

Contents

Part I: Neighbors

I Observe This Morphic Field	3
Domestic Interior	4
Private School	5
Bougainvillea	7
Neighbors in Their Own Bunkers	8
How Could We Decorate a Haunted House?	9
Calm Down!	10
Library	11
Saying Good-bye to the World War II Generation	13
No Irish Need Apply	15
Massachusetts	17

Part II: Education

“Liking Something Is Not Enough”	21
Diagnosis: Psychosis	23
Time, Waste of	25
See, e.g., Hildegard, Fatima, Blake, McLuhan	26
Invective	27
Prescription Pills	29
Snobs	30
Marble Obelisk	31
Education	32

Part III: Folie à Deux

Pension, Venezia	37
Ten Years	39
The Temper	41
The Alcoholic and the Ball and Chain	42
Legal Separation	43
John Barleycorn	44
After the End, Hope for the Beginning	45
Peace	46

Part IV: Not Too Serious

Self-Portrait at the End of the First Half of My Life	49
Not Too Serious	50
The Staff Lounge	52
The Divorce of Mr. and Mrs. Moore	54
Camp	55
The Satanists Next Door	56
Supervision	58
Husbandry	59
Dolphins	60
Roommates: Noblesse Oblige, <i>Sprezzatura</i> , and Gin Lane	61
The Family Jewels	62

Part V: The Mother

Hope for the Hopeless 65

Indoors 67

The Devouring Father 68

Keeping 69

Coloring Book 71

St. Dymphna 72

Black and White 73

“The Abyss Stares Back at You” 74

The World Will Ask for Your Greed, Envy, and Sloth 75

Good-bye 76

Souls in Purgatory 77

The Mother Becomes the Mother of Herself as Well 78

Notes 81

Acknowledgments 83