Every Day's a Butterfly

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also by Willie Watson:

Rheets 2019

Cup of Tea

The Quest for Enlightenment and Stuff

Rheets 2018

Paradox

Rheets 2017

Wild Pigs of Fukushima

The Meaning of Life in Easy English

Rheets 2016

Geology

Rheets 2015

The Shit Guru (An Expat's Story)

Rheets 2014

Pink Snow

155 Sonnets

Rheets

Twoems

Uncle Willie's Very Silly Animal Poems

The This of the That

Tarot Poems (with Marie Brožová)

The Alchemist's Notebook

Four Syllables on Water

The Guru Kalehuru and Other Poems

Poems from Prague

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Introduction

Here I am again writing an introduction to my latest book of poetry and totally unaware of who's going to read it, which means self-publishing is actually just a higher tech version of writing on bathroom walls, which I must admit I have done in my life, but it has it's own limitation. You have to actually be in a toilet when you're writing and that's a bit demeaning.

If ever there were two functions that should be kept as separate as possible, it's pooping and writing.

However, writing an introduction is important for a couple of reasons. One is that it adds a couple of pages to a very thin book. Poetry books are generally shorter than other kinds of books, at any rate books intended for adults. I don't really need it to be thick, just enough to be visible on the shelf and not look like a pamphlet.

Also, people expect to see an introduction. It makes it feel like more of a real thing ("lends legitimacy," they say) and, for the author, is a salve against imposture syndrome. "Of course it's a real book, see, it's got an introduction and everything!"

But the main reason is to introduce the material, which if it's any good shouldn't require any introduction. They often say, at poetry readings, that a poet should avoid introductions and I've seen many a case where introductions rambled on for a long time, longer than you really wanted to dedicate to listening to the poem without any introduction, and I've seen them go longer than the poem itself.

So, I'll try to keep this brief. The title is from the poem of the same name, which is maybe not the most representative of the poems in this book. I was going to go with Stream of Continuity (the original, working title was Chocolate Chip Cookie, but that was totally random) and Stream of Continuity got Helena's vote, but the kids both voted for Every Day's a Butterfly, just based on the name.

I wouldn't say it's my favorite poem in the book, but it's near the top of the list, and I do particularly like that line. I also like the poem because it's one of those poems that came out quickly, it practically wrote itself during one early morning train ride. Those are fun. I totally agree with Gertrude Stein when she said "I don't like writing. I like having written."

Like children, I do want all of my poems to stand on their own, but sometimes they do need a bit of explanation. The title "All great truths begin as blasphemies" is a quote from George Bernard Shaw. Somebody posted it as a meme on Facebook, and that was my prompt.

Another one that began life as a Facebook meme is "Nominee for the Worst Poem Ever Written." The last two lines, in Czech, mean "One who has an itchy butt in the evening, has a stinky finger in the morning." It sounds very funny in Czech, and all I had to do was add the first two lines in English to make it rhyme and boom!, instant poem.

The poem Prison Planet is a bit problematic, because it expresses an opinion which I'm opposed to, but

the words just tumbled out that way and it rhymes and makes sense so it goes in the book. It sort of seems to imply that we should forget about space exploration and just worry about the problems facing us on Earth, and I hate that idea. We need to get out there and explore the universe, because we will never understand the true nature of the universe unless we do.

Poets, other artists, philosophers and theologians may speculate, but we don't know shit, really. Science is important.

That's about it, I can't think of any others that need an introduction at all. They are straightforward poems and there are a lot of them, so more bang for the buck than your average poetry collection. Enjoy!

Willie Watson

Every Day's a Butterfly

I get up in the morning and I waddle to the loo just the same as several billion other people do

I have a cup of coffee and I give my head a shake as my dreams fade to oblivion I try to come awake

I illuminate a screen and in that glaring light I catch up on all that's happened through the long....dark...night

Light is coming to the world the stars begin to dim there is a transition at this cycle of the spin

There are changes coming and I hope they're coming soon Every day's a butterfly each night is a cocoon

Macro Metaphoria

The sun is one big smile emoji shining in the sky and the leaves fall from the autumn trees like dying butterflies flowers in the meadow bloom a symbol of our hope and, of course, the tail of an elephant is very like a rope a mountain is foreboding but it's something we can climb and the old, and steady river flowing symbolizes time the wind is but a whisper and the ocean is a roar and there are opportunities that lie behind each door tears (and therefore sadness) are symbolized by rain and continuity is shown by the image of a train a million, billion brilliant stars are like the thoughts we think and the golden chain of a bracelet may represent a link everything that's circular is something like a ring everything's a metaphor for every other thing

All We Can Do

Nobody knows what's going on the world is too complex all we can do is carry on and wait for what comes next

The Progress of March

The trees are mostly barren still but changes can be seen on each successive day in March there is a bit more green

The Optimum Genre

Some poems are long and contemplative some are short and funny I wish that I could write the kind that make a poet money

The Pitfall of Self-Publishing

We write and write and write all day long and through the night I don't know why, it doesn't pay but more folks write than read these days

Home Free

When I look back upon my life and all the things I've done A lot of them illegal but still a lot of fun I've never been a great success but haven't truly failed I am not dead or homeless or currently in jail And so I cling to this sweet thought when I think my life is sucky I got away with all of it and that is very lucky

Sciences v. Humanities

Science has to be exact and math has to be exact one answer's right all others wrong it's unforgiving that's a fact it's admirable and it's sound but, in my own life, I have found my mind just doesn't work that way and artists get to fuck around

Diversity Within Utopia

Some folks like heavy metal and some like rock and roll yet others like an opera that elevates the soul

Some like romantic comedies and others like sci-fi and some folks, inexplicably like films that make them cry

Some people crave adventure and some like gourmet food and some like lots of different things depending on their mood

None of this is right or wrong and no one is to blame of all the people in the world no two are quite the same Some people like the city and some people like the town and some folk like the hilly bits where the road goes up and down

Some can't stay in one place but move around a lot other folks are quite content to stay in one sweet spot

Some people like the mountains and some people like the sea it would be nice if everyone could be where they want to be

So, as we are planning utopia in our grand design all of our different visions of that must be kept in mind

Monday Morning, On My Way

Monday morning on my way and so begins another day another week a brand new cycle there will be things I will like a lot and some things not so much everything we see and touch consolidates reality maintains our true trajectory and we don't know where we will be Five or twenty years from now I hope it all turns out O.K. Monday morning on my way

Clouds in the River

Clouds in the river, clouds in the river clouds and shimmering trees
The world's not really upside down, but that's one way in which it's perceived

Changing the Definition

All the words and the letters that we have in stock get put together in different ways so, we could call them "writer's blocks" and that would make it sound O.K.

Qualities and Criteria

Knives should be sharp
Colors should be bright
Food should be delicious
Decisions should be right
Students should be brilliant
Athletes should be fit
There is not much point in being,
if it's just being shit

The Living Ocean

Waves come and go but the ocean remains it's almost as if it's alive the wind knocks the autumn leaves from the tree but still, somehow, it survives the train goes out on the railroad track from station to station to station and then it turns around and comes back after reaching its destination People make love, and people die but a new generation's begun there will always be new things to see new races to be run the ocean's sweet motion, its waves and its tides, its storms and its volatility are not just awesome to behold but a sign of its stability

The Relationship of Aspects

So many aspects to every moment so many aspects to each situation social, historical, green, biological financial, cultural, ideological religious, artistic, pop ,philosophical any point can be the center any point can be the focus any point can be the starting of a never ending line moving through all of the other aspects, all of space and all of time

Honey to the Hive

The trickles and the creeks and the streams all deliver their sweet, transparent essence to the mighty, flowing river Just like the tiny honeybees so vibrantly alive bring pollen, in their millions back into the mighty hive Many pennies make a dollar many flowers make a garden many notes make up a symphony that's music to the ear The details of the universe are numerous and quite diverse We're far too small to see it all and so it isn't clear But, the next time you get lonely just remember that you're only one of billions on this planet and the reason you're alive Is to bring water to the river and honey to the hive

Contact

It was a sunny day on Earth but rainy in some spots it was hot in the Sahara but, in Finland it was not

There were 8 billion people standing on this ancient ground of course that's not meant literally some were sitting down

Some were flying through the air Some lying on the beach but still, somewhere on planet Earth there was a place for each

From Capetown to Kamchatka from Detroit to Alice Springs people were just being people Doing people things

Then some of them looked up
Into the overarching sky
and the first words to escape their lips
were "Shit, we're gonna die"

Others saw the spaceships which had suddenly appeared But merely shrugged and said "That's kind of weird."

They went back into their houses And they turned on their TV so some talking head could tell them what they could plainly see

Others gaped in wonder amazement, shock and awe Filled with curiosity About the ships they saw

Some were quite excited By this massive revelation As all their wildest fantasies had just got confirmation

"Surely they're benevolent"
The sci-fi people said
"there is no earthly reason
why they should want us dead

They've come so far across the void (we'd like to ask them how) and if they meant to zap us we'd have all been zapped by now"

So, people argued back and forth about their true intent Who they were, were they were from and why they had been sent

What was their form of government what did they like to eat how many individuals were in this mighty fleet

Did they have sports, and music, entertainment, art did they have blood within their veins did they have a heart

It was a time in history uncertain and quite scary and then, after some time had passed they sent an emissary

A creature with a giant head And eyes as big as eggs olive green in color with short and spindly legs

It had noodly appendages waving all around and when it opened up its beak there was a screeching sound

Attention! People of the Earth we've been observing you and now we must determine what we're going to do

We've watched all your TV shows and we've read your internet we should probably destroy you but we won't do that just yet

We aren't in any hurry to blast you out of space so we're prepared to hear you if you want to make your case

The Brilliance of the Beam

When the sun comes up in the morning and it's going down for the night the slanted angle of its rays that strike the windows of the city are so brilliant and so bright that it leaves us dazed although it's also rather pretty blinded momentarily, we are amazed and stunned as if we've seen, on Earth, a second sun

Beauty

A beautiful woman, a beautiful flower, a beautiful bird in flight a beautiful building, a beautiful home, these are all beautiful sights A beautiful kitten, a beautiful ring, a beautiful day at the beach The world is made up of beautiful things, and there is a beauty to each

Prison Planet

We are confined within this space the sky above the ground below and in between is everything we'll ever touch, or taste, or know or see close up without the aid of some devices that we've made though telescopes are really great they do not change our current state and so they mostly serve to show how very far we have to go our current options are quite clear we have to deal with what is here and all the problems that we find within this space where we're confined

The Limitation of Light

Everything that we perceive
All that comes within our sight
upon this world in which we live
Is an expression of the light
and also sounds and scents and stuff
But mostly it's just light

Yet this small world in which we live Circles round a brilliant sun that gives us all it has to give But it is just a tiny spark within the never-ending night in a universe of dark

Back before we first drew breath in the darkness of the womb safe, secure and well concealed In our tiny, private room and when we're done with life it will be still, and dark, within our tomb

Deep below the Earth we find in the kingdom of the blind the worms and sightless creatures of the underworld abound in the dank and slowly decomposing underground

Everything that now exists and everything that always will starts within the non-existence in the deep, eternal night where everything is dark, and still there is an unearthly chill

River in the Sky

I watch the clouds go drifting by on the currents in the air like a river in the sky moving on, without a care

Compulsion

Some people have a horrid urge which they cannot deny just to keep on talking although they don't know why And some say that they are poets and I guess that that's O.K. but their poems would be much better had they anything to say

Relentless Darkness

Where Schroedinger and Shakespeare meet within a twisted dream the bush and bear could pop up almost anywhere, it seems where the stream of consciousness to be Isn't yet a stream

There lie possibilities
And alternate realities
and different dimensions
all exist there in their latency
and bide their time, complacently
within that great obscurity

and some of them will come to be a part of everything we see but life is short, and then we die not knowing what we're living for and the darkness all around us always will be so much more

All That We Don't Know

We cast our eyes upon the sea and the sea goes on and on and we dream exotic dreams about the lands that lie beyond but we can not imagine how much we do not know we have not seen the sea until we've seen the sea below It's an alternate reality strange sights, unearthly sounds in a fluid atmosphere that goes the whole world round When we're walking down the street or even down the hall we see so many doorways but we can not try them all Behind each one a world exists a world we are not in We are seeking for connections but where do we begin? Each person sees the universe through their own set of eyes and each makes a different world from images they find As deep as any ocean and as closed as any door is the world inside another person's mind

Revelation

With a reading of the Tarot cards and a cup of herbal tea With a trek into the mountains or a voyage 'cross the sea Hypnosis, psychoanalysis or the interpretation of dreams there are things to be discovered in all of these it seems Movies, art and music have a lot of things to say and science gives us brand new information every day There are different ways to look at things and each has it's appeal Just try to keep an open mind and the truth will be revealed

The Voices Inside All Our Heads

The voices inside all our heads are talking, talking, talking to us when we're talking to each other are those voices talking through us?

Shit Voters

If the only choice we had was just to vote for 'good' or 'bad' all spelled out clear as clear and plain as day I still don't know if people would vote the way I think they should folks are kind of stubborn in that way

Smartometer

People who have to tell you how intelligent they are are not the most intelligent people in the world, by far

Light Is Everywhere We Look

Everything is linked to light energy is linked to light matter is linked to energy, e=mc squared, light is everywhere we look light is everywhere

Nature's Christmas

In October, when the leaves are yellow, orange and red each tree is like a Christmas tree but natural, instead

The Overwhelming Force of Mediocrity

Each sun throughout the universe is blazing, bold and bright and bathes its tiny planets in a warm and gentle light

but from a cosmic viewpoint each is just a little spark in a vast and silent blackness in a universe of dark

Each flower is so beautiful each petal so precise they give off a lovely fragrance and they're really very nice

but the reason they are so unique and what gives them their power is that everything outside of them is, simply, not a flower

There are clever folk among us who write books and have great plans and theories and hypotheses that no one understands

and they could save the planet but their brilliance doesn't count us stupid folk outnumber them by SUCH a large amount

The Danger of Artificial Intelligence

They'll know what you eat and they'll know when you sleep they'll know all the ways that you're sort of a creep they'll know where you go and they'll know what you say and they'll know how you vote there's no getting away a decade or two and I think you will find the AI machines will control all our minds

With Apologies to Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood and I took the one less traveled but knowing how way leads onto way that's how my life's unraveled

Original Sin

Some folks say we all begin with a thing called original sin so we wear a ton of clothing all religion is self-loathing

The Transformative Power of a Kiss

Matter and energy, matter and energy Move through the universe, looking for trouble looping and swirling, and drifting and curling And constantly transforming into each other

Stars and whole galaxies, clashes! Calamities! Atmospheres form that can burst like a bubble Life may arise under blue summer skies Or perhaps a more sullen, tempestuous cover

All of creation is just transformation a changing from one state, into another one there is no end and there was no beginning this is a deal which will never be done

The trees in the forest, each one is a spire They reach for the sun, then they're food for the fire

the flames reach so high, and they crackle and spark

like wannabe stars in an ocean of dark

Two pairs of lips, on two separate people pulled, like two magnets, into a kiss there's an explosion of rapture and ecstasy bright flaming passion and infinite bliss

Matter and energy, matter and energy looking for trouble, they're always to blame a permanent change in the lives of two people and nothing ever will be the same

Thoughts on Formal Poetry

Roses are red, Violets are blue Sonnets are sonnets, haiku are haiku Both, at least partially, are defined by the number of syllables in each line If you don't want to follow those rules Call it something else and it's still cool

Nominee for Worst Poem Ever Written

Of all the poems ever written This, in fact, may be the worst Koho večer svědí zadek tomu ráno smrdí prst

Kill Your TV

When you're walking down the street on a sunny day you'll see lots of people sitting at outdoor cafés eating, drinking, talking, laughing and it's understood that, in this sweet moment life is good Regard the birds up in the sky, who flit from tree to tree and fill our souls with happiness because they are so free Or smell the flowers as you walk along the flowery lane and let their fragrant pheromones float freely through your brain See the children in the park how joyously they play among the leaves of autumn or the bursting buds of May A walk outdoors will almost always help improve your mood but just watch the news five minutes And you'll know that we're all screwed

Still Not That Good

Movies are the model of the worlds we'd like to make and contrariwise, some worlds which we would not They're not exactly science, but they're more than simply fake They're the best guide to the future that we've got

Enough to Make You Cry

If you have an onion which you divide by pi now it's an opinion do not ask me why

Streams of Continuity

Embedded in reality are streams of continuity the DNA which moves from soul to soul throughout eternity Each copulation is a link within the chain of destiny from infants in the nursery through schools and universities to scientists, who chip away at all the ancient mysteries of physics and biology and art and archaeology the micro and the macro are all part of one cosmogony The river that runs to the sea that is absorbed into the sky then falls as gentle rain upon the flowers, houses, streets and trees from infinite complexity a pattern of simplicity are streams of continuity embedded in reality

All Great Truths Begin as Blasphemies

All great oaks begin as acorns
Everything is growing, changing
Everything is rearranging
We are human, we are yearning
for more knowledge, so we're learning
as we feed that primal urge
sometimes, when we're very lucky
there are truths which will emerge

Incel Rebellion

When people who are not oppressed go marching in the street and they wave their misspelled banners and stomp their angry feet "We are white, male, heterosexuals! Life is so unfair!" We all just look at them and laugh 'cause no one really cares

I Have a Magic Power

I have a magic power
I can change into a tiger
and it only takes a moment
the transition is complete
Then I walk around the shopping mall
and wave at all the children
they wave back at me and smile
and it's really very sweet

The Multipolar Mind

In a world of laughter and tears pain and pleasure hopes and fears The wind in the treetops the birds in the sky a sweet hint of freedom yet, everything dies In a world of day and night so many gradations and changes of light the glow of the candle to bright neon signs the colors and shapes and different designs In a world of science and magic thought and language music and art Where every ending is a beginning and sums can be greater than all of their parts

In a world of trees and flowers oceans and rivers and puddles and streams rocks and insects and reality never quite measuring up to our dreams In a world of infinite time where we measure our years in days and in minutes we've stories and legends and books and movies this world has so many worlds within it In a world so complicated in a world of so much stuff bi-polar thinking's not nearly enough

Eternal Music

Music transcends time
Music transcends space
Music transcends social strata
gender, age, and race
It's in the air, it's all around
it gets inside your head
and there will still be music
even after we are dead

After the Virus

Things were looking mighty bleak for human civilization there was famine, war, environmental degradation we were wrapping things in plastic and raising the next generation to unleash them on the world without an education it clearly looked, for all with eyes like a hopeless situation and then, within a virus there was a slight mutation that spread throughout the world and killed off half the population and then, the air and water cleared as if a new world had appeared and trees, and grass and flowers grew as if it had been born anew and underneath its soft, blue sky were lots of bees and butterflies Sure, people mourned for all the lives of parents, children, husbands, wives and then they went back out again to rebuild the world of men they plowed the Earth for miles around and sucked more oil from the ground because....nature tends to set things right but human beings aren't that bright

It's a Web

Each road leads to another road and so the whole world is interconnected every problem has a solution everything can be corrected

Day by Day

The past is gone, it can't be changed and we are here and now we just keep going day by day as best as we know how

Time Change

Dip your toe into the stream and feel the water rushing past time can be like that, it seems and nothing's meant to last

In our dreams, the flow's less steady change can happen instantly as if time itself had come untethered from reality

Then we wake, and time returns proceeding at its measured pace I wish I could, I wish I could go back into the dreaming place

Acceptance

Happiness comes in the absence of worry
Happiness comes when you're feeling no pain
It doesn't cost money to laugh at what's funny
to walk in the sunshine, to dance in the rain
Good food, good friends,
drinks and good music
all we have to do is accept what is there
some people might call this
"a lack of ambition"
but if you are happy, you don't have to care

The Human Code

You may think of blank, white paper as a canvas or a screen and the ink is shaped in symbols it's a code people have been writing down the things they see and hear for about the last 10,000 years or so it's a recording of our species all our hopes and all our dreams of a future world which hasn't happened yet words of wisdom, words of comfort words of love and words of joy are in the letters of the alphabet

Historical Turning Point

At some point in the future when no one's wearing masks our children and our grandkids most certainly will ask Where were you, and what did you do during the quarantine? Who were you with, and how were you changed in the era of Covid-19?

The Factor of Relevance in Perception and Memory

We see so many things each day and touch and hear them, too some make an impression but most things never do until we have a reason then suddenly we care and we say "Oh, gee, I didn't even know that that was there"

March, 2020

The Forsythia are blooming great tufts of golden light and the daisies scattered on the lawn are little dots of white The willow trees are all decked out in a soft and friendly green and there isn't so much traffic so the air is fresh and clean It is the season of rebirth you see it far and wide Spring, sweet spring is on the Earth and we're all stuck inside Soon, the crisis will be passed the sad part is that then we will all rush back outside and muck it up again

Working on a Building

Primary colors, the Table of Elements All of the alphabets, notes on a scale These are the bricks of the building we're building these are the signs that are marking the trail As we go forward, into the future building a world that's not bound by reality outside of time and all physical laws it isn't perfect yet, it's just a prototype it has its problems and it has its flaws Exploring this land of wonders and visions there's no way to know what we're going to find there are no mysteries deeper and darker than those that are hidden inside our own minds Adding, subtracting, and mixing and stirring deleting the bad and embracing the good some day we'll live in a global utopia Live long and prosper, just like we should

Thank You

You took a look
You read my book
I thank you quite sincerely
If there's one thing
a writer needs
it's people
who still like to read
and that you are,
my shining star,
quite clearly