

A Boilermaker for the Lady

Fred Yannantuono

NY
Q Books™

The New York Quarterly Foundation, Inc.
New York, New York

NYQ Books™ is an imprint of The New York Quarterly Foundation, Inc.

The New York Quarterly Foundation, Inc.
P. O. Box 2015
Old Chelsea Station
New York, NY 10113

www.nyqbooks.org

Copyright © 2009 by Fred Yannantuono

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without written permission of the author. This book is a work of fiction. Any references to historical events, real people or real locales are used fictitiously. Other names, characters, places, and incidents are products of the author's imagination, and any resemblance to actual events or locales or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

First Edition

Set in New Baskerville

Layout and Design by Raymond P. Hammond
Cover Photo by Fred Yannantuono

Library of Congress Control Number: 2009931574

ISBN: 978-1-935520-06-1

Contents

Cigars	13
I Miss the Time When There Was No Real World	14
My Librarian Looks at Love	15
Lines Written While Adding Three Inches to My Penis	17
Salt	18
Hands	19
Grand Central	20
Death of an Olive	22
Sonnet to Whatever It Is That Kills Porcupines	23
Katabasis in Jag	24
Grapefruit	25
Limericks	26
Message in a Bottle Palindrome	27
On the Sixth Day Palindrome	27
Palindrome for an Average Player	27
There in the Citrus-Scented Air	28
Amour Propre	29
Bean There, Done That	30
One Less Thing to Think About	31
The Evil of Two Lessers	32
83 Poems on Baking Bread	34
Piscataway	35
How Strange and Complete	36
The Thought of It	37
A Boilermaker for the Lady	38
Big Joe & Sons	39
More Limericks	42
Incest Palindrome	43
Canine Delusions of Grandeur Palindrome	43
Ugandan Palindrome	43
Riggins	44
Refresh My Mammary, Ohne Büstenhalter	45
This Is Phthisis	46
I Hate to Second-Guess Myself, or Do I?	47

River Lure	48
She Wouldn't Say the Word Buffet	49
Requiem for Two Cents	50
Knife	51
Pebbles	52
Frog Pond	53
The River of Forgetfulness	54
Prayer to the Moon	56
Biscuit Villanelle	57
Smack My Ass and Call Me Sally	58
Boysshort \$7.50 (from H&M)	59
Three Clockmakers Fix My Clock	60
Scouring	62
Resurrection	63
Alcatraz	64
Frozen Pose	65
White Christmas	66
And Our Brains Have Sailed Away	67
Even More Limericks	68
Magritte's Palindrome	69
Sophisticated Courtship Palindrome	69
Philanderer's Palindrome	69
De Troot	70
It's Done, the Place Is Stripped	71
Bargeman	72
Too Few	73
The Beautiful Error	74
Bath	75
Until You Seduce a Lesbian, You'll Never Be Updike	76
The Return of Madame La Hoya	77

BATH

Every night I bathe in words,
soaping my armpits with adverbs,
squeezing a loofah full of pronouns over my head,
spritzing myself with vowels.

I love rubbing consonants over my chest,
lathering up my privates in fricatives and diphthongs,
rinsing off words like *very* and *hopefully*.
Sometimes I dive into a vat of adjectives,
break for the surface euphuistically,
wriggling through adjuncts and ablatives,
toweling off reluctantly,
already looking forward to the next bath.

LIMERICKS

Pedicures! God, they're effete!
Fiddling around with your feet.
If you can't procure
A good manicure,
This is the way to defeat.

I hope I'm not out of the loop
In worshipping Bacciagalupe.
And I'm in the habit
Of worshipping Abbott—
Hillary, Sidney, the group.

A seaman who ate his clams raw
Was tempted to try something more.
Though not touchy-feely,
He fondled scungilli,
Unheard of in maritime law.

I used to think it was a crock
This blaming things on writer's block
Till, nothing igniting,
I'm forcing the writing
And everything comes out as schlock.