CONTENTS

I

The Rain  3
The Polka-Dot Shirt  4
The Japanese Rooms  5
How to Sit in a Café  6
Prescription for Insomniacs  7
What Hemingway Learned from Cézanne  8
The Institute of Cool  9
A Nazi in Retirement  10
The Blue Period  11
Lifesaving  12

II

Coronado Rises in the Stirrups  15
All Seas Belong to Neruda  16
Hitler’s Barber  17
Ferlinghetti’s Ears  18
Custer  19
Three Kings  20
With Fitzgerald along the Côte d’Azur  21
Mornings with Freud  22
The Psychic Geography of Atlantis  23

III

Household Buddhas  27
A Saint for You  28
The Shape of the Human Soul  29
Infant  30
Teaching a Child the Art of Confession  31
The Machinery of the Soul  32
Martyr  33
The Wasted Day  34
On Finding a Landscape I Painted as a Child  35
The Buddha of Arithmetic  36

IV

Country Music  39
Passing Through a Small Town  40
Tornado  41
The American Dream  42
Bomb Shelter  43
Shooting the Horse  44
Tabloid Headlines  45
Critic  46
A Thousand Miles from Nowhere  47
Reading to the Blind Man  48
May I Interest You?  49
Accordion Lessons  50
The Id  51
Testicles  52

V

Afternoon Nap  55
Visitation  56
Graveyard  57
The Ambassador of the Dead  58
The Art of Forgetting  59
Poems That Can Only Be Written at Night  60
The Slaves of My Ancestors  61
Armor  62
The Funeral of the Moon  63
Warehouse  64
Old Age  65
Mushrooms  66
High Water Mark  67
The Immortal  68

Acknowledgments  69