Contents

FROM *Plums, Stones, Kisses & Hooks* (1981)
Installing the Bees     3
Oranges     4
One Hook     5
After Being Paralyzed from the Neck Down
    for Twenty Years, Mr. Wallace Gets a
    Chin Operated Motorized Wheelchair     6
Prayer for Flowers     7
Trout     8

FROM *Tunes for Bears to Dance To* (1983)
Grandmother Grace     11
The Belly Dancer in the Nursing Home     13
The Assistant Professor’s Nightmare     14
A Hot Property     15
“You Can’t Write a Poem about McDonald’s”     16
Picture of Molly, Age 4     18
1001 Nights     19
The Facts of Life     20

FROM *People and Dog in the Sun* (1987)
The Nude Gardener     23
This Night     25
At Chet’s Feed & Seed     26
Poem Written Mostly by Fourth Graders     27
Matheny     29
Nightline: An Interview with the General     30
People and Dog in the Sun     31

FROM *The Makings of Happiness* (1991)
Early Brass     35
Bluegills     36
Fresh Oysters & Beer     37
Off the Record     39
Fan Mail     40
The Hell Mural: Panel 1     42
Building an Outhouse     44
In the Amish Bakery     45
The Fat of the Land     46
FROM *Time’s Fancy* (1994)
The Life Next at Hand 51
Why I Am Not a Nudist 52
A Valentine 53
The Story 54
The Swing 56
Hardware 57
Pantoum: The Sturdy of Worry 58
Why God Permits Evil 59
Ballade of the Humpback Whales 60
Teachers: A Primer 61
In the Cards 66
Grandfather, His Book 67

FROM *The Uses of Adversity* (1998)
The Friday Night Fights 71
Fielding 72
Tonight’s Lecture: The Effects of Head Wounds on Foot Soldiers, A Case Study 73
Panties 74
The Bad Sonnet 75
L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E 76
Les poètes célèbres 77
The McPoem 78
Waxworms 79
Skin 80
An Essay on Love 81
Man Sleeping 82

*Long for this World: New Poems*
1.
Local Hero 85
The Old West 87
Redundancies 88
Literature in the 21st Century 89
Gas 90
How Laughter 92
General Fuckup 94
Failed Poems 95
Alas, Thomas Midgley 96
Bird Brain 97
The Truth 98
The Physical 99
No Deal 100
Claustrophobia 101
2.
The Face of God  102
Shoes  104
Photo from Liberia  105
Sayonara  107
The Invasion of the Body Snatchers  108
Hey Buddy, Need a Lift?  109
On Prozac  110
SmackDown!  111
In the Virgin Islands  112
Lucky  113
Pleasure  114
Blessings  115

Acknowledgements  117