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John Ciampa

What Can I Say

Collected Poems



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COLLECTED POEMS
by John A Ciampa

A CHANCE MEETING UPTOWN	5
The Blues is a sea	6
The shadow knows	7
Comensa	8
HITLER IS GONE FOR NOW	9
HURRY UP AND SIT DOWN	10
A MAZE WITHIN	11
CONNECTION	12
TIC TOC (a lyric)	13
UTOPIA	14
Theodicy	15
mine & his	16
LIFE INSURANCE	17
UNBORN	18
EXISTENTIAL ANGUISH	19
PROBLEMS	20
LETTERS ARE WORDS	21
A CHRISTMAS SWIM	23
INDEFINITE ARTICLES	24
Sail On	25
CONTRACT FOR THE DANCE WITH DESTINY	26
About the Author	27

A CHANCE MEETING UPTOWN

First time
uptown
alone
broad sidewalk passing
storefront mirror panel
I saw
a child
same size
same eyes
coat and hat
coming at me
he looked but
never stopped to reflect
a look, even now I recollect
he wondered about me

The Blues is a sea

goes wide

goes deep

some times a short chop we can top
troughs and crests, we manage with sea legs
some times storms, we handle with hand rails

AND THERE IS THE TIDE

in lives of men

with enough time between its ebbs and flows
to make it a surprise every time
even in a quiet lagoon with a clear sky

Who knows why

that which floats your boat-

brings you down

all around

everyone and everything is out of reach
even the beach

You can't leave and you can't stay

Depression is a tidal recession

About which there is not much to do

Except to wait for the rise

which you can't remember

but always comes

The shadow knows

Knows what I know?
I don't know
what shadows know
how they come from the light
spill from a well
like ink
shadows draw themselves
before noon
shadows lead you
you never catch them
after noon
shadows follow
you never lose them
every form of give and take
stand and shake
they are you
they are not
figure out what's right
from what is left
no matter how much
you cannot touch
you cannot figure
who is left
and
you are right

The shadow knows

Comensa

Do you have time ?
or does it have you
You wait
the end is never late
What is going on
Is also going off
To think in words is your sentence
Period is a time with no sentence
Time is a sentence with no period
Tragedy makes us blink
Even if we stop, we think
in the play
Is the last sentence already written
is there a last word you say
or do you sing it
Should you rehearse your death scene
or do you wing it
I still see the forest
the trees are gone
even if you're blind
the world is out of sight
but not out of mind
Tell me DESCARTES
If- I think therefore I am
How can I think I am not
If you think thought is gone,
that's a thought
and it is not
gone
Thought goes before
thought goes behind
why not beyond
Do you have thought
Or does it have you

HITLER IS GONE FOR NOW

The strange tree
which bears fruit
each century
a perennial rite-
no mater if it's wrong
story and song
obsolete absolutes
ridicule rituals
a chance to regress to
triumphant tribalism
and follow the leader
to scars and memories
all leaders
rock star, quarter back
duce, commissar, fuhrer
keep us young

infantile

HURRY UP AND SIT DOWN

How is it that the same body is flattened by an irresistible gravity
so as to lay on the beach and
at the same time
impelled to spring into the surf and learn to swim under and over
the waves

Enantiodromia- Heraclitus
Greeks define life's energy as a tension of opposites

Ying/ yang/Jung
Oriental wisdom and modern psychology agree

We try to see the flow between day and night, life and death, rest
and motion.

We tell ourselves that one begets the other.

At same time as the sigh of relief finds its way to our lips as we
kick back

There is a buzzing in the ear, like flee, to push us forward

The cavalry charge ends with a discharge
As do batteries, lightening bolts and bankruptcy

broke and repair
hope and despair

A MAZE WITHIN

mind wanders without direction
through space with no dimension
faster than speed
slower than time
watch mind rehearse the future
while it edits the past
everywhere is here
here is nowhere

CONNECTION

Love connects
hate divides
division subsides
connection abides

TIC TOC (a lyric)

Blame it on my youth
I never saw the big hand move around the truth

You watch the watch but never see the time

Still some how you know

Its getting later than it was

You never see,

but always hear

the tic and not the toc

which saves you.

UTOPIA

Your Utopia
un seen
My myopia
a screen
a rose arose
on scene
by another name
a pose
out of the frame
cast a spell
passed a smell
from nose to eye
nostril to pupil

Theodicy

If god puts up with warring religions
then war is god's wish
and Peace on Earth?
Who's wish is that?

mine & his

his story- history
my story - mystery

LIFE INSURANCE

Who brought the affection
for those that are dear to me

Who arranged the collection
of all those that are near to me

Who bought the protection
from all that brings fear to me

UNBORN

Once the random erection
fits -lock to key.

Once the seminal injection
floods the ovary,

Is there preconceived deflection
of aspiring progeny ?

uninvited invitees

just those chosen by the department of selection

so why the department of correction
and the public enemy?

If the plan requires correction
was it wrong initially

EXISTENTIAL ANGUISH

Every child, cub or pup
Who has ever looked up
realized
real eyes
do not see
reality
vision is a bluff
eye was not enough

—

to be is not to see
most of us are partially blind
part of us are mostly blind
the more you know
the more you know that
you know less than there is
if you guess
at patterns in the mess
you get depressed
flattened

to stay well rounded
you must be grounded
in the quicksand
reaching for a hand
from some one you don't understand

PROBLEMS

Problems you process or pass on

If you pass them on they multiply

If you process them you multiply

LETTERS ARE WORDS

Pronounce each not as a letter in word but as a stand alone letter or character (0=naught)

Syllables

E L m n s v x z

1 Syllable Words

b (be); c (sea, see); i (I, eye); o (Oh); p (pee, pea); q (cue); r (are); t (tea);
u (you); y (why): 1 (won); 2 (to); .4 (fore; 8 (ate).

2 Syllable words

Bd (beady); b4 (before); b9 (benign); b10 (beaten); cd (seedy); ez (easy); e10 (eaten); L8 (elate); mt (empty); ne (any); pt (pity); qt (cutie); rt (arty); sa (essay); xl (excell); XS (excess); nv (envy); c= (sequel)

3 Syllable words

Mn8 (emanate); ne1 (anyone); nme (enemy);
nrg(energy)

4 Syllable words

Od4s (odiferous); Fmn8 (effeminate); U4Ea (euphoria)

Phrases

S A 4 U= (essay for you)

E Z 4 u= (easy for you)

R U O K= (are you OK)

U R A QT= (you are a cutie)

2b 0 2b= (to be not to be)

2 B E10 0 B10= (to be eaten not beaten)

I 8 U= (I ate you)

I 8 2 XS= (I ate to excess) (great T shirt for fat people)

EZ 2 C Y I NV U= (Easy to see why I envy you)

B10 2 B E10= (beaten to be eaten)

B10 B4= (beaten before)

O 2 B U= (Oh to be you)

B9 NV= (benign envy)

I NV NE1 = (I envy anyone)

I PT NE1= (I pity anyone)

I O U= (I owe you)

U R 2 MT 2 NV= (you are too empty to envy)

U R 2EZ 2 B B10= (You are too easy to be beaten)

I, B10 NME, PT U= (I, beaten enemy, pity you)

NE1 C Y U R EZ 2 B B10= (anyone see why you are easy to be beaten)

NE1 C Y U R E10= (anyone see why you are eaten)

EZ 2 C Y U 8 2 XS= (easy to see why you ate to excess)

EZ 2 C Y U XL- XS NRG= (easy to see why you excel- excess energy)

A CHRISTMAS SWIM

Santa won't fit in the chimney

Just as smoke arises

Heaven rains down surprises

Despite the worst inventions

For the best intentions

You get a watch,

which watches

you swim

And plays a hymn

That rescues you from the undertow

Of what you think you know

It blinks to warn before a blunder

Like lightning before the thunder

INDEFINITE ARTICLES

At the end of each season

For no earthly reason

The sea abrades the land

Wearing rocks into sand

Just so each

Can have his own beach

Waves pound particles

Into indefinite articles

Sail On

We are not anointed,

To be disappointed,

Not to fail

But to sail.

Without rancor

Weigh anchor

Like a giant pillow

Let the sails billow

While the wind blowing

Just keep going

Without knowing

Whether space bends

Or where it ends

CONTRACT FOR THE DANCE WITH DESTINY

From the party of the second part in dreadful doubt
heretofore

To the party of the First Part, who alone knows
hereinafter

Whereas the undersigned has come to realize

That life has meaning which lies

Beyond his human eyes

And whereas the undermined has come to hear

Voices which whisper to an inner ear

That there is nothing to fear

As the end comes near

Wherefore the undersigned will no longer dread fate
and speed hate

And take, instead, the chance of every second
and the second chance of the eternal dance.

About the Author



John Ciampa If you wish to know more about me visit johnciampa.com and download Blink Of An I for free