## **Contents**

The Furious Boy

## I. Blackbottom The Minks Blackbottom Poem for My Father Christmas Eve: My Mother Dressing 9 The House on Norwood 11 St. Peter Claver The Weakness 13 Fires in Childhood I. Aerial Photographs Before the Atomic Bomb 15 II. The Chicago Streetcar Fire 17 Abuse 18 High School 19 Hamtrack: The Polish Women 20 The Struggle 21 II. Red Angel Before Making Love 25 Saturday Night On Stopping Late in the Afternoon for Steamed Dumplings 27 Stuck Squeaky Bed 29 The Good Old Dog 30 The Promise For a Man Who Speaks with Birds 33 The Friendship Touching/Not Touching: My Mother 35 Tiedown My Father Still Sleeping After Surgery 38 III. The Testimony of Sister Maureen The Testimony of Sister Maureen 41 IV. The Terrible Bright Air Boy at the Patterson Falls 51 Fears of the Eight Grade 52

In an Urban School 54 The Choice 55 Letter to Miss Glazer 56 The Polishers of Brass 57 For the Dishwasher at Boothman's 58 Plaid Pants 59 Books 60 Allen Ginsberg 61 Whitman, Come Again to the Cities 63 On the Turning Up of Unidentified Black Female Corpses 64 A Note on My Son's Face 66