

CONTENTS

Not Once *xi*

HYPOCRITE SHOE

The Rise of the Colored Empires 3
The Brigadier and the Golf Widow 6
This Is Cinerama 8
Home by the Sea 11
Skip to My Lou 12
Compensation 13
At Broad Channel 15
At Steepletop 18
When the World's on Fire 20
On the Cooling Board 21

VICTORY FIELD

Why Bother? 25
Via Negativa 27
The Lemon Ice King 29
Stagger Lee 31
Ommie Wise 32
The Conjuror 33
An Offering of Steam 35
In the Pines 37
Motherless Children 38
4-A 39

THE TENANT OF FIRE: a sequence

1. Hawk-Man 47
2. Goodbye, Piccadilly 51
3. The Curtain 54
4. Duke Ellington, Live at the Aquacade 57
5. Nothing Beats a Fair 60
6. A Gun to the Heart of the City 64

Notes 69

Acknowledgments 73