CONTENTS

1. American Sonnet 3
   A History of Weather 5
   First Reader 7
   Student of Clouds 9
   Candle Hat 11
   The Death of Allegory 13
   Reading Myself to Sleep 15
   The Norton Anthology of English Literature 17
   The Hunt 19
   Forgetfulness 20

2. Questions About Angels 25
   A Wonder of the World 27
   Mappamundi 29
   The First Geniuses 31
   The Afterlife 33
   The Dead 35
   Endangered 36
   Going Out for Cigarettes 37
3: Purity 41
   Cliché 43
   Field Guide 44
   Putti in the Night 45
   The Man in the Moon 47
   Horseman, Pass By! 48
   Memento Mori 50
   The Last Man on Earth 51
   Come Running 52
   Modern Peasant 53
   Instructions to the Artist 54
   Weighing the Dog 56
   One Life to Live 57
   The Wires of the Night 58
   Axiom 60
   Vade Mecum 61
   Not Touching 61
   Night Sand 62
   Love in the Sahara 63
   Invective 64
The Life of Riley: A Definitive Biography 67
Jack 68
Metamorphosis 70
Saturday Morning 71
Late Show 72
Pie Man 74
Wolf 75
The History Teacher 77
Pensée 79
The Discovery of Scat 81
Dog 82
The Willies 83
On Reading in the Morning Paper That Dreams May Be Only Nonsense 85
Rip Van Winkle 87
English Country House 88
Nostalgia 90

Acknowledgments 93