

# TITLES & FIRST LINES

for Sam Truitt

The wound wouldn't heal

selah

farfetched

family

## Halls Full of Doorways

mountebank

forthright

real estate

## A Springtime Reverie About Chinese Rulers

force field

tenderloin

operation

## Beware When Life Becomes Symbolic

asterisk

punishing

Tabasco

It's too cloudy to bomb Radnoti today

Foch

discombobulate

fume

America swallows people

homework

impugns

force

## Indo-European Roots

moose

destroy

opera

## Clay Feet

cellophane

unreachable

level

In the media, most people in this country no longer exist

Boris

held

outside

## Asymptomatic

forest

braises

soupy

## The Secret Histories of Objects

plop

carnal

lice

## Dear Sarah

toystore

pirates

pontoon

## Rooms in the Back of a House

maroons

distinct

elephants

Every century has its symbols—Hess at Spandau—and they don't endure

baby

bedsores

falsify

Snow melting outside a suburban bowling alley

megaton

blessed

superior

## Subdural Hematoma

I admit it, I'm a philistine, I like fourth movements best

seminary

neglect

slake

There's usually a false ending before a true ending

roundups

dream

mathematical

melody

sweet and sour

lozenge

## Living Our Lives Together, in This House

blank

manufacture

allegations

## It's a Cold Street (When You're Deranged)

today

drenched

absence

## People Step Back From the Dying

farthing

portmanteau

somatic

## Swiss Cheese & Green Apples

There's a defect in the psyche where all the gunk accumulates

premium

blank

sooth

Brian

boils

nostrum

## Fuck You, 20<sup>th</sup> Century

It's not my world anymore. Was it ever my world?

peacenik

dekes

faucets

Bormann

unrestricted

passages

## Contemptus Mundi

saccharine

suggestive

taut

## Taedium Vitae

compendium

mangle

form

## Afterdeath Music

dominance

gorgeous

mace

## Lakeville Rd.

preponderance

invent

slime

## The Last Movement of the Last (Unfinished) Symphony

demagoguery                      precious                      cigar  
This is how it must be for many people—experiences pile on top of experiences, books on top of books

piecemeal                      breeding                      information  
If a book catches your eye, read it right away

breathe                      without                      orifice

## So Many on the Make

pontoons                      enough                      tokens

## Everything That Never Went Anywhere

mega                      dustdevil                      aftermaths  
The sunset happens far away now, for someone else

beeswax                      demonize                      ants

## Blueberries From Chile

bwana                      must                      open  
Is it possible to apologize for the Crusades?

mean-spirited                      recollect                      plenty

## Spectral Music

decalogue                      born                      face  
We, too, nearly died on the west bank of the Vistula

devious                      scenic                      implant

## Hard-Core

brainstorms                      boyish                      flakes  
A cigarette is not the answer to anything

demonstration                      bravura                      flavors

## The World Is Everything That Shouldn't Be the Case

beavers                      ail                      lances

## The Dead Lose the World

dubious                      seasoned                      eleven  
Like so many others, there's nothing I like more than a media feeding frenzy

damned                      dispatched                      Oregon  
A True Account of My Emotions Watching Pasolini's "Salò"

beaming                      braying                      septic

## Mourning Dove, Forever and Ever Amen

Haley doubly fraught

### The Closing of Greystone

toke doppler torque

### Dead Stars

preeminent faceless ducts

### Sic Semper Tyrannis

Boris telemarkets omniscience

There is almost a world, almost some people, almost a society

brief telltale freights

### Nothing Is Ever Lost

ormolu invoice investigations

Either the sun is stronger or I am weaker

evidence sells letters

You see 'em sometimes, guys about to crack

basketball glass door applesauce

### The Endless Sorting

mania summarizes logs

### Time Is ... Not of the Essence

priceless oily green

Whatever happens, I want to feel good about my life, grateful for it

bam peanut ice cream

### “I Was at That Game”

horror vindicates laparoscope

### Warm Liquids

tooth layer escapade

### To the Memory of America's Lower Middle Class

Doria doll gas

The sun came out once, for a few minutes

aftermath flattened sandwiches

Every day is Morton Feldman Day in this house

ice cream

thrush

lake

## A Child Is Filled With Love

noise

poisons

allowance

There are times in life when opposite responses to a situation are equally justified

beverage

seamless

fasten

## The Ghost of a Small Farmhouse

police

ointment

plastic

## One More Thing We Didn't Live Through Together

sandstorm

coddle

aspirin

There was one light on, deep in the house

meeting

centennial

infinitesimal

## A Snowy Road

doily

Bartholomew

applesauce

## Sacramental Drama

premise

formaldehyde

rascal

## The Future of Decadence

woeful

bombastic

stripes

Henceforth, the condition of knowledge is a feeling of inadequacy

brevity

salient

origin

You're given a life of unknown duration—and sometime it runs out

semblance

sodas

parkas

## Connoisseur of Small Towns

physical

transfigured

marked

They'll never know what hit them, they'll never know why they're old and worried

bored

sleepy

heart

What has died here, and what has never lived?

test tubes

purple

sauce

## Without Sugar

demonstrable

righteous

doves

Where Are We in the Roman Empire Right Now?

meniscus

transparent

happenings

## Aberrance

Louisiana

paleface

forked

And there was a white amaryllis on the piano

paperweight

tethered

embraces

It's bad to wish bad on people

sombrero

diamond

positive

## Northern Landscapes

morganatic

breezeway

basketball

## Snoop Doggy Dogg's Voice

personal

lambent

harpoon

Sometimes, a room falls asleep, and it can last forever

megillah

determinate

lace

You Can Only Stay With the Dead So Long

sorry

satisfy

ice

## Alternate Constructions of Time

peevish

Septembrist

brace

## P.S.

Korea

Norman

blue

It's not my world

tired

demonstration

hate

## And the Silence Grows

perverse

barnstorming

ark

## What Does Society *Owe* Someone?

Morgan

telling

implicate

## Pardon Me, Kalidasa

toady

sine

alligators

## Old Trees

baskets

ransack

decision

## "Religious Gunman"

purist

modify

races

This summer, the ballfields are empty

mollify transcend hurt  
If the past is infinite, how did we ever get to now?

turgid precipitous household

## The Land of the Punishing Father

putrid eavesdrop letter

## Part of a World Now

nutshell men's store lapidary  
It was a beautiful ghostly existence

peas detached organs  
I was a victim—and I never was a victim

sieve ransom behoove  
There are things about life it takes a long time to figure out

mindful accidental erase

## The Ferris Wheel of Friends

selfish to placate master

## While No One Was Looking

Selma irrigate rice

## Chimes

rhymes parched pent

## Emotionalism

compelling breathing teeth

## Tick Tick, Tick Tick

please timeless flames  
Sometimes, in life, you lose, you really lose, and it's best to give up

breathing seething laughter  
You know what happens to drones—they get killed in a frost

armorial honeyed leather  
What was important? It isn't always easy to say

diet times disease

## Lamentations (of a Pariah)

toilet parking flies

## Live in Japan

negativity

darkening

aimless

### Gods Disguised as Mortals Among Us

hellebore

trashes

frank

### Objects in the Background of Family Pictures

moisture

swabs

harps

### Gardens Are Humbling

tucked

puckered

gray

It took six generations for the money to run out

tonnage

jaundice

fandangos

What's it like when people don't see you anymore?

dual

measuring

ape

### Rad

megalomaniacal

officer

blood

### Ghosts Among Us

together

permanent

rascal

Six years later, I'm still thinking about him

tooling

methodical

heavens

### All the Little Worlds

periods

incontrovertible

happiness

### Our Cute Typography

pterodactyls

everyday

talcum

You liked to say you were passing through, but you weren't

nonetheless

bloody

tupelo

### Falling Through Time

harlequin

white

holsters

### Tall Trees

markup

defective

roster

A book like the I Ching can wait for decades on a shelf

racing

questionable

leg



“Time Is Not on Our Side”

somewhere                      decadent                      cells  
Each Day a Tour of the History of American Culture

sessions                      sexualize                      sand  
Recordings of the Dead

derange                      turpentine                      onions  
My Half-Brother Stephen Herfort Is Dying

playful                      anonymous                      assassin  
It was a shit life, Stick, one of the worst in your class

ugh                      toasty                      horses  
In the end, we’re the losing team in America

piebald                      smiling                      pork  
The Dark House

ducks                      safeguard                      taste  
Antiquity, Mirror of the Future

bucks                      whereabouts                      tamp  
Christmas vacation isn’t as much fun when you’re dead

melt                      emissary                      sins  
The Silent Years

eat                      purple                      sausage  
To the Craven, the Spoils

soy                      rocky                      queen  
George Lane

populate                      alias                      fish  
We turn their nights green

seedy                      spawning                      applications  
Every Love Ends

poly                      graphic                      holy  
Dusk in a dark house is something I’ll miss

yeah                      loo                      safe

## Sutskever, Before It's Too Late

daytime impossible albatross

### Meditation on Dick Cheney's Mouth

Satan empty locket

### What Was the Killer?

anger deceptively soft  
The good die young—and the shits live forever

what culpable offices

### The Angelic Maxine Sullivan

braces brave slice  
We're firing into crowds now, like Amritsar

cucaracha flies random

### A Descendant of Rashi

tease saltwater lasting

### Live in Chicago

breathe far apples  
Every friendship is a dream that ends

inform forensic houses

### "The Last Refuge of Scoundrels"

omnidirectional personality holiday

### Losing Track of Other People and Time

bildungsroman seminal ice  
In truth, this is a book of what I'm *not* writing

illustration pebbles time

### Heavy Metal

distribution belligerent polished

### Crystalline Growths

Frankenstein swordfish silver

### Scientists Experimenting With Words

omnipresence bifurcate polish

### The Ultimate Luther Allison

performances  
It's so easy for a book to die

phone

purple

unregistered

waiting

sandwich

## The Torturer's Frisson

legislature

suppress

open

## Places for Things

levelheaded

sensorama

eleven

Parts of this library have no purpose any longer. They exist through inertia.

hospitality

songbook

peace

America is a laboratory for future social pathologies

raspberries

telegraph

reason

## Friendships Wax and Wane Inexplicably

appropriate

rugged

oil

## Maybe Next Life (We'll Be Closer)

manufacture

elephants

cream

## The Former Sophisticate

monstrosity

underground

blue

A Winter Spent Editing My Dead Half-Brother David's Books

residential

smorgasbord

song

## Forcing Forsythia

informative

palooka

solvent

## None of It Matters Anymore, Does It?

pressurize

telepathic

plastic

They should keep Marianne Moore's poems open on their desks at all times

panjandrum

pellagra

rice

It's snowing like crazy & they're playing Trane for 14 days straight on WKCR

handlebars

help

breathing

## Improvisations

performing

eternity

sign

"I wanted to write a poem"—that's what my master said

telescopic

glass

price

Morning is a foreign country, especially a sunny and chill morning

impregnate

melody

regular

## Kandinsky in a Lab Coat

dimestores

pilgrims

lemon

“I’ve seen this movie before,” David Herfort wrote

peacepipes

delegate

information

## As Long as Ants Have Drowned in Honey

levitation

Chinese

perfect

## The Past Is Not a World

mesmerized

billystick

irregular

Their books sleep in a few libraries

telephones

survivors

process

## In the Unfinished, Still a Chance

somnolence

pincer

rising

## White Quartz Boulders in a Ravine

horoscopes

dunegrass

house

## Otherworldly Oysterweed

pillboxes

ring

egg

## One Day, Life Goes Bad

songbirds

porter

honest

In her mind, she went back to each place she lived and walked through it

paralysis

fresca

health

## “Alchimie du Verbe”

olfactory

Arnaut

tooth

## That Oldtime Romance Philology

escalator

bannister

sauce

Knowledge is exactly as fragile as a human body

perfected

unknown

dog

## Shadows the Future Casts on the Present

lacquered

preordained

elephant

## The Illusion There’s a Better Seat

filaments                      evergreen                      horse  
The present crowds out the past

billabong                      overexposed                      hollow  
No goddess fought beside you in this battle

harmonize                      mausoleum                      heart  
Time for a Terror Alert, I Can Feel It

organisms                      breaded                      red  
The more things matter, the more meaningless they feel

broadcast                      buster                      telephone  
The more meaningless things feel, the more they matter

bandannas                      pissants                      sign language  
The World Is Filling With Words

racetrack                      beneficent                      system  
Asseverations

orangeade                      sectarian                      eagle  
Election Day 2004: “Take It Out in Vile Whiskey”

minefield                      derrick                      soda  
The Prospect of Seeing Dad’s Great-Great-Grandchildren

polishing                      serpentine                      soup  
Appledore

honorific                      lightbulb                      all-night  
In truth, few people were watching

positions                      trance                      position  
Divine Carelessness

heartbeat                      tumescent                      leg  
There is a will to be deceived in people—and they will be deceived

toothless                      Idaho                      premium  
Some things *were* better than others

insoluble                      executive                      performance  
Ten of the twelve tribes were wiped off the face of the Earth

membranes                      Silverado                      pressure  
“Human Kind Cannot Bear Very Much Reality”

negotiate degenerate breathe  
It's clear now, America will have its Herman Broch, its Robert Musil

regulator ta-ta force  
Only So Many More Years Together

longitude dollar eat  
Menachem Schneerson, the Last Rebbe

operative simple practice  
Family Photos

peaceable hobgoblin olive  
I can't think about him now

solutions charcoal right  
I felt damned. I needed to do something good. Purely good.

imperfect inedible prime  
Each's Own Little Slice of History

amplitude miscegenation talk  
"I thought your family died out long ago"

soup spoon secret pregnant  
We Went as Far as We Could Together

umbrellas faraway sausage  
The day I heard we were building a base in Tajikistan, I knew our empire was in inescapable decline

telegraph aporia onions  
Cash Only

pockmark northwest porous  
The germ isn't dangerous, but the immune system's overreaction can be fatal

ricecake salamander breaks  
Never forget, we're a long way from Auschwitz

disaster deeps toystore  
Gombrowicz got it right: The camps were "the Himalayas" of human evil and suffering

necklace guy elevator  
Et Tu

premises Biltmore teeth  
A Natural Disaster, the Perfect Story

syllabus

la-la

pork

## People Love Phonies

doggerel

sellout

positive

## Dead Souls

elements

radio

petunias

We're so bloated with knowledge we have to vomit

positron

belfry

session

Two hurricanes saved the federal estate tax

bestiary

pillory

face

A helicopter hovers overhead for an hour, like vultures in the country

feathery

laving

parallel

## A Dark House, a Dark Day Outside

mortgage

synesthesia

eggshell

Some people die for us many years after they die

fastened

frame

horror

Some people die for us many years before they die

poolroom

Dick

season

## Hatred Sickens the Soul

measured

vault

marked

## Sub Specie Aeternitate

openings

steam

icing

## A Europhile Earlier in Life

Hellgate

broke

phone

A matchmaker in Pittsburgh arranged my father's parents' marriage

meltdown

Leucippus

park

## World War II Flyovers

operates

intellectual

left

Iraq demonstrated our weakness

programs

lea

pure

## In These Times of Epigraphomania

prestige

pillowbook

felt

Seelah—that *must* be my last thought

omphalic Rodin piecemeal  
We love meditations on photographs

fungible sugardaddy holster

## A Shitty Day in a Nice Place

honestly boss almond  
At night, the flaws are no longer visible

Plutonic estrogen seven

## So Much to Throw Away in This Life

fragment bonnie organ

## Infinite Memory

softness escalators pine

## Infinite Storage

escalate Brooklyn race

## Einsatzgruppe A

poolcues shock pelt  
An heirloom is the best gift

semantic zeitgeist rhyme  
I wonder if the next Jesus Christ was born in 2000

hightail backside ring

## Losing Touch With the World

infinity frankincense pie

## So Many Chances

imprison nope regulated

## Paul Auster's New Jersey

telemark pearl salvation  
We literally become thin-skinned

estrogen purpling pell-mell  
C'mon, run to hear the cicadas in the park, run a few more times

filament homonym opening

## Back in My Old World

bandanna hanger breath



## The Ballfields

premiums M&Ms level  
It's hard to remember we're made of dead stars

teleport hemisphere reasonable

## Micky Spillane Can't Die

hellbent nemesis brain

## The Decline of Baseball

feather penmanship ointment

## Infinite (for All Intents and Purposes)

mastery blocks tolerant

## "Biotherm"

amplify palisades magazine

## My Favorite Movies: Sunsets and Moonlight on the Ocean

lasting preservatives elegant

## Ode to a Blue '97 Honda Odyssey

hearken juste parking

In this life, so much leads nowhere

raisins omniscience pillbox  
If this were the 19<sup>th</sup> century, someone would paint "Storm Over Brooklyn on July 28, 2006"

infancy purling belt

## Only You

license polygons soft

I've stopped reading—except the stupid newspaper

segment raygun random

The islands march off into eternity in every direction

remnant hula hoop brace

## Sunset Over Passamaquoddy Bay

healthy oligarchic point

## The Proverbial Last Week of Summer

pooling semi-dark taste

## The Scene of the Crime

noisome filter purse  
A schizophrenic Jew living with his mother in St. Petersburg solved Poincaré's Conjecture

element solo iron  
What Percentage of the Universe is Unknowable?

highboy mainframe lime  
Ultimate Music

legends inchoate perfection

Listen to the second hand, the winding down of time, once and for all

lockers incarnate primetime  
A Day With a Rented Stethoscope

silvers pools basketball  
The Disasters of Adventurism

signing fibrillation sessions  
We didn't take enough photos

mockery simulation Tabasco  
The German Woman in My Dreams

laundry lollipops primary  
The Infinite English Language

factory emulate timely  
The second hand tunnels into the wall of the future

faucets monuments lefthanded  
Forsythia at Christmas

handles emoluments shop  
We *do* have to say goodbye

operate farcical placement  
"War Is a Nation's Bankruptcy"

Falange hominy pregnancy  
The Joys and Sorrows of Having Famous Relatives

washing upchuck register  
Ode to the Magnifying Glass

doggone impolite possible

Each of us has a struggle that we lose

honesty almond ominous

## The Leroy Jenkins Memorial Broadcast

stomach furbelow break

## The Person Who Takes the Pictures

redneck cauliflower semblance

There are some good things about death—no more slights

pillows collie leggings

## Letters

sordid pomegranate songbird

## From an Apparent Overdose

tokens horseshoes pellicle

Many infections never fully heal

measly far-out diamond

## Eyes Narrowed in Intense Pleasure

pearls penny-ante machine

## Resplendence

flakes opportunist monster

## “Ooo Hoo Goodbye”

hazard palace Siamese

Gloom settled over the warming world

breast monopoly policy

## Inlets and Outlets

bollix Beaugard method

It was like seeing Wallace Stevens on the stage, Walt Whitman

horrid reverse honor

## The Accretive Work

mother selfish bread

This is not going to work—for her or me

peanut zinfandel God

## “Marijuana Notations”

forces

host

toy

## Sitting Under a Tree

pocket

farfalla

foremost

## Dream Books

fasten

grandma

precious

The headline read: “Wealthy Widow Slashes Self to Death in Denver Hotel”

eggnog

infantry

leftover

## Somewhere Along the Way We Failed

tupelo

august

hologram

## Hawk and Django

bother

illustrate

message

Sadly, you can only do so much in a day

faucet

simper

perform

Some days *are* more dangerous than others

braced

buyers

highway

## The Pariahs of History

infant

displaced

lozenge

50

makeup

underwater

rhyming

The portrait subject’s message: There’s more than meets the eye

dodger

palmist

omnibus

## The Education of Frankenstein

sylvan

inter

eminent

## A Shitty Day in America—February 4, 2008

Tories

registry

poison

## Enlarged Objects in the Background of Photos

rights

infidel

breaks

When you have too many things, you don’t take pleasure in any of them

Morgan

plebiscite

forked

Welcome to hell, where a man’s downfall thrills the demons

paste

billabong

Simon

“Mom, is that metastatic breast cancer?” “Yes, it is.” “Oh Mom, that’s fatal.” “I know.”

ether sagacity pearl

## “Mean Survival of 377 Days”

Susan waters oily

## Stay at the Heights

blues preferential parking lot  
Are we ever more than our materials?

pinos umbrella regulation

## While No One Was Looking

forms purling registered  
It’s time to pull down Edmund Spenser from his high shelf

pricy Bama hellebore

## A Summer Listening to Janis Joplin

laces Phlegethon telescope

## Pyrrhic Victory

frank pesserie Silverado

## A Dead Soul

filth genteel alligator

The Orientalist leaves one heaven and enters another

dildo Durer horoscope

## Days of the Moon

piled Magog precision

The fog overstayed its welcome this August

solve militarized leather

## “Tu Ti Spezzasti”

night suction mascara

## Mosquito Larvae in a Puddle

to-do Polydore ample

The water’s flowing out, all the water’s flowing out of the mudflats

socks Poindexter doily

## As If There Were No Real Reason

drake ego opera

## A Day in Acadia

timed minimum Roger  
I stood in close range of Rupert Murdoch yesterday

stork sunbeams slime

## The Last Day of Many, Many Years

belly toreador hell  
Every so often, the New York School blows like an & through my mind

uncle Hollister pool  
It's an interesting experience, agreeing to become a different person

apply wildecut dice

## Old Ruby

north escalator fork

## A Cold House

holly brigands infinitesimal  
America wants the opposite of Bush

parks underset manufactured

## My Half-Brother Sandow Ruby Is Dying

locks timeless registration  
The last flowers last longest

tools onomatopoeia legislation

## Ad Herennium

harm pineapples elephantine  
Praise Jah, we lived to see the defeat of that crowd

mocks hollyhock morgantic

## Like a Russian the Day Communism Collapsed

marks tiepin elementary

## Ode to Joy

harp present impossible

## Reading the Book of Revelation on the Subway

rake onomic telepathic  
Now it's time to listen to Mahler's 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> symphonies

mega

immune

houseboat

## I Need God Now

sing

unsung

hillbilly

“I love you. Bye-bye, brother,” Sandy said.

toll

pursue

neglect

Someday, every drop of pain will be washed away

hand

primate

ambulance

## Nothing More Unreal Than Reality

meat

ancients

seasoned

## The Possibilities of Poetry

soil

eyebeams

orifice

## Why Giulio Romano?

boil

microdose

household

It’s snowing in this—and several other—universes

pill

Gertie

pellets

## Private Language

moon

stings

seminal

## Fascist Cancer Cells in America

icy

AC/DC

toolbox

It’s never too late to return to your hometown

lot

homily

Rogers

## The Streets of Grandma’s Girlhood, 100 Years Later

oak

consubstantial

hearts

## Time to Return to Classical Music

sap

underwrite

rescue

They don’t care about you anymore

cue

Emmaline

leaven

The first cracks in the plaster appear after 10 years

megalomaniacal

whitewash

lather

## Gray Hairs

razzle-dazzle

street

poodle

## Truck-Crash Photos

amplification                      wills                      Bilbao

### Walking a Mile for a Caravaggio

elephantiasis                      prosecution                      lesson

### God Is the Last Hope

demonstration                      minus                      press  
The world is hard. People are hard. They bruise me.

breathhtaking                      spoils                      signs

### Bats in the Universe

frankincense                      tamps                      songs

### Words/Worlds

irregularity                      undermine                      token  
Each day, summon up one moment from the past

housewarming                      traces                      first

### The Penultimate Sighting

irrefragable                      tolerance                      mark  
Poeti Italiani del Novecento—a gift from Owen that keeps giving 15 years later

Lacedemonian                      Zoroaster                      lace

### The Great Pigout

infiltration                      polishes                      toys

### Compulsive Worlds

teleprompter                      touching                      boys

### Game Face

honest injun                      pallid                      bark

### Irradiated by 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Century English

onomatopoeia                      chops                      omnivorous  
Take drugs by day, drink by night, and stay away from cigarettes—they can kill you

measurement                      rocks                      telescopes

### Another Tragic Relationship

allegations                      timelapse                      operation

### Creature of Routine



immigration tones infantile  
“Our gravestones will be slightly worn, Bob, before that boy gets out of jail”

handgliding oriole procedure

## Prelibations of the Great Libation, Death

bellbottoms moniker purebred

## Afterward Is a Long Time

caramelized typeface precise

## You Changed

masterpiece categorized hostage

## Ah Yes, Frigidity

processions milkmaid pressed  
Some of my grandmother’s relatives believed she was murdered

peacemaking final Pauline

## Seraphs

raisinbread intends all-day

## Truth Is Finite, Falsehood Infinite

openhearted mars harmony  
We are surrounded by incomplete gestures

prosecution recapitulates origin  
More people you love are over there now

namby-pamby dynamite legend

## A Bad Person

evidentiary piling on eaten

## Chipping

preferences somatic lake  
This is what I would do if I were free

peaceloving desalination loss

## Ancient Rhetoric

pressurized downtown rind

## Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs

omniscience doors ices

## A Residue of Words

Bessarabian colorblind application  
Every person confronts the gulf between what was possible and what they did

candlemaker times farfetched

## Short But Sweet

infantilize hindmost preference

## Life During the Golden Age of Prisons

legislating baiting negligible

N.A.

plasticine felt practiced

## Noli Me Tangere

houseboats philistine elevation

## Fête Champêtre

reasonably pimental peacepipe

## The Nightmare of Insanity and the Horror of Violent Death

houseguest marl toolchest

“Mom, we’re talking about two people who had extremely tragic lives—and, unfortunately for us, they were our closest relatives.”

horseshoes singsong healthbar

## “The Best Years of Our Lives” on Mute

seasonable tiller eggshells

## A French Poetry Anthology on the Bedside Table

telegraphy lindens messenger

## Old Age Translating Guido Gozzano

paranormal onside timepiece

You hear the first birdcall on the day you die

cigarettes stupidity elevators

What holds up after 50 years?

procedures monastery registers

## Using Words We Don’t Know

boisterous philandering processed

We end our lives listening for footsteps in hospital hallways

allegiance timid elegance  
We end our lives listening to our own breathing

neglecting burlesque feathers  
Playing Ann Peebles' "I'm Gonna Tear Your Playhouse Down" over and over

breathless negates talkshow  
A Criminal Soul

heartaches mind songbook  
Places in the Hills

applicable morph elevated  
Highlands

lampblacks chill hesitate  
The Sports Triumphs of Childhood

procession punishment infinite  
Societies Devoted to Extreme Sports

timeshares bean regulate  
This, Then, We Saw

timepieces penny icicles  
Rhubarb and Asparagus

procedural rutabagas polygon  
Spittle in the Bedstraw

alligators Winnebago boiling  
The Most Tragic Jewish Family in Tulsa

legislated primacy disease  
The Garden Sickens

hullabaloo lopping measure  
People haunt us in specific places

infiltrate igloo selvage  
People haunt us at specific times

emanations pliers seasons  
The Mourning Dove

lampshades finalize melting

You led me to the country

heartbreak

ream

harvest

## The Fields at Night

singalong

pile-up

hotdog

## Only the Faces Change

delegation

Dolittle

hearth

## Driven Off by Deerflies

somnolent

binary

Reagan

## Artifacts Everywhere in a Ditch

filigreed

exordium

roster

## Site of a 17<sup>th</sup> Century Mohican Village

soporific

tarpit

answer

You can drown in a river, especially when your pockets are filled with stones

profess

dominant

solid

## Maple Surple

underwear

sucked

piece

The country is annoying—that's a problem with the country

parallels

blemish

false

## Tansies in Williamstown

sagacious

Heathcliffe

salt

## Cars Whipping Past in the Rain

eggbeater

obese

horn

## Still July After All These Years

lamplight

dint

boy

## Cicadas in the Treetops

unhealthy

dueling

soy

## August, August Itself, August and Nothing More

implicate

hime

honest-to-goodness

You have to do something with time—or time will do something with you

persevere

dawn

mesmerizing

Variations on a Theme of Stevens' "Variation on a Theme of Williams"

Hollister

buff

possibility

## Blank Verse

Silverton

oval

megalomania

## The Toxicology Report

dollhouse

mon

prosperity

The ocean tosses us gifts for use much later

legendary

tailgate

escalators

## Alienation, an Ode

pinecones

inn

implacable

## Cosmic Pessimism

heartless

restitution

filibuster

Attacked by a Mob of Crusaders in Treves in 1097

placemark

simplify

precisely

## Constantine's Throne Room

raspberry

solid

seasoning

## Ancestral Metz

songsters

teem

elemental

## Only Dreams Are Sure to Survive

blueprint

infamy

signpost

The front doors of Europe's cathedrals are permanently closed

tolerable

op cit

escarole

## The Stray Dogs of Europe

honorable

tumescent

hesitant

## The Alien Cats of Europe

telegenic

Nike

baseball

The Prospect of European Societies Becoming Islamic

poltroons

ahoy

operating

“A Nation of Nothing But Poetry”

hospitals

cigar

billowing

## Why Do I Think of You, Now?

harmonica                      aerie                      timebound  
In the land of tall trees, the people are smaller

heartache                      blustering                      cigarette

## The Wind in a Tree

amplified                      Tupemaro                      Rangoon

## Imagined Places

sincerity                      slate                      housing

## Remembered Places

softening                      beefy                      premise

## The Strange Preservative Powers of Plastic

fourscore                      framed                      soluble

## Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman, America's Most Famous Prisoner

purpureal                      digital                      origami

What would I do if I knew I were going to die soon?

Wackenhut                      toasts                      cyanide

## Sclerotic America

organize                      hemistich                      prepped

## A Small-Print Dante Always in His Pocket

legacies                      dell                      bananas

The mind is finite—and the world is infinite

filigree                      tonsil                      Oregon

The mind is infinite—and the world is finite

phalange                      suites                      braces

## Political Despair

membrane                      Sagittarius                      oracle

## The Motley Hills

bromides                      pop                      belted

Why do the Catskills look less real as I age? Because they aren't going to be mine much longer?

heavenly                      personal                      soiled

The farther we look behind, the more fear in our eyes

telegram                      doppelgänger                      timing

At this moment on TV, Major League Baseball is rehabilitating George W. Bush

paralyze birthmark office  
What did it in the end? Carbon dioxide. It was always going to be a chemical.

filtered brim eating

## Too Much of One Element

purblind peptic wrong

## Lord, They Destroy Themselves

canister swallows candy  
Stones don't move in the country. They stay exactly where they are for years.

Mandarin tanktop bacon  
Every car in the landscape sounds like it's coming here, but none do

gasoline rest stop pool

## The Nightly Drone of the Wood Kiln

androids bottom sock  
Often, our knowledge of the past hinges on a single conversation

hollowed pompous dime

## What Better Subject Than Oligarchy?

pieplate cropper lice

## Half-Brothers

hospital damask melt  
At some point, it became more fulfilling to spend time with the dead

Rasputin bellhop tell

## Lit Windows on a Late Fall Afternoon

plasters syllogism size  
Coltrane's "To Be" with Pharoah Sanders, so close to the end of time

eligible treefrog resuscitation

## Listening to Others Talk on the Phone

purslane pinhole impregnable

## For the Foreseeable Future

parmesan fate omniscient

## Raindate

ironclad bake television  
At the end, we try to get back to the beginning

purified splits ambulatory  
We are, all of us, losing each other

formless tyrants cellophane  
Infinite Beings Trapped in a Finite Universe

sanction dopamine hemisphere  
Finite Beings Trapped in an Infinite Universe

handyman checkbook negligence  
Thanks, Dad

imminent teal monumental  
Reading Old Diaries

soothing ensigns Pellegrino  
The People in Dreams

peaceful dispute severance  
An Infinite Day in a Finite Life

emanates dianthus dimstore  
Has anyone tried to update Velemir Klebnikov's The Tables of Destiny?

highways train legislate  
Mom's Dream the Night She Fell

markdown girls neglected  
When you love your mother, she dies a thousand times in your mind

promised reality spacetime  
Ginsberg's "Huge Cop by the Soda Machine"

handwork touchstone practical  
The State Police

offering heck patooties  
The problem always is—you love the person

diseases placate organized  
Princess Trees (*Sephora Japonica*), Used for Making Harps

megalith hophouse billboard  
Jasper Johns' Flags

tolerate bodacious husbandry



The finest person I ever knew died 25 years ago

implicit Roswell megaphone  
Billie Holiday was born a month before my father

icebergs peal residence

## Eternity Doesn't Begin on a Tuesday

solution tones lollipops  
The top ten soul records on July 31, 1965, at WNJR in Newark

cruellest easel telepathy

## The Difference Between Death and Estrangement

placemat binding pragmatic

## Osama bin Laden (1957-2011)

harmonic punitive prognosis  
Do Osama bin Laden's writings belong to the U.S. government?

seventh gatekeeper allowance

## The Outer Reaches of the English Language

lockjaw Slavic telltale

## Sleazy Movies

snorkel pail oracular

## Returning to Rilke

bildung Chinook Tolliver

## I Don't Have to Think About It

rafters sap ninepins

## Cruel and Unusual

markers tamp evidence

## You Gotta Walk the Roads to See Shit

fandangos roundabout horseback  
Dip me in Lethe, I don't want to know

pointed birthright poolhall  
The bereaved are different, a special class of people

answers tame original

## Keep Advancing Pawns

tangent                      bake                      monument  
The cicada rattles outside the window, far away this August, for someone else

offices                      Bobbo                      peacenik  
September 1, 2011, a Bad Day, the Day We Diverge

umbrage                      trespassing                      levitate  
We are tides mindlessly moving around the wrack of our lives

heather                      homespun                      singing  
Why this urge to read biographies when it's too late to benefit?

breathy                      parterre                      telamon

## Unnecessary Syllables

dogshit                      bema                      hollows

## Driving North to Rensselaer County

somatic                      bonfire                      hotdogs

## The Greatest Act of Forgetting

torsion                      fears                      melted

## Outermost Places in the History of Art

ringing                      harem                      region

## The Summer of 1999

testing                      ruddy                      pillow

## “No, I Know”

eggroll                      distances                      salmon

## Which Poetry Books Should One Have Open?

boyhood                      robot                      torque

## Game 7

oranges                      sellout                      ranger  
It's snowing in October in New York for the first time in 140 years

harpoon                      hind                      olives

## Disambigulation

peanuts                      miner                      locker

## That Mysterious Day Along the Seekonk River

falsify                      them                      sizing

## The Pastness of the Past

paragon                      boxcar                      orange  
When I die, I want to see my great-grandfather Susman Ruby

Mexican                      highlight                      rhymes

### Fairview Ave.

blather                      TB                      monkey

### The Disciplinary Life

saucers                      board                      real estate

### Bare Trees in Early December

proceed                      sated                      pelvic

### Eleven Lemons, a Still Life

angular                      hockey                      safety

### Aberrant Phrases

dignity                      teazel                      oilcan

### Tristia

hijinks                      canned                      tiedye

### The Most Important Days

breasts                      temper                      range

### “One of the Roughs”

begonia                      booths                      poise  
They say dreams involve an inhibition of serotonin reuptake

magnify                      hilltop                      maple

### The Last Birthday Hurts

oratory                      milkshake                      brine

### Oooo Minnie

sessile                      Holy Roller                      tongs  
I’ve reached the day when I should begin writing my mother’s eulogy

samovar                      insight                      movie

### The Quiet Period Before Bereavement

hallway                      opener                      pain

## Useless Knowledge

eastern rot puke  
The greatest American singer died in police custody for drugs—what more do you need to know about the place?

pajamas taste onyx

### Let People Destroy Themselves

premier outside tool  
The past is the last place where we can live

organon underground rain  
Dreams are the last place where we can live

dogfood teastain lock

### Pigmeat Terry

forests hominid bell

### Only Glucose Water and Oxygen

hostile schoolday pogo  
At the end, you were annoyed with me, and that's how it goes

dodging hay mock

### “What Thou Lovest Well Remains”

handful blowtorch oats  
“Puff the Magic Dragon” is infinitely far away now

lacquer boneset Mama  
There are outer points in a person's life, and the fall of 1977 was one for me

systems tribal nose

### Brooklyn, the Next Yiddishe Ganeden

tooling beefsteak sue

### Old Vocabulary Cards

legroom hymnal parallelogram

### The Vicarious Life

oildrum bullet holographic  
I don't *know* what I'm saying—I *say* what I'm saying

aimless teepee unregulated

### In Memoriam George McGovern

pine tar hogshead four-square

## The Strange Existence of the Past Within Us

egging cede hillbillies  
These guys aren't the Soviet Union, Nazi Germany, Imperial Japan

police combustible mathematics  
I was a lost soul wandering out of town in the direction of the graveyard

prison phosphorus omnipotent

### *Un Regret: Not Knowing Enough People*

thrice priapic evenhanded

### High Priests of the Irrational

lagoon zinnia positioned

### The First Bewitching Bars of the Song

pupils rhinestone silverware

### Invade All the Spaces

oilskin tapas hesitation

### “He Writ No Language”

pawned bobolink tollbooths  
As usual, the immortals were in the audience

trapeze honeysuckle eglantine

### A Tour of the Future of American Poetry

levity bayberry peacetime

### The Bottomless Notebook

doodad saltwater messaging

### What Was Great?

period easternmost sauceboat  
The world has only so much time

tooled killjoy tolerated

### General Vo Nguyen Giap Greeted by Julius Caesar in Heaven

dollop telltale timeshare

### Outsider Art

finite tile heartfelt

Baraka says, “Play that! Play that! Play that!”

pearly	meal ticket	prosecute
<b>Attuned to Birds</b>		
refill	foraging	permanent
<b>Reflections on Water</b>		
briney	virtual	reckoning
<b>The New Didacticism</b>		
pelted	face-to-face	elongated
<b>Wrong Turns</b>		
points	Sapporo	parallax
Bernadette, a letter from you is like a letter from Joseph Cornell		
lemony	walkingstick	seminary
<b>Implications of the Fact That Poetry Has No Effect on Society</b>		
candle	ion	boysroom
<b>Exclamations in Songs</b>		
markup	suss	horsemen
<b>Oh Susanna</b>		
-	deathstar	pellagra
No protester ever desecrated the flag as much as Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld		
basted	IOU	lemonade
Later in life, we get to choose new big brothers and sisters		
toothy	painkiller	lollipop
<b>Only the Last Seconds of Dreams Now</b>		
raisin	carpool	organism
<b>What Day Is This?</b>		
purify	opposition	eggplant
<b>What Day Is This in American History?</b>		
redden	drab	hallways
<b>What Day Is This in My Life?</b>		
fossil	tightrope	doghouse
Unlike William Blake, I never spoke with the prophet Isaiah at the breakfast table		
Roscoe	eightball	soybeans

We don't realize how many sounds are around us until we listen to recordings

belfry popgun bollixed

## 30 Years of Diaries

foster zydeco holistic

## Ode to the Violent Left

dwarfs rye poltroon

## My Childhood Teachers, All Dead Now

orison paper reasoned

He just walked out into the night

dogged escargot delegate

In our minds, they're still in the same place, but they're not

homage moonstone pinecone

## On Poe's "Philosophy of Composition"

demons dunegrass breaking

## Not a Teacher, a Student

hearty bowser earrings

## Dreams of the 2000s

Oliver rules umbrella

Too much sex? Too little sex? Something else?

drinks cove diamonds

They have it over us—and they're going to keep having it over us

Morris bifocals fracture

## Too Far for Everybody

masked caseworker eminence

Great moments in history: Hitler visiting the tomb of Napoleon

dicey eel-like falafel

## The Dead Tree in the Evening Sunlight

shake rink telling

## Two Clocks Ticking Out of Sync

sugar stylite poohbah

## Surrounded by Blinking Lights

sized piliated program  
We created a low-level sense of alarm around us

faces metier dogshow

## The Past, the Knowable Part of the Present

repose unionized measles

## The Future, the Unknowable Part of the Present

tape percolate beeswax

## The Past, the Dream of the Present

wrapper test tube sincere

When you play goalie in the NHL, you're gonna give up some goals

arena freestyle aspirin

I wanted to develop completely on my own, not necessarily a good idea

Parma zoological dollops

## Until Proven Otherwise

whale steeple signage

Some people just have bad luck

order quasar prosper

## Best to Erase

hymen pompom Easter

Things start well and end badly. That's not uncommon.

tubas bobcat hostel

## Communities or Coteries?

lance ideology heaven

It's time to remember dreams again

mommy coin tennis

Sometimes, a frog or bird speaks English words accidentally

Tokyo flywheel meager

## Nature's Syllables, Words, Lines, Stanzas

egret peninsula icicle

## Consider the Cricket

beans TWA racing

“What Is Love But a Prelude to Sorrow?”



igloo

armature

sorrow

## A Genetically Defective Family

Reece

trestle

master

We returned to Providence too late, or on the wrong night, or something else

space

Solomon

school

## Still in Brooklyn, Lord, in the Rai-ai-ain

place

Elayna

parked

## Entering a Danger Zone With Another Person

rakes

arm's length

soften

## "Everybody Plays the Fool Sometime"

handy

source

sorry

## Words Displaced From the Mind

piney

repose

oiled

For aeons, insect sounds surrounded us as we slept

sooth

inanimate

omens

What is the noise in my mind? A real sound? An imaginary sound?

logic

evensong

China

## Matta's "The Disasters of Mysticism"

hills

dovetail

field

## The Return of Oral Culture

rang

successful

sizes

Inside those drawers, you will find things that once meant something

cell

ratify

slimy

The impulse to tell you about my life gives shape to my life

mama

Kabbala

silly

My name should be Michael Treves

safe

landlady

pride

## Only the Past Is Real

Ryan

sorority

hawk

## Only the Past Is Knowable

imps

institute

beef

*They Only Live in the Past*

holy

app

dock

*We Live in the Past*

mask

theology

lost

We exist as written words to each other

rock

sublunary

aims

Music clouds the mind (& there are enough clouds already)

deke

pellucid

home

Love clouds the mind (& there aren't enough clouds already)

reds

ravens

mice

Walkin' on That Road Out of Town Toward the Graveyard

Paul

swaps

form

Interesting Question: Who Wasn't There?

evil

mascot

pent

*The Losing Team in America*

racy

tastebuds

told

Listening to Cecil Taylor All Afternoon

Tory

wood

hope

“The Best Person!”

lamp

ruby

bake

“The Best Kids!”

nape

explicit

nine

Ellipsis