

Mudlark Poster No. 66 (2007)

Michael Ruby | Titles & First Lines

Michael Ruby's second book of poetry, *WINDOW ON THE CITY*, was published by BlazeVOX Books in Buffalo in 2006, and his prose *FLEETING MEMORIES* is appearing as an ebook this year from Ugly Duckling Presse in Brooklyn. His long poem "First Names" was Mudlark No. 24 (2004). He's also the editor of David Herfort's *WASHTENAW COUNTY JAIL AND OTHER WRITINGS* (Xlibris, 2005), a 1970s prison memoir. "Titles & First Lines" is part of a recently finished poetry book, *COMPULSIVE WORDS*. Other recent poems can be found in ezines *La Petite Zine*, *Shampoo*, *BlazeVOX*, *Unpleasant Event Schedule*, *word for/word*, *GutCult*, *mprsnd* and *Dusie*. He's currently working on several new poetry books and a prose history of the families of his great-grandparents in Eastern Europe and the U.S. He lives with his wife and three daughters in Park Slope, Brooklyn, and works as a journalist.

TITLES & FIRST LINES

The wound wouldn't heal

seelah

farfetched

family

Halls Full of Doorways

mountebank

forthright

real estate

A Springtime Reverie About Chinese Rulers

force field

tenderloin

operation

There's usually a false ending before a true ending

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

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

Brian boils nostrum
Fuck You, 20th Century

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

Borman 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 something 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

decatalogue

born

face

We, too, nearly died on the west bank of the Vistula

devious

scenic

implant

At all times, something is being let slide

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 the 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
The condition of knowledge henceforth 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 get it, 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 Punitive State

putrid

eavesdrop

letter

Part of a World

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

nonesuch 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

Daily Tours of the History of American Culture

sessions sexualize sand

Recordings of the Dead

derange turpentine onions

The Official Photograph

playful anonymous assassin
It was a shit life, Steve, 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

cucaracha

flies

random

A Reputed 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

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