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FREE-FLOATING ANXIETY

I stumbled into a hornet's nest
And then into a cow pie.
It wasn't my day, but it wasn't yours, either.

"Potato skins aren't food," he said,
"They belong in a pigsty."

*Bad weather always looks
Worse through a window.*

You can beat me all you want,
I'll never be a believer.

But Mary knows best
How her garden grows.

"It's a nice day," said the churl, "If you're a duck."
It was time to slop the pigs and pass the buck.

Military justice is to justice what military music is to music.

You don't need winter to develop a fever.
The disease showed up unexpectedly; be resourceful and use it.

The "horseless horseman,"
Whose meanings were meaningless,
Went far enough to discover certain secrets.

“Foods you never knew could make you beautiful”
Definitely aren’t on the menu
At the next truck stop.

An infinite regress of useless tears

Welling in reaction to unnecessary fears.

CHANCE ENCOUNTER

As with cotton stuck in the neck of a medicine bottle,
I couldn't get a grip. But nobody was counting.

The principles of romance are close enough.

"May she continue to rest in peace."

All this makes cherries. It even makes no more.

"Famous last words," as we used to say.

There's no law that it should be done
But there's no law against doing it.

Once you do it though, you'd better run.

The ship's hold was full of lollipops—
The many child stars were in their element.

It will never happen that way again.

I just want to take the whole pile of rubbish
And throw it up in the air,
High enough for the wind to catch it
And carry it to Siberia where they need it
Like a hole in the head.

We're in deep shit—the fire is coming closer.

Get out your water pistol,
Get out your slingshot.

In other words,
A snowball in hell.

But someone else was there first.
They planted a flag.

AND THE WIND CRIES

Dangerous as a wounded snake
He came at me from my blind side.

But the uncles and aunts were mostly
Not at home. She died swaddled
In the flag of her choice.

We have to ask them repeatedly
To repeat themselves
Because of the gargling or garbling.

Somewhere there's
A bad connection;
It's all I can do
To hear myself think.

Somewhere there's a place for us.

And the sun and moon
Will hasten the year along
Round about now—
Turn around and it's snowing again.

I had forgotten
How cold this apartment gets.

Then there are the parking lots.
Don't it always seem to go?

The last train out of here was late
For the circus. I had to call a cab.

Therefore did we miss the elephants.
And elements. But it furthered the entail,

Which was, after all,
More than we had bargained for.

Someone not named Mary, true,
But neither is destiny and neither are you.

MARKING THE BLUES

He was always a wreck,
Whether the game was capture the flag or chess.

But yesterday wasn't any better.

*If there be a hell on earth
It is to be found in a melancholy man's heart.*

Eventually he escaped.

All she remembers after all these years
Is how good I was in bed.

Beneath the façade,
The underlying lie of the seamy land.

To wait for, as in a nightmare.

Do you think there ever was an accent anyhow?

They finally dispatched the evil magician,
But unfortunately he had a twin.

The burden of the canary swells in the smoky air.

There wasn't much to be read
Into his or her appearance
(The canary's that is).

An infinitely gentle sight
For jaundiced eyes staring into the night.

And all of us carried a big beam,
A flashlight for examining the dream.

But the decision or incision is not mine to give,
Whether or not you die or live.

PENNY STAMPS

A tortured soul here, a Kilroy was there,
A grilled cheese sandwich or French toast

At the five and dime luncheonette.

She carried her purse with an occasional air.

“Freud was hilarious,” she said.

Woolworth’s is having a sale on houseplants.

Diamonds are a setup, like the Valentine’s Day Massacre,

A friend to shoot for at the carnival.

But if I were a competitive animal I would think like one.

In the coal mine without a clue, Martha cooked our favorite casserole.

It was a good thing, but where were the diamonds?

There’s nothing else to watch so let’s turn on the match.

There you go and there you went.

Coffee and home fries for lunch with lots of ketchup,
Back when poverty and manual labor seemed romantic.

“Let’s get out of here,” she said, dissatisfied
With the accommodations and the company.

How embarrassing.

Like Santa without a belly, or Ichabod Crane without a head,

There you were and there you’ll be,
A singularity—

No time for apologies.

AGGRESSIVE INGRATES

“Take good care.” As opposed to what, “bad care?”

The little traps laid for us by the world,
The danger of falling glass.

Some were playing cards and some were shooting craps.

Something I could have lived without couldn't live without me.

I envy the wrecking ball, replete with rubble.

The state of my digestive system is always making trouble.

Every dog has his due provided she's sufficiently serious.
Unless they're attack dogs, rabid dogs, fight dogs . . .

Deleterious was a bad habit with Sirius.

The 250-year-old barn still stands up to the rain.

Look an ant, get out the antibiotics!

Here comes a candle to light you to bed.

I'm so hungry I could eat a wedding cake.
But where would I start? With the figurines?

A useful jar to put things in, a set of Tupperware in delft.

How infernal do you want your curry?

“It's almost like you don't care.”