

Contents

Old Houses xi

I. THE MOLECULE OF LIFE

Drive-by Shootings	3
The Firebug	4
Cassandra in the Library	5
Generalsis I (1–3)	6
Habemus Papam	7
Ars Longa, Vita Brevis	8
Habeus Corpus	10
Sic Transit Gloria Mundi	11
Five Landays with a Latin Phrase	12
Heartworld	13
Patty's Father	14
D. E. A. T. H.	15
The Family Megashelter Song, 1961	17
Grasshoppers of the World, Unite	18
Election Day 2012	20
Ants, Ants	22
The Storm	23
A Fable: The Floss-Silk Tree and the Philodendron	25
Mirror Lake	26
The Lover	27
Babylon	29
Lucky Bones	30
Floaters	31
The Activist	32

Front-Rhymed Easter Anti-Sonnet	33
Poem on Your Birthday	34
Father and Child	35
The Devil's Paintbrush	36
The Molecule of Life	38

II. SKIPPING STONES

Emily Dickinson Thinks about Buying a Ribbon	41
Belgian Truffles	42
Juliet 2010	43
Unbearable Lightness	44
Christmas Burning	45
Winter in Detroit	47
A Song Impossible to Sing	48
Gangsters	49
Mountain Man	50
John Dove	52
The Forest	53
Life at the Bosnian Oyster Bar	54
Sunday Brunch at Point Lookout	56
Skydiving	57
Old Backboards	58
For Willie Mays	59
The Chattaway	60
On Completing My PhD	61
Of Course	63
Habit	64

Trucking	65
Watching	66
Traveling	67
Nodding	68
Walking by the Dalí Museum	69
Skipping Stones	70
It Beats TV	71
My Polish Cap	72
Indian Legend	73
The Campaign	74
The Old Professor	75
Charity Recital (Suite, 1936: A Trio)	76
Hymn 2014	78
Lassing Park	79
Epitaph	82
Acknowledgments	84