

DAVID SHERMAN

Two Poems

1. People Generate Events When They Show up Unexpectedly; or, the Will-to-Personality

The closer we get to football season,
the more I regret the fact that I have

no limbs. I like bodies; I just don't like
embodiment, yet another

pyramid scheme targeted at the very
young. With my money I bet on the teams

that no one else sees on the field,
the teams that could have been

but weren't, victims of the recent defects
in causality. This happens, then

supposedly that, then supposedly
nothing. It's the things that don't happen

that confuse me; was I there or not? And
who's legally liable? No one will sell me

insurance for the non-events in my life,
fearing, understandably, the sheer volume

of claims. I once heard a song about this,
which has been stuck in my head for years.

Years are my favorite events; each one has
a Superbowl. The songs stuck in my head

have blended into a single anthem
I call my “personality.” Music

would be more useful nowadays if it
weren’t so repetitive, the same notes

always coming around again. When I
study the functional graphs of my life,

trying to discern the algorithm
of my failures, I can almost hear it

as a melody, little leaps and falls
that would bring a man to dancing if he

could. This is the kind of thing you might not
notice. This is the kind of thing that happens.

2. Contributors’ Notes

Jacob Benightly, the editor of this volume, has adhered to the conventions of grammar and syntax since he was first persuaded to use them as an adolescent. He has admissible evidence that this collection was conceived while technically sober, according to the legal definition in Montana.

Triumph O’Donnell has taught Creative Evolution at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After serving as his own personal diplomat to Spain for several years (special Cultural Activities liaison), he has returned to his native Harrisburg, PA, as senior manager of his goldfish and refrigerator. He is pleased to be included in this volume.

Franklin Dellany, a long member of the Florentine Acrobats of Implausibility, has been publishing his memoirs since 1968, the year of his first of many differently themed Bar Mitzvahs. He currently lives in the suburbs of Anchorage, where he maintains an ambivalent relationship with trends in global warming.

Barbara Hindsickle, after being disqualified from running for public office in most states due to tax fraud, became a political speechwriter, specializing in moral indignation. She is currently completing a book of history, *Strategic Misfiring: Presidential Synopses and The Cold War*, about world leaders who have deployed senility for the national interest in foreign affairs.

Jake Coutriame has resembled Walter Cronkite since birth. He is a recent recipient of the Medal of Honor from the Friends of King Arthur Society, awarded once every nine years to “an individual who has shown commitment and humor in a life-long effort of pulling swords from solids.” This is his first publication on the topic of non-traditional uses for breast milk.

Nielson Bobhollow Smith has sung with the Rikers Island Acapella Sensation for six years and expects to continue to do so for the next twenty-four years to life. Enrolled in various distance-learning programs, he is researching and writing a series of pamphlets about the ineffable.

Dominica Acevedo has frequently refuted the world as “everything that is the case” in dance, painting, and piñata-based performance art. She dedicates her work in this volume to her sponsor, Nike, and notes that she wrote it while wearing Nike shoes.

Lenice Fieldsmith, the oldest living anarchist with no compromising ties to Stalin or Castro, has never written anything but sonnets. Although she has been accused of sectarianism, she has been jailed by a wide range of political parties throughout Western Europe and the Americas. Her poetry readings at public libraries around Cleveland, her home town, frequently incite riots.

Lisa Rightracket, a Federal Express delivery person, is not aware that her work, found on a street in Pittsburgh, is included in this volume. She is tall, angular, and wears knee-high socks.

Hugh Blemoth is author of the non-Pulitzer Prize-winning dramatic trilogy *Cooking for Loathsome Cretins*, about growing up among mammals. He is also the author of a book of Southwestern Cuisine: *Cooking for Loathsome Cretins*.

Nancy Chu, who has been expertly name-dropping twentieth-century French philosophers since the age of fourteen, is a composer, choreographer, sculptor, and heroin dealer. She struggles in her art—as in her life—to attend to personal hygiene.

Oguto Salema spends much of his time trying to make sense of what he sees from his Brooklyn, NY, apartment window. Unsure of his own ontological horizons or existential preconditions, Oguto frequently writes letters to the editors of major newspapers around the world. This is his first publication.