

Contents

FROM *Plums, Stones, Kisses & Hooks* (1981)

Installing the Bees	3
Oranges	4
One Hook	5
After Being Paralyzed from the Neck Down for Twenty Years, Mr. Wallace Gets a Chin Operated Motorized Wheelchair	6
Prayer for Flowers	7
Trout	8

FROM *Tunes for Bears to Dance To* (1983)

Grandmother Grace	11
The Belly Dancer in the Nursing Home	13
The Assistant Professor's Nightmare	14
A Hot Property	15
"You Can't Write a Poem about McDonald's"	16
Picture of Molly, Age 4	18
1001 Nights	19
The Facts of Life	20

FROM *People and Dog in the Sun* (1987)

The Nude Gardener	23
This Night	25
At Chet's Feed & Seed	26
Poem Written Mostly by Fourth Graders	27
Matheny	29
Nightline: An Interview with the General	30
People and Dog in the Sun	31

FROM *The Makings of Happiness* (1991)

Early Brass	35
Bluegills	36
Fresh Oysters & Beer	37
Off the Record	39
Fan Mail	40
The Hell Mural: Panel 1	42
Building an Outhouse	44
In the Amish Bakery	45
The Fat of the Land	46

FROM *Time's Fancy* (1994)

The Life Next at Hand	51
Why I Am Not a Nudist	52
A Valentine	53
The Story	54
The Swing	56
Hardware	57
Pantoum: The Sturdy of Worry	58
Why God Permits Evil	59
Ballade of the Humpback Whales	60
Teachers: A Primer	61
In the Cards	66
Grandfather, His Book	67

FROM *The Uses of Adversity* (1998)

The Friday Night Fights	71
Fielding	72
Tonight's Lecture: The Effects of Head Wounds on Foot Soldiers, A Case Study	73
Panties	74
The Bad Sonnet	75
L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E	76
Les poètes célèbres	77
The McPoem	78
Waxworms	79
Skin	80
An Essay on Love	81
Man Sleeping	82

Long for this World: New Poems

1.	
Local Hero	85
The Old West	87
Redundancies	88
Literature in the 21st Century	89
Gas	90
How Laughter	92
General Fuckup	94
Failed Poems	95
Alas, Thomas Midgley	96
Bird Brain	97
The Truth	98
The Physical	99
No Deal	100
Claustrophobia	101

2.

The Face of God 102

Shoes 104

Photo from Liberia 105

Sayonara 107

The Invasion of the Body Snatchers 108

Hey Buddy, Need a Lift? 109

On Prozac 110

SmackDown! 111

In the Virgin Islands 112

Lucky 113

Pleasure 114

Blessings 115

Acknowledgements 117