CONTENTS

I. THE ORDINARY SKY

Elijah versus Santa 3 More Money than God 4 Worth 5 Cézanne Forgets His Wife's Funeral 6 What's So Funny? 7 My Mother, at Sixty, Learns to Drive 10 Dead Negro 14

II. BETWEEN POETRY AND PEACE

Pinecone and Comb 17 Obama Checks Black 18 Four Wars 19 Fugu 20 Location, Location, Location 21 Recital 24

III. THIS COSTUME'S NO DISGUISE

The Actor 31 Death's Costume 32 About Face 33 Factory Outlet 34 Death's Secret Life 35 Death's Dog 36 Death's Dinner Party 37

IV. ANGELS IN TRAINING

Another Holocaust Poem 41 The Artist 44 At the Book Signing 45 Art Gallery: Summer Intern 46 Tattoos on Jews 47 Heritage Tour Package 49 Forgiveness 53

V. UNADDRESSED ENVELOPE

Dante's Politics 59 Two Harvests 60 Sudden Death 61 The Business of America 63 The Communists versus the Capitalists 64 Richard Michelson at the Old Bailey 66 The Ice Hotel 68 Death Valley 69 Acknowledgments 71