CONTENTS

I: SECURITY

American Fanatics, Lucky Nails, Security, The Backyard, Small Casket, Blue Distances, Northern California, Dying Your Black Clothes Black, Ephebiphobia, Arriving Late at the Birthplace of Pentecostalism, Litany with Garbage Keeper and Bones,

II: HELL

A Series of Earnest Offers, for the Raising of a Man from the Dead, 27 Pocket Vampire, 29 Hell, 30 Linnet Street, 33 Something in the House Was Beeping, 36 Face Lift, One, 38 Aubade with Eggs Breaking, 40 My Gothic, 42 Tijuana Clinic, 43 It Is Good to Be amongst Catholics Again, 46

III: RESPONSIBILITY

A Shopper's Prayer, 51 Diet Frosting, 52 Mollie Fancher, Marvelous Invalid, Lives without Food!, 54 New Trousseau, 56 Responsibility, 58 Don't Leave Me This Way, 59 Summer Replacement: Pure Jesus, Early Morning Shift, 62 When I am sick of working, 63 If God Were a Wiseguy, 65

IV: A SELECTIVE HISTORY OF LOS ANGELES, IN SEVEN TURNS

Where Will You Spend Your Eternity?, 69 A Selective History of Los Angeles, in Seven Turns, 71

V: HOW'S THE WORLD TREATING YOU?

Visiting Hour, 77 John Lennon's Lips, 79 Spellbind, 81 Spirit Photograph, 83 Winter Nap, Late Afternoon, 85 Stereotype, 87 Motion Picture and Television Arts Home for the Aging, Woodland Hills, California, 89 The Last Poem, 91 How's the World Treating You?, 93

Notes, 97 Acknowledgments, 99