

CONTENTS

- | • American Sonnet 3
- A History of Weather 5
- First Reader 7
- Student of Clouds 9
- Candle Hat 11
- The Death of Allegory 13
- Reading Myself to Sleep 15
- The Norton Anthology of English Literature* 17
- The Hunt 19
- Forgetfulness 20

- 2 • Questions About Angels 25
- A Wonder of the World 27
- Mappamundi 29
- The First Geniuses 31
- The Afterlife 33
- The Dead 35
- Endangered 36
- Going Out for Cigarettes 37

3 •	Purity	41
	Cliché	43
	Field Guide	44
	Putti in the Night	45
	The Man in the Moon	47
	Horseman, Pass By!	48
	Memento Mori	50
	The Last Man on Earth	51
	Come Running	52
	Modern Peasant	53
	Instructions to the Artist	54
	Weighing the Dog	56
	One Life to Live	57
	The Wires of the Night	58
	Axiom	60
	Vade Mecum	61
	Not Touching	61
	Night Sand	62
	Love in the Sahara	63
	Invective	64

4 •	The Life of Riley: A Definitive Biography	67
	Jack	68
	Metamorphosis	70
	Saturday Morning	71
	Late Show	72
	Pie Man	74
	Wolf	75
	The History Teacher	77
	Pensée	79
	The Discovery of Scat	81
	Dog	82
	The Willies	83
	On Reading in the Morning Paper That Dreams May Be Only Nonsense	85
	Rip Van Winkle	87
	English Country House	88
	Nostalgia	90
	<i>Acknowledgments</i>	93