling stone
Tip your hat, your cat, your Thelemic ball bat
Night and day, home or away, assholes

Thelemic bouquet, blockade by charade
"No parades!" crow shades, agreed
Noting hams pose for cams, bore by demand
Cruel hoaxes on half hoagies
Double onion boggies

TWENTY RED NAILS

After a rapture that captured my focus
Four months of torture ensued
A new bus, new adjustments, thrust by hocus
Poke us, at least me, on cue

So many days I wait, So many she's late
Pocked walls gazing balls and debt
Just one silly pleasure
Embarrassing lure
Deal breaker? You faker! Sit!

Hair bands have done it
Much more they did too
Eye liner, mascara, the hair
Why diss my color?
Temperate Aries tattoo
Small homage from the aware

Still one hundred and ten
First in line up of grooms
Waiting to be all you crave
Percent or per pound
Cake squared or in round
Those are thoughts better to save!

I love you, Kelly, as I should
I'll be your desire
Lilith said that I could

DON'T REMEMBER NOTHIN'

Three years and four houses between
I've adjusted to a life clean and lean
My jerky's all smoked
Made friends of some folks
Still the joy that once danced waltzed out
Unemployment ran dry
Bills are too high
What you were to my love won't end
Seems familiar, but don't remember nothin'

Your old friends don't recognize me
Ignoring the prince they won't see
Flipping cards in my hat
Magic's not where it's at

Was your intention to vilify me?
One half of our pair
Still waits to offer his share
Float on in, read notes stamped to send
Meant to mail them, but don't remember nothin'

You pulled back the curtain on us
Compared to your guys my meetin' was no fuss
No proof, no crime
After all of this time
Loads of straw have strengthened my back

Keep on missing you there
Will buy a bell, I swear
Faith and credit is finally on mend
It's complicated, don't remember nothin'

Your world or my world, just walk on in

VEILED TIME IN A DAY

How many has it been?
They all crash into one
How many until it's done?
Not sure about it I've won
How many is up to us
Don't forget that girl
I like hiding behind your veil
But we gotta get back to the world

Tick on another notch
Talk on brainy bunch
Tick off all the mimes
Talk off-stage 'bout a hunch
Time flies when you're killed
Chance is good I'm dead
Time was once a big thrill
Chance a kiss then jump in bed

Hunting time on the moon!
Line dance to center stage
Ringside seats to square a debt
Time's a bitch that's not up yet

Took the Case Grande exit
Entered in for seven years
Barely one has passed me by
No way I'll live through so many tears
Space is limitless like time
Still there's none of each to waste
Don your burka if you must
Reach out with quickening haste

CORONER STORE

2AM is needing tea, lemon and one raspberry
Jeans from floor, shirt hung on door
Water floods my cemetery

Tip-toe out shouts sprout up from southern locales
Sound silly
Sway and stumble from the grade
Jeering creeps in jeeps off'd by billies

All is calm on Rainbow strip
Headlights in the distance
Slew foot drags me double time
Crossing four lanes takes persistence

Candles flicker from a porch lit up with XMASS lights
Hoods file in straight through the door
Seven men sing to silent whore

Up ahead on roof top ledge loves waves at me in fright
Stopping starts my teary eyes
Better to bow and keep my stride

Bus stop seats twins
Greet and meter out their snarky spew
Can't say I know their monikers or sea level depth
Do you?

Back at dormitory, drinking, writing, same story
Quiet now, humming, strumming, mumbling "I love you"
I do

WAITING ON THE WELCOME MAT

You met me here before
I know you know the way
If you lost the key to the door
The secret knock is still the same

We slept in here for years
You won't need any map
Pit vipers have raced out of here
Mongoose laid out her golden trap

Aunt Thelma sent your gifts
Your favorite two dollar bills
Know you're weary of social rifts
But humor me if you will

Gas and lights are restored
Was just an oversight
Mice ate the water heater's cord
Pure dark was worse than cur blight

Heat your bath by the pot
Soon as I get back in
Picked up my keys or so I thought
Locksmith's late, it's almost ten

Don't let that stop you, dear
Nothing stands in your way
Lying on the welcome mat here

Please don't choose another day

It's fun to people watch
The world passes my door
Kid's in the street playing hopscotch
Hula hoop seems to leave them bored

Could swear I saw you leave
Though missed your arrival
You're welcome to my love, Kelly
Treat your heart to a revival

SPARKLING EYE DOLL

Movement quickly leaves me coward
T'was only a mere shadow
Thrice tonight woke surly, turning down early
Creeping mouse claims he's my foe
Unbelievable, the things I've heard

Walked around the lakes
Remembering you and me
What detours life takes
Remembering you and me

Just as the sun was setting, the ducks
Waddled under bush to rest
Jealousy was mine at mallard love shrine
Miss your coo in our love nest
Heard you're dating some penguin with bucks

Pacing my carpet
Remembering you with me
Mind fixed on scarlet
Remembering you with me

Give obsession distraction
I'm an improved attraction

Time for feelings not spoken of
Hold my hand and accept true love

END AT THE START

Squeezed like a grapefruit, pink love juiced to green loot
Thirty-three tortures, flavored by the week
Marching by, werewolves sigh, somber eyed jack boots
Hubbardware, mile long stare, thin air not unique

On lawn came a spider
Scared and 'crept by her
Frantic to find his trap door
Racked by a phobia
Fools zen of phobias
Shroud of touring pronoun hounds

Howl at puzzling wheels
But will never buy my vowel

GOOD MOURNING

Finally a day without a wakeup
Before I fall asleep
I turn and watch your curves, you stir
I pull sheet without a peep
Your breath metronomes and serenades
A hopeful day ahead
How could I want for anymore
Than mornings when we're wed

A gentle breeze tickles
The songbird that sprinkles
Dust of fairies outside
Our warm lover's nest
Sunlight trickles in
From corner's where time wrinkles

Has it really been two years
Since the last time we had a talk?
Has it really been one year
Since running let you walk?
Will I suffer seven years
For breaking up my mirror?
What I really ask is told in tears
I beg you to come nearer

Good morning, darling I missed you
Just lie here in the shade
Sunlight drowns my scenic view
My shadow saves the day

SENSEI BILLY

Sensible fits nocturnal and turnabout by light
Sexual thoughts tossed out of Thebe's haunts
Such that wisdom may rise in spite
Whether fanger or faker
Thelemic or incense seer
To be sensible shows all those dirty windows
How to clear their panes out the rear
Imagine a coven, gingerbread oven
Baking leviathan bread
Marbled and scored
For pawed hordes that roar
Sand witches starving until I'm dead
Yet I've saved dove from above
Bright spark rekindles our candle
Don't need a witch's brew
No other girl, just you
I love the eyes of my vandal

SEVEN TEEN SIKH AUNTS

Used to be my family with no equivocation
Seven clowns in shiny cars
Coughing holds their cremation
Sugary sweet castration
Same words, same tune, sev'ral keys
Guilt-tar players praise to Mars
Mad mimes switched at death to czars
Token keepers penalize mass inhalation

For one thing just call on Stella
A gal that can flirt and charm

The two of us owe aunt Cheryl
For keeping you safe from harm

Three days ago saw Elena
Learning 'bout archery

For a questioning style aunt Vonny
Will ride you until you see

Every five minutes a pest calls
Neurotic Nelly I think
She pouts at me through the walls
For smoking as she pounds the drink

Michelle is my dad's sixth sister
Who taught me to pray and it shows

Severance has no opinion
She goes along as the wind blows

I'm thankful for all my aunties
For showing my bride respect
If there's a wad in her panties
It's the evil one I suspect

BABY LAWN

Red moon rising over pink houses at dusk
Joy motivation tickled, pair laughs at ivory tusks
Charge up the elephants on green lily pads
Battery's included straight blows from flat lads

Marbles mossed over
Get grief for carrying them home
Cat's eyes lost and broken
Just tokens marked "From Rome"

Ceiling shivers with pride for stupidity pranks
Teach them to spell "bread"
They can break it, give thanks
Howling across desert sounds like girl I adore
I call her Kelly Yvonne, they call her "child whore"
Speak in a cadence for cadets on their track
Without comfort of circles they won't find their way back
This fool chooses spring coils and land to get lost
Not enough chalk in their box to remark lines they've
crossed

Self-important mini-misers incisors
Chatter a box for two
Ghosts of Rudolph still haltered up
With the guys she's fawning to
When they're done the only one
That won't be grinning toothy smarm
Is the pelted, guilted four-ped
Red-nose lighting glove box
Smelled of harm

Baby lawn is not for kids, children play with all our lives
First they thrill, then seek to kill, then seep slower still
Orphans from their hive

Smoke them out, take your honey
Queen bee, girl or Playboy Bunny

WHITE AS SNOW

Elves and deer float 'round out her
By light and dark
No toys, no joys
All terror boys en masse
Goodbye to friends, hello again
Life cycle pen of Pan
It's all laughs now, spit roasted cow
Take hokey vows to bed
Who's to blame? Eyes by no name peep'd and ran ahead

Wrote her notes, sprayed paint coats, toucans of prey
Excuses loose, tighten the noose of the frey

Where are you lamb? Stuck in a jam? Let me know
I love you still, I always will, white as snow

Proof

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