

CONTENTS

I. Moments of Intrigue in Language Acquisition

A Fairly Small Patch of Lawn	5
Drought	7
The Boy of Me	9
False Cognates	12
Palimpsest	14
Hack	15
Everyone's So Smart and Funny	16
Postmortem	18
The Landscape Gallery Is the Gallery Everyone Skips	19
My Son Says He Is Making an Animal	20
Current	21
The City of Black Currants	22

II. Eleven Questions on the Deaths of Animals

What Kind of Vampire Are You?	25
What Kind of Reply Are You?	26
What Kind of Emperor Are You?	27
What Kind of Second Are You?	28
What Kind of Migratory Bird Are You?	29
What Kind of Psychic Soccer Octopus Are You? 1	30
What Kind of Psychic Soccer Octopus Are You? 2	31
What Kind of Decay Are You?	32
What Kind of Suspension Are You?	33
What Kind of Childish Fantasy Are You?	34
What Kind of Groundcover Are You?	35
What Kind of Meteorology Are You?	36
What Kind of Person Were You?	37

III. Obituaries and Other Pastimes

Office	41
Wide Is the Gate, Narrow the Way	43
Samuel Beckett Driving Andre the Giant to School	44
This and Every Election	45
Nuisance Crime	46
Shut Up, Poem	47
Bone Graft	49
Victorian Death Photograph	51
The Light on My Arm	52
I Saw a Highway Sign in Ohio	53
Noir	54
The Depths of Our Stupidity	55
I Want to Think but the TV's On	56
Deliberation	58
Cold Read	59
Postcard from Hell	60
Uncirculated 1913 Nickel	61
Sundial	62
A Reliable Oblivion	63
Donation Box	65
Mysterious Orphan Appears on Page 30. Possessed or Just Insane?	66
To an EMT in Spring	67
Opening Lines for a Potentially Wonderful Novel	68
Bedtime Story	72
Archaeological Record	73
Increments of Leaving	74
There Is Always in Milk a Skin	75
Disclosures for the Home I'm Selling	76
Acknowledgments	79