

# Sen 20 Press®

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Poems captured at the narrow edge of life and times in the early 21st century with all its incumbent joys and impenetrable horrors.

they wander through the wet jungle a place of strange mewling sounds shrieks ghostly moans for a place to stay kicking

the scrub brush broken logs castaway tree branches ground critters

moist and humid darkness approaching

joy evades

they come upon an abandoned dwelling ramshackle design thrown together in a panic broken windows doors falling off hinges in serious disrepair clearly unoccupied

he is an enemy of change

only
old things
he embraces

she'd rather be a hammer than a nail in a way
he
is good
to
her

inside
a
sullen
piteous
man
residing in

squalor slumps against a wall a man used to sniffing his own turds guilt like a shadow hanging over

they eye each other suspiciously

then turn aside prospects grim light fading

there are seven levels
to every communication
knowing them
and understanding
how to navigate them
is primary

stone ears

hollow eyes silent tongues zero effort

she always
knew
he'd
pull the trigger

remembering days by Towannus River

cranky crustaceans create caliginous calcified compounds contumaciously calling crawfish crafty crinkled crawlers containing consumable contaminants

#### silhouettes of trees

gnarled
brilliant streaks
hot pink
gold
overtake the sky

he squints
huge orange
and blue
adult swim
sign outside

like a strobe light a seventies disco neon sign glimmers more boldly than the colors in the dawn kudzu strangles cars

left
after
pants around
ankles
escapes

# quite dazzling

in the trees feeling luminous animals beyond the mud the feeling will come again sinister and green under the tomb excrete huge gems behind the air the pleasure is no more

strange and numb about the grave meeting yellow shivas beneath the towers intense the pleasure continues greying tired on the edge of the world no way out for how long the other unable to stop

### blue roses

psychosis above dementia dream forged sloppy sex naked sticky drinking stories drunk drink drunk men

women human nature psychology alcoholism experimental another night and day histrionics poetry lurid magazines psychology tinnitus measurements

# evaluations starry nights

## uxorious you

snuggling me closely laying on the sofa saying little speaking volumes feasting me with dinner drinking me with drink sun-blanched and heated re-arranging my wig with origami cranes those gentle souls one does appreciate too

the clandestine border crossing striated sinews expectant lips singing new songs of my soul uxorious you a horizon of lost dreams

# pale and hypocritical celebrities surround chasing peace in suicide fleeing the common ground

a menace to salvation
the fiendish virus spreads
spitting bile at human
whores
the nearly standing dead

cataclysmic and prolific

apostles will unite finding warmth within the crypts and vision without sight

he stuffs eggs into his mouth nods as thanks for these thy gifts is spoken says amen his dirty chewed fingernails stuffing more and more into his meth scarred

mouth not caring entirely who he says amen to not caring why as long as he keeps getting to stuff his mouth his broke ass broke ass

and more broke greedy mouth but a fiver from his girlfriend will set him on fire for a sure thing wager my ship's coming in

he assures her she is past expecting mud pit miracles she knows she's her own worst enemy but can't seem to stop poor choices latching onto her topless bars runaway cars backseat promises cocaine lies raping of the soul down the rabbit hole again

it's a battered old me and a battered old frown keep looking up keep falling down oh no oh no the hardness the hurting has me again i'm calling to the wind and calling to the sea

calling for the bits and pieces of me return regroup reform oh no oh no shifted and scattered and tossed side to side thought all that mattered

was the thrill of the ride too late i see the ride is broke and for my troubles a hearse as my yoke my river of life seems more slim channel as it curls and purls

adds blood to the battle maybe muck in the gutter will skink on by give cause to the what put sleep to the why

# pale gray lumps

accumulate

ache

throb

crash

burn

split open

and bleed

puddles collect

the toes

fingers

curled

intense pain
ears ringing
tinnitus
mouth screaming
teeth rattling
aching
throat tightening
stenosis takes hold

#### circle of keys

valley of gold
java sparrows
gigantic claws
grump and grab
the ruby's crucible
birds fleeing vertically
the very bed of the torrent

spun from grace rain and rumbles fluffed clouds

dark dawn fervent growth in the beginning squeezed into existence with a head of stars lungs of wonder body rhyming with the earth tsunami splendor

## While the night slept

I held you

While the stars ached

You soothed me

While the wind

Breathed

We entwined

Connected

Limb on limb

Heat on heat

Tingling

Like the

First time Feeling like The first time Feasting Like the first time Yearning **Turning Burning Swirling** Like the first time Three times Without pause

# Like the first time We kiss chaos When we make love

#### chemiluminescence

iridescence have come so far weathered so much haven't slept for three days the world looks different topsy-turvy turned inside out can hear the electric

lines buzzing can see the sky bubbling the ice whispers and burns each minute longer than the one before chittering

#### chittering

precambrian

the earth
beneath my
feet
jerks sideways
abnormal
shift
chemiluminescence
iridescence

so far from home cosmically astounding there will always be that element unknown

#### hard chapel

kneelers bare-kneed real repents

I cop a smoke grubby hands torn stolen trousers

some downturned chump

## easy pickins

and a few sins ain't tellin

father
please forgive
me father

please give me some of that reel it out penance

ten Hail Marys five Our Fathers

that should do it free as a crow again

off I go

to the world of fun or sin he says

whatcha want from me pal a kid's gotta roll

so easy to dance

in and out

of shaky bonds

mother is calling hearty strongly

lights are coming on time to get in

gotta dance the dance with the free wolf

but some rules
you gotta follow
some rules
is golden

some rules to break

some rules to crush

some rules
to follow
and
choke down the sick

puke it

up all night long

ulema jamaa jamaa jool

#### read her

between the lines

or you won't know her at all

will roll away unnoticed

a rose of many petals a prickly pear

## acting of a dreadful thing

a phantasm
a hideous dream
spiritually and morally
empty

moving through the world in a listless and meaningless existence

Wududji she said. Oieehb said I.

And in this way we spoke a secret mysterious language maybe lost generations ago in the dark forests of time under moss covered rocks and swept away by raging rivers. And as far as we were aware, this language had not been named or spoken by anyone before us, yet it so perfectly suited our purposes as clearly as if it had been

discovered and mastered by countless civilizations long ago. Ttcty she whispered. And ccdyvc I responded in softer tones than I realized. Upon our deep embrace verbal communication ceased.

**Doctor Reginald Seiberg** had a nasty habit of dropping into my world like a swirling cyclone of perilous yarbling Norse Hounds. Last I saw him, he was grasping something large, long, and sloppily tarp wrapped tightly against his chest as he tried most unsuccessfully to squeeze out of the door of his pickup truck. Shouting at me to do something or other that was so unclear to me I

decided to do nothing at all. What that was that he tried to wrangle out of the door I did not know and was afraid to ask. Renowned for his contributions to Advanced Hyperkinetic Psychoanalytics, his published papers concerned divining the man in the child, without considering what he is before he becomes a man which led to unanimous adoption of mistaken notions

that to this day remain almost unchallenged. Man meddles with them and they become evil, forcing one soil to yield the products of another, one tree to bear another's fruit, loves all that is deformed and monstrous, learns his paces like a saddlehorse. Pure autonomics.

#### life is not virtual

life is actual remembering that and holding this close saves us from the congested mindset that allows tyrannical rule fascism and autocracy playing games on big wide screens is all well and good

seeing the world as one big virtual reality game is a dangerous mistake

in some countries shackled by authoritarian control religion is victimized used and manipulated as political ideology to maintain power of the state

whereas instead one could transcend political and religious considerations with purpose neither to exalt nor debase religion but to tell an enchanting story add strangeness to beauty

instead beleaguered by daily brutalities amid growing body counts i am invaded by migrant nations bits and pieces sinew and gristle

fragments everywhere dangerous emotions horrific flashbacks carnage wreaked by totalitarian regimes the world waking up in the middle of the night unable to breathe heart thumping

feeling of claustrophobia arousing curiosity of the establishment fears of being arrested tortured killed as if i would never ever get out

of this nightmare terror hallucinations shivering ghosts disaster forecasting religious fanaticism corrosive destructive poison

# swirl of glorified glorified petrified doom gruel of mankind spitting into the winds enough for all

consume consume consume it will

to faithful density
to tragic overload
to toothless
putrid grins
and vomit
laced cobblestone
the hard earned
results

# most mysterious

species on our planet a mystery of unanswered questions

with

my

face

buried

deep

lapping

the

sweet fountain of youth she is a light in a very dark world woman whispering indistinctly

# breath ragged

go

go

go

go

out
of
liquids
she says

breath ragged keep going i'll be 100,000 ashes transition a multiverse where all realities happen simultaneously

perspective shift silence extremely loud dim the lights light the candles bring the seduction pretend confusion mimic behavior flip the hair banter and cajole the dance commences fire crackles communication strains

accusation fly air of calm empathetic behavior fades in the skirmish soon all is knives and teeth lower middle-class public upbringing prevails raises questions unanswerable without serious insult

### the dance continues

DNA sequences adaptive mutation bacterial fissures epistasis rings

transfer RNA
a new question
and the next
answer will give
rise to

the next question and so on and so on and so on

moonstone truths

## purity

true friendship unconditional love exhibited by children truly remarkable stars light pour out of eyes and mouths

burn everything scorches love near drains mind dust mites crawl across hardwood floors

bluebirds tweet uncaged voices whisper colors splash red green yellow blue water

drips red neon tree creaks daffodils great wall collapses mown hay poem painting explodes

dandelions overflowing disconnected unpeeled barley hearts sea foam green baby feet patting eyebrows from

the edge kisses from the storm train rumbling in distance muffled screams cries

## Live dangerously

Live exposed

Live splattered against the wall

Live smashed and scattered into the wind

Live taking the chance that should not be taken

Live flattened by the raging seas

Live shamelessly
Live fleeing the Eagle
as you invade her nest

Live with all you have leaving nothing in reserve Race across that Rubicon hell bent for shoreline Live like this Live like this

Because one life

Is all we have

#### Hellcat

Roaring through Tearing up city streets Agitating neighborhoods backfires and explosions Fill the night sky Public Enemy number one Hell, comes to dinner With a screaming roar A cuckoo's egg Dropped in the sewer Ala carte Terracide

Excited, talking birds loud squawking sunlight coming down

Color spinning clouds are thinning we go round and round

It is then I understand as I take you by the hand These enchanted moments with you

every word you utter like honey butter as angels flutter round your head

can't help listening your eyes are glistening and everything you say is heaven led

It is then I understand as I take you by the hand

# These enchanted moments with you

# You are my love, my life, my best chance to live free

My eyes when I watch the sun setting over the sea
My lungs when the cool breeze blows softly into me

You are my ears when I listen to bird songs of glee My happiness you were, you are and always will be When you laugh, when you sing, when you cry and when you dream

When you are near or when you are far, you always will be, always were

And always are, my love, my soul mate

My number one weakness and my greatest strength When you were born While you live and long after you die you were, you are and always will be my love

the broad sprawling greenwoods rain scent strong sunlight speckling rain beaded grass blades christmas berries withstand full sunlight tolerate serpentine based adobe soils line the meandering paths invade every space color the surroundings

taste awful contain cyanide compounds denote the dangerous beauty of nature better for birds christmas berries their favorite no birds about foliage denuded trees stretch in proud display toward the grasping sun shame the foliage full

trees as uncomfortable body image types these full leaf trees do right to ignore the narcissist denuded in the near distance the vast evanescence lake yawns and glistens mallard ducks honking geese peaceful swans

diving deep for food perimeter flanked by wooden bridges earthward asphalt paths replete with potholes some beneficent strangers thoughtful planted boot prints in the wet asphalt now displayed eternal wanderlust

further deeper onward berms appear tall berm 10 feet high berm land cuckoo's eggs we trek on through brush and bluster a prismatic

multilateral day unpredictable like a clockwork orange dark threatening clouds linger overhead a darker grey is breaking through a lighter one high contrast sunlight streaming through rain obstinately present yet settled

taciturn embraced by clouds languorous in its cloudy hug sullen plotting thunder roars shattering silence

## uncontrollable jolting

shifting shaking rocking rumbling madness eyes dart left and right hands grasp chair white knuckle what is happening sensory circuits haywire eyes dart left and right

gone spasmodic overload chaotic movement powerful multidirectional shudder snap judder cease sanity reload earthquake rolling through

# taxonomy of native animals

unintelligible noises move among industrial unnatural food heart alarmists perception of facial impairment the moon shivers shakes quivers emotions erased

erupting drainage ineffective trees howling lurking seeking lobotomized obese goats crows strut and pick stubble grounds caw caw caw may bite scratch

threaten spread disease congregate in large numbers wind rocks miniature waves ancient places ducks geese squirrels raccoons

innocent attacked by predators hit by cars territorial fighting injury and death disease prone killed as pests tomorrow bisected amygdala trilling noiseless whispering prosody

### echo of native animals

trill
thrill
trill
trill

make of life
a horse of spoons
make of days
a gorse of moons
curl your nose

### around her cheeks

ever returning ever returning again and again and again

#### bulbous batrachians

hippity hop into the glass pond uh huh uh huh

shattering water
hurling a million
multicolored fragments
of sparkling light

skyward sideward pandemonious fragmentation fractal upstaging leaping lily pads uh huh uh huh uh huh

human rights freedom care love respect no substitute

tachum
mecking variation
dystopian
thumb suck
crawl

√**n rule**not fearful

sound trumpet

stammer stutter

trembling

dumb signs cryptic

### ceremonial crows

tremors black signs destroyed

the law of nature has won

# presidential lies

community ties
megalomaniac skies
feed
breed
bleed

concede

### followed her

around the world to catch but a glimpse of her ever enchanting intoxicating completely sublimating gossamer spirit will o' the wisp anointed glossolalia appointed willowing away

ceasing naught spinning yarn tongues ancient touch given yet untouched rare flightless bird eternal flittering flight free among many lost amid few blessings exponential

clouds race across the sky thunder rumbles ground shakes trees shiver leaves ripped from branches whip the face and eyes dangerous winds assault life bristles

### Alone in a room

3 a.m.

dark and hazy starlight flickers lamp fades fireflies fly into the wall all is energy it can never be destroyed is endless can only change from one form to another five men in a bunker

detonations all around plaster dust in faint curls fall from the ceiling

spiraling doom
roar of assault
whisper of defeat
loud explosion overhead
curdling fear in the eyes
crowded train

stale air miserable passengers train thundering outside man cries his lament every small or big gripe launches an arrow toward him as he sings so sweetly of the tree of death

## year filled

with magic

dreams

birds chained to sky

good madness

kiss someone

who thinks you're wonderful

make art

write

draw

build

sing

live hope surprise yourself

she looks about her the inhospitable environs slathered tongues drooling panting lurking like hyenas yet under the hood she is a swiss clock once viewed the unwary prey

yanked in never to be seen again it is mine give it to me but an ephemeral wisp washed away in faint screams the importance

of self-awareness the fundamental need for order meaning coherence there is no safety she hunts by day

### to shadow self

gonna rise to my knees gonna not ask please gonna move and stand and sing in one grand declaration of strength and individuality break the cord race the wind taste the life that's grown.

if all i have is what you want know simply this is mine and mine alone there comes a point where pretend runs out of steam and darker truths prevail where blackest night and grinding light reveal the true contender

on this anointed trail there may be more lord knows there's less of this be most assured when sweat and blood meets rain and steel the chosen has endured to rise up and be counted apart from those fate has defined

as mere posers
who beat a hasty retreat
the cutting truth will shine
not of pale importance
the bitter truths we sing
if virtue and acclaim be one
division leaves a hollow sting

# in the garden

of love and roses we stay forever entwined in the love ballet for it is the essence of life its sweet refrain love and roses and tears that always remain

to love
is to
sacrifice self
and gain
everything

## naked sweaty

wide eyed wondering staring depravity bleakness surrounding death resounding who are you who am i who are we who are they who... blazing fires lust consumes

eternal vagrant beggar moon laughing, dancing, sepulcher song rejoice, rejoice children deed is done how do we why should we do we care do we dare what to wear anyone there

only stares only stares thrown down immortal ground bare the place, stare the face grope grab plunge stab howl scream dream the dream soft wet, wet, wet, wet forget, forget, forget, forget...

consumed by the heat of truthful tears chained to an unresponsive body sensually mute numb to life in all its multiform manifestations pure and profane alike what is life but a full reminder

that what occurs without is of dramatic and tragic consequence within to be numb is to endure to feel to the pores every tide every purl of the harrowing whirlwind currents

is to be pain apportioned entirely this is life suffering a sweet pain divinely pure confessions of secret tendernesses denied restrained forcibly

through societal barriers majority imposed tears arriving too little too late too confused too clear to contain the gut wrenching pain within children born to an uncomprehending world a world full of perverted wisdoms

where to act on the words received is to counteract the actions ordered is it a wonder that self-recrimination and madness follow screaming shrieking wreaking spiritual havoc as the soul is burned

like so much driftwood
the eternal flame
human destruction at its
finest
its worst
its enduring consistency
so it is

she tells of ladies adjacent pure essence lower their noses raise their skirts ride the steel beast blissful surrender genii tale excitation oh my oh my oh my

this moment overcomes red flush badge of honor cease the unspeakable expletives no father shall preach no mother avows sly wink of eye assertion get in the groove some love that

skirt flies up in the breeze and some love that on the knees yes please and some love that riding high come noon and some love that scream and cry to the moon and some love that scream and cry to the moon and some love that love that love that

#### he told me

a long drawn tale a long drawn tale of life and regrets and drugs and tears and moments of fear and running scared break down the walls open the doors

rats gnaw at ground fruit apathetic cats look on he told me your head is humming and it won't go he told me of days and nights and moons and fights

and drugged out moments of intense meaning that meant nothing at all camera shutter clicking and sex and songs played all night long slinging that kitty from here to whiskerville

and dreams and schemes never realized camera shutter clicking there's a bustle in your hedgerow and loves that came and went and went and came and some

came
twice
in the front door
out the back
and some repeat
dishonest
deceitful

shuck the pain away shuck the pain away

mine now

bro mine now bro complete loves burn so bright fizzle fast then outta sight tears fall on my guitar strings

repeat

repeat

repeat

gone like a fart in a windstorm with a pain that lasts eternal

shuck the pain away

### shuck the pain away

and punches and bruises and wounds and slaps heard around the world we are connected will be forever can't fix it till it's broken and in the end

love ragged and torn crawls along life's blood road raising its weak head for a weary kiss and a big resounding hug and tears unending

sorry sorry sorry

sorry

sorrow
be gone
can't fix it
till it's broken

petals from heaven dandelions in rain all on earth are associated with those in the spirit world who are like themselves attributes of femininity seen in the clouds attended by

angels with trumpets and the whole visible universe destroyed broken legal system broken results cacophonous voices on radio bird cawing wind howling

vehicles crashing thunder rumbling wails screams vehement crying sea cucumber attacks shoreline osprey lighthouses

sea shells scattering in the wind we sail together on this rickety boat of many holes the sea vast and dark ever informing

# i was

thinking about you today the way you shelter me with love the way you twist your body around me

kiss me in the morning with your waking call and in the glow of loving tenderness i sing like a fool

i lovethe soundof the rain

i love the sound of the rain and the still of a sunset glowing as it plays across your face

### little you

certainty uncertain at movie in oblivion

only talking

calling

witnessed

very

few

scenes

think you are really popular

a saturation beyond the storm

convents know not vehicles wrongness

half tarts

a chain that says one

morsels creamy everything

you can box nothing

down the lights cinematography just chaos

worse out as seething slips

a no risk nebula

none are missed

theme of flowers of dead

not as lonesome

a mass sentence

stumbling intersection

we are sidewalk crickets

see second first on small screen hear into the colony of you waiting

hear into the up tapped wooden damp half blue

winter
might hope
you're a pretty soft unison

### pre-revolutionary

new wave nuns

this our tail of Anna

in out
in out
everywhere

hear hear

waive reward

no surface carnations

twitching moments

the us and we

our pinkies to crown

curbed ballad finale

go glad the scribbled mess

if everyone is the two

is the fun

of the pre-revolutionary

as here
crosses strained intersections
bans the paper
convent patrons

puts them into orchestral hymns and ends its whispered of door there turned stone and trash

#### harm

your first think is harmful

wrong

your fruiting
feels foul as
religious rats
manage another's throat

but she looks lights up

they're united crooks insides drowning

emanating all over one bitter room

was for live music one moment

together
sung praise
of malice

holding the artful little drummer

uncalled for

after Anna faces her second overlook from

#### the convent of the chords

over one third of voting ants as they do have a stranger right

exit

exit

exit

pale odor
aquamarine
veins

thin

powder blue blood within

dead stone pool deep full night swing

white shadows ghouls afire

lights lights

green concrete

### magic rice balls

it has come back it is the little pig it is the new toy

currently destructive

## blue water ghost and giant cranes

chaos confusion

the last dimension

venenia luan-da joint damnitgrav malevolution paradox is not

forest rhapsody has shiny gears

royal ark
is
power of noise

siamilite
gave it all
the unlit eye
reigns in
the cold
before the end

Carl Carr has been writing poetry since he was nineteen. His work has been widely published in numerous online zines. A gifted songwriter, musician, and storyteller, today he focuses his attention on writing poetry, novels, short stories, and songs, as well as taking occasional breaks to hike the hills and wildlands of California.

More Poems by this Author: <u>Heat Lightning Poems</u>