Contents

Dear Reader	3
I	
Consolation	7
Osso Buco	8
Directions	10
Influence	12
Water Table	14 16
Reading in a Hammock Print	17
Sunday Morning with the Sensational Nightingales	18
Cheers	20
The Best Cigarette	22
Metropolis	24
Days	26
Tuesday, June 4, 1991	27
II	
The Art of Drowning	33
Canada	34
The Biography of a Cloud	36
Death Beds	38
Conversion	40
Horizon	41
The City of Tomorrow	42
Thesaurus	44
Fiftieth Birthday Eve	46
On Turning Ten	48
Shadow	50
Workshop	51
III	
Keat's Handwriting	57
Budapest	59
My Heart	60
Romanticism	61
Monday Morning	63
Dancing Toward Bethlehem	64

The First Dream	65
Sweet Talk	66
Dream	67
Man in Space	68
Philosophy	69
While Eating a Pear	71
The End of the World	72
Center	74
Design	75
IV	
The Invention of the Saxophone	79
Medium	81
Driving Myself to a Poetry Reading	83
Pinup	84
Piano Lessons	86
Exploring the Coast of Birdland	89
The Blues	91
Nightclub	92
Some Final Words	94