

Contents

I. FIRST GESTURES

First Gestures	3
Freight	5
The Sun Lover	7
Sinning	9
Flu	10
Ghost	12
A Pass	14
Bulbs	16
Onion, Fruit of Grace	18
The Knowledge of Good and Evil	19
Eve's Striptease	21
Mother Love	23
The Secrets of Marriage	25
Storm	27
Word to Measure Space	28
Definition: To Fix	29
Sixth Anniversary	31
The New Place	33
Wife of a Resident Alien	34
Lesson of Hard-Shell'd Creatures	36
Living Large	38
Before Dawn in October	40
Our Last Neighborhood in Brooklyn	41
Loud	43
On Leaving Brooklyn	45

II. MAP OF THE KNOWN WORLD

The Use of Allusion	49
Map of the Known World	50
July 1969	52
Ladies' Night at the Turkish and Russian Baths	53
Coat of a Visiting Nurse	55
Lymphoma	56
Flammable Skirts Recalled	58
Answer	59
Why I Ran	60
How It Looks from South Brooklyn	62
To Honor the Dead	64
Houseguest Confession	66
Brooklyn Bridge Showing Painters on Suspenders, 1914	68
The Streak	70
Migraines, for Dad	71
Learning the Names	72
How My Father Learned English	73
Letter to Timothy Russell from Lewisburg	74
Black Dress	75
Eve's Curse	77
Thinking of Certain Mennonite Women	78
Boustrophedon	80
First Bird	82
Flying Lesson	83
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	85