Contents

I

Buddha Reveals the Apocalypse to the Cowboy 3

Evening Lounge 4

The Path 6

The Ten Thousand 7

A Dream of Emptiness 8

Tsunami 9

Leaves 10

Walking with Snakes 11

A Monk's Ode to Guan Yin 12

Guan Yin's Treatise on Compassion 13

 $\underline{\mathbf{II}}$

Damascus 17
Flying 18
If You Tell 19
The Ancestors Speak to the Cowboy 20
Interpretation of Tongues 21
The Ancestors Explain How Envy Grew 22
Scapegoat 23
Elegy for the Appaloosa's Mother 24
Against Forgiveness 25
The Government of Nature 26

III

For James 31
The Pantry 32
Germany, in the Fifties 34
In the Park with My Grandchildren 35
Remember 36
At Lake Montebello with James 38
Scrapple 39

When My Heart Failed In Raleigh's Brownstone Hotel 42 On Hearing Beethoven's Moonlight 43 Looking Up from the Naked Bed 44 The Touched 45 The Untouched In Good Samaritan Hospital 47 Driving South from Salem 48 With My Family at Dinner on Easter Sunday 49 Evensong at Christ Church Washing the Car with My Father 51 Petunias 52 Cold Mountain 53

IV

Passing through Indian Territory 57
Predators 58
Weeping Willow 59
1963 60
Drowning 61
A Nightmare 62
To Those Who Would Awaken 63
The One Song of He Nan Monastery 64

Notes 65 Acknowledgments 67