## **Contents**

I... no spring, nor summer beauty...

```
Clay County 3
My Mother Swimming 4
Men Lying in Fields 5
For the Leapers 7
Today 8
Fermata: After Clearing Out My Mother's Place 10
This Moon, These Fifty Years 11
Lost Bird 14
On Finding, in a Book of Poems by Norman Dubie,
   a 25-Year-Old Letter from the Bookbinder to My
   Cousin Dead Now of AIDS 16
High Summer 19
II . . . the music of her face . . .
Manifest Destiny 23
On a Wing 24
For the Man Who Spun Plates 25
Something to Cry About 26
Proof 28
Coast to Coast 29
In Wind 30
```

For Freedy, and for the Ohio Dragging Itself for Its Dead 31

What Becomes a Star Each Night, and Rises 33

Eyes 35

Each Moment Is Speaking to You of the Other 37

III . . . angels and ministers . . .

Visitation 41

Outside the Coolawhatchie Blimpie Gas 'n' Go 42

Trick 44

For the Waitresses at the Bars Outside Fenway Park 49

Upon Being Called Mature and Together, on Respectfully and Summarily Rejecting Both Descriptors, and on Suddenly Remembering the Best Night of My Life 47

In a Dream It All Has to Be True Like the Moon 48

Dose 51

Word Search 52

Prenatal 53

Upon Being Awakened at 3 a.m. by Lovers Talking, Laughing, Riding a Motorbike Beside the Arno River, Florence, November 25, 2002 54

For the Young Man Who Would Not Let Me in to Visit
Keats's Grave with Ten Minutes Left until Closing Time
at the Cimitero Accatolica, Rome, December 1, 2002 55

The Oldest Lie 56

Acknowledgments 57