

APPROVED FOR TASTING

These lost children
get into you
like viper thorns
under the calloused sole.
There is no log
to sit on for relief.

These make a nice package;
yes, they come in pairs
and separation is out of the question:
when a match is stripped
both bones strike and burn
but run down more quickly.

This one's history
is mixed; for you,
perhaps, another choice
would be more suitable.
There's no sense
in starting off badly,
is there?

I see trouble ahead
in this one's life
despite our furthest efforts;
still, there's an attraction.
We all relish challenge.

These are the best
we have to offer,
any of these;
no, over here.
There is no guarantee
but the one you make
amongst yourselves.