

Matt Shears

*from Dear Everyone*

lather up. Some salacious inventories  
are organizational mediations? Why  
lament the talisman? Consider magic  
in Chicago, beyond the Global Village  
or Cubism or Futurism or militarism.  
All too true. Ordinarily, the flesh wound  
focuses the attention. I've transplanted  
matching pairs, emptied the attic. Dust  
gatherers at the road show. Nymphs lift  
scattering dandelion seeds. Interference  
just never tugged the heartstrings.  
when the first one died. Sense blanks  
on positions. Impositions refract  
phases gathering context. Get the picture  
or history repeats itself. Everything  
endeavors to the cadaver, or leaves  
for posterity. The homesteaders believed  
or wagons, barrels, trailers, chrysanthemums  
churns and corn husks or scarecrows. No,  
further investments? The valueless  
demand conference calls. Privacy is  
untranslatable. Painting is untranslatable  
being writing. Along the highway of the past  
truncations, deletions. Down on the ground  
of love. When the calls came in

predictable epiphanies. Squandering  
extensions of public space: war  
As for the rest? Recliners, sofas,  
ornate pillows, even. Willows blowing  
apart the government. Research helps  
carry everything. Baskets and disposable  
geographies of the self. Some saccharine  
note passing, breathless, tingly sensations  
or improper sharing. Delight in  
illicit sex or aesthetic bliss: deliberate  
stratagems for pursuing the military  
clouds of dust? Time-sensitive  
materials will not be returned. When  
creating your past lives, responses  
may undergo transformation. Cities  
of destruction; systematic debilitation  
the soundtrack of the past? An ex-singer  
or dancer. Falsify mourning. Love  
sleeps in childhood. You arise  
with considerable provocation. As for  
jpegs, gifs, electronic equipment:  
selfies, voiceover, some petting  
licking or necking. Brand new futures,  
discolorations. No further questions  
or intractable statements. O, love

and damage. When alarms scattered  
the bodies in the street. Smoke  
assures correctness, and politics delivers  
screaming: “My baby!” “My baby!”  
settlers, homesteaders, adventurers, buckaroos  
explorers, privateers, conquerors, Pilgrims  
and Hollywood. Consider the artificial lung  
and Bluegrass, Country & Western, Blues  
or medical dictionaries. In the postcard  
graphics, captions, code. Roadside bombs  
are serious business! Rednecks  
need not apply. Imagined histories  
in post-production mode. When internalized,  
the inoculation may take decades. No,  
we are beyond pleasantries. No,  
poetry is not a vehicle. The pressurized clot  
of the systolic. I am a star  
coal-burning, wood-burning, oil-burning  
and refined, well-mannered. Resolutions  
believe intentions. The present  
is always coughing slogans? Furthermore,  
some sloppy kissing, unusable footage  
orbiting moons. When the calls came in  
cartographies of the self. In your letter  
be sure to provide comfort, a sense of hope

or pills, prescriptions. The messenger  
waylaid the barbarians. Time burnt a hole  
in their whereabouts. Why admonish  
dream-horses? The princess arose and wept  
hexagons, octagons, dodecahedrons,  
mathematical “resemblance.” So,  
terror lies in wait. The operation is clean  
in its way, or manual pumping. Disco  
still matters, subsequent tissues. Jam  
these halos of the few. Why torch  
the Amazon? Swim the Orinoco,  
depending on the discard. Trash collects  
regional pastimes; following tradition  
may aggravate injuries. Republicans  
can sit on it, or stuff it. Teleology  
seals everything, like Revelations or  
return flights. Disable impermanence,  
desertification. When considering  
the Gestapo? Or the KGB? The police-dream  
beyond efficient! Think about it:  
martial arts or banditry. Descendants  
carry on the conditions, brandish  
jewelry or credit cards, business casual  
*without* frosting. The symbolic realm  
or deliberate mismanagement?

where love rotted! Disease tracking  
procedures: spay or neuter your territorial  
markings. When the calls came in  
with Barbara and the other Clare,  
the last vacation! The halcyon days  
ravaged the organs. Someone sang  
through the pain. This factory  
of particular resonance. Products  
question the invasion, or the eradication  
or the rebuilding process. Ultra-reality  
mansions, people of import. Magazines  
are photogenic, and can be  
easily reprogrammed. Consider  
wheatgrass, lemongrass, alfalfa, gorse  
and Nebraska. Holland or Belgium? Why  
ask the proper questions. No,  
I would not like to see your recent edit  
and furthermore, calories. No business  
as usual, the lackeys. And yes,  
the sycophants and ass kissers,  
bootlickers, social climbers and yes men.  
Yes, the arrangement was delivered.  
an impromptu speech? Why I believe  
in potlucks, picnics, clam bakes, fish fries  
and barbarism. Things to fear include:

capsizing, holocaust, radioactivity  
excessive telephoning, extension cords  
murder, bloodshed, mayhem, drowning  
in the bathtub, airplanes, the Collective  
Unconscious, leaders, followers  
and lawmakers. Debutantes miss  
remembering the good old days  
take the trick. Argumentation synchs  
Politburos and the New World Order  
or orchestrations and cover-ups.  
Michelangelo painted the frame  
of this poem, and poetry is a chapel  
or brothel. Who will say:  
he is the holy sex worker of language,  
or baseball, football, basketball  
and bankruptcy. Cheerleaders kill  
superheroes and swashbucklers. Instigators  
are standing by. Bystanders die  
in tense exchanges, remanded reports, too  
and paper shuffling. The excessive function  
of gender and sexuality. And male  
strippers or the Satyricon. Greco-romans  
consider the Labradoodle or genetics  
and monopolies, cartels, business  
as unusual. They have become white

stuck in a photo album somewhere,  
or the facility. Flooding may occur  
or memories return, and shock therapy  
or painting at the Community Center  
intellectualizing death? No,  
the carburetor, the radiator, the crankshaft  
and the blessed Virgin. Ordinarily,  
hubristic hyperbole and backscratching  
or the hell of gridlock. New myths  
love delicate children, babies and reasons  
can be found, like lasers or microchips.  
What witch hunt? Believe  
what you want. Since the onset  
of symptoms and self-flagellation  
or public embarrassments, apologies.  
Moral fiber? With respect to  
practical jokes, or disaster relief  
skin doesn't last. Dream-birds nestle  
in the lap of luxury. Silken sheets  
for a deathbed? Spruce it up a bit.  
The vagus nerve soothes cargo, trucks in  
truckers and troubles. Confabulation  
will pass you by. Your life is  
sound-byte culture. Imagine splicing  
whiskers or freckles or irises

when in doubt. Piercing belly buttons  
and candygrams. Singing clowns  
provide healthcare coverage  
or costumes. Clothing makes  
the Pomeranian, and traffic cops  
offer calisthenics. The good life  
is always cracked up to be  
porcelain, or lost marbles, even.  
Imagine a clay jar, painted in fantastic  
rituals. Philistinism is fetching catcalls  
and video games. When in Rome  
or Tallahassee? And the panther,  
bombast and bravado. Pundits  
shape everything. Imagine Gandhi  
coloring between the lines! Death by  
sarcasm or talkshow host. Furthermore,  
the sanctity of marriage, and the military  
occupation. Other queer innuendos  
include the margin of error, "O love!"  
and collies, ridgebacks, shiatsus  
or phantasms. Riding overland,  
and Oregon. Because the calls came in  
to perform the eulogy. Which music  
will play? The portentous rooms  
are signs. Semiotics cannot smoothe



the ongoing extinction. Or the lack  
of tangible detail. Imagine the pear tree  
or many varieties of shrubs. Believe  
in airports, and the Econolodge  
or The Radisson or the Super 8, Motel 6  
or the Holiday Inn. Drifting, variation  
or the hybrid? Terror is bloodless  
and not guilty. But downsizing?  
A symphony of correctness  
may prevent clotting. Considering  
ranges or territories of the heart. No,  
I do not wish to receive your newsletter,  
inventory of the self. For example,  
stretchers, gurneys, HMO's and  
coffins, pedestals, tripods, camera cases  
microphones, pocket handkerchiefs  
and idolatry. The pedophile  
watching harness racing or poker  
over-the-counter medication. An oceanic  
restructuring of pleasure,  
and its coordinates. When navigating  
The Body, be sure to lubricate  
emphatically. Pitchy fog or periods  
of difficult employees / employers.  
Voyeurism is the new couch surfing

the new landed gentry. Once upon  
a time so isolationist? Now that everything  
is the onset of symptoms. Literature  
and the aphids, fleas & ticks, mosquitos  
and organized religion. Burial mounds  
consider the dung beetle, or caves  
bats, spiders, sulfuric leakage  
and Pluto. Persephone complained  
to the local authorities. No,  
I do not wish to receive a complementary T-shirt  
or travel bag. Carryon items indicate  
epistemologies, The North Wind, gumption  
and a trail of the caribou. Mushing is useful.  
and Teflon, silicon. In her diary entries  
the silences of history. Notwithstanding  
love, or movements in space. Beauty =  
Radiation? Deliver the Midwest  
and white flight. Things to fear include:  
maniacs, terrorists, accidents, saturated fats  
sugar, Iran, smokers, carbon monoxide  
kidnappers, rapists, street gangs, juntas  
car jackings, the homeless, boll weevils  
locusts, Winter Weather Advisories  
meteorites and interplanetary debris. No,  
you have not received authorization

to the heart of the matter? Love  
is passing, and passing through.  
Now that everything has been documented  
or freeze-dried. Elements include:  
festivals, cartoons, newspaper clippings,  
old songs, figurines, envelopes,  
stamps, coins, memories, artificial  
memories and ideas of time. Certainly,  
safe travels! Observe containment policies  
extreme times = extreme measures. When  
persistence argues ineffectively, charm  
may open doors. Opportunism is exciting  
and sell them on a dream! Confiscate  
unused urgencies, or redirect the impulses  
and purchase power. The ordinance  
threw a surprise party! Awesome!  
In the video recording, evidence  
of unity and wistful thinking. Whoa,  
sometimes, I get this oceanic feeling  
swelling, bloating and tremendous respect  
for labor and laborers. Years of service  
believe in arrangements, care packages and  
client-centered protocol. In the dream  
begin by erasing. Return flights never  
display the proper gratitude, orbitals

cease or desist! And pageantry  
or formal affairs. Insider raiding  
fetish objects and social media inlets  
or personalized license plates  
and tempo, duration, modulation  
or morning calisthenics. The yoga  
of consumerism. When the life force  
withers, and natural metaphors cycle  
lovebirds, auks, peregrine falcons  
or push-button convenience. Touch  
is exceptional, like gifted children  
the military and privacy school. Importance  
is so stressed out! In correct assessment  
as contradiction. Consider the killdeer  
or mourning dove. And Hector bloodied  
on the plains of Ilium. Now that  
encrypted men produce nationalism,  
we must harvest these rhizomes of empire  
Individuality sells! Consider  
the firm, the film, the advertisement,  
the public service announcement  
and mythmaking. Dromedary  
or camel? Articulators are  
standing by. Believe in screensavers  
the silent majority and general wellbeing