

## Contents

Note To the Reader	xi
I.	
Out of Metropolis	3
Stone Soup	4
The Planet Krypton	5
The Sleeping	6
Of Your Father's Indiscretions and the Train to California	7
Lunch Break with Ted Berrigan and Neighbor's House on Fire	8
Drawing Rosie's Train Trip	9
Seizure	10
Frying Trout While Drunk	11
"Into the clearing of . . ."	12
She Is Six	13
When Father Decided He Did Not Love Her Anymore	14
Outside Room Six	15
Self-Portrait as Items in a Snowy Lithograph	16
Ordinary Objects	17
Big Black Car	19
II.	
The Garden	23
The Technology of Love	24
Heartsick	26
Blonde Bombshell	28
The White Dress	29
Self-Portrait at Eighteen	30
Portrait of the Author	31
The Politics of Narrative: Why I Am a Poet	33

### III.

Self-Portrait	39
Dressing the Parts	40
Starlet in Satin Dressing Gown	43
Homage to Sharon Stone	44
On Waking after Dreaming of Raoul	46
Inspiration	48
Spite—Homage to Sylvia Plath	49
Walt, I Salute You!	50
The Occupation	52
“Hello, Mallarmé,”	53
In English in a Poem	55
A Poem Like an Automobile Can Take You Anywhere,	56
The Past	58
inside gertrude stein	60

### IV.

My Life	65
Kiss	66
Grieving Was	67
Dying Was	68
“I tried to flatter myself into extinction, . . .”	69
“While my mother lies in a hospital bed . . .”	70
<i>Ars Poetica</i>	71
Halfway Through the Book I’m Writing	72
The Burial	74
These Days,	76
Talking with Frank O’Hara	78
Metamorphosis	80
Stray Dogg	81
Dogg Howse	82
Hang Dogg	83
Who Iz Dogg?	85
Dead Dogg	86

V.

The Angels of the Resurrection	89
The Dig	90
The Murder Writer	91
Dead Girl's Bedroom	93
Soliloquy of the Depressed Book	94
“April 18, the 21st Century”	95
Homage to Dickinson	97
Like God,	98
Then, Suddenly—	100
Acknowledgments	103