

Contents

The Condition xi

I

How It Is 3

Back from the Fields 4

Dorothy 5

Old Woman's Song 6

At the Playground, Singing for Psychiatric Outpatients 7

The Brother 9

Drinking Cold Water 10

Gray Poem 12

The Marsh, New Year's Day 14

The Coat 15

II

Living by Water 19

The Heavy Angel 20

To Tlaloc of the Rain 21

Home from Duck Marsh 22

Hymn to the Sacred Birds 23

Collecting the Animals 25

Learning to Speak 27

Perhaps It's as You Say 28

The Gift 29

III

It Was Autumn	33
Routes	34
The Burden of Decision	36
Going	37
We Meet in the Lives of Animals	38
The Fish/Lago Chapala	40
Thus He Left	42
Counting	43
How to Handle It	44
Desire	45
Late Hour	46

IV

In Torino	49
The Dinner	50
Perosa Canavese	51
Sorting the Tools	57
Distance	59
Night Letters	60
Failure	65
Night	66
This World Awakes to Silence	67

V

Speaking of Accidents	71
On Modern Travel	73
From Station to Station	75

Three Poems Never Written 76
A Short Novel 78
Poem for Two Voices 79

VI

First Star 83
In the Last Days 84
Nocturnal Self-Portrait 85
I Dreamt 86
A Story 87
A Portrait 88
Elegiac Fragments 89
Poem Beginning with a Line from Leonardo Sinisgalli 92
Lullaby 93
From the Meadow 94
The Heart 95

Notes 97
Acknowledgments 99