



**neurotica:
cambodian poems**

by chris butler

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Down n the Dirt 2016 chapbook
publications

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when an abortion doesn't take

I never asked to be born.

So Pa,
you should have
shot me into
the sheets,

and Ma,
you never should
have received
the seed

of me,

because
afterbirth
was just a mess.

sargasm

The concept of me
was conceived
by a sarcastic orgasm,
as transsexual
deities jizzed
into a puddle
of silly putty
mixed with
lincoln logs,
then set the sun
on high for
nine months,
and called it
a job well done.

first thing

First thing
in the morning,
I cough myself
up
into a used tissue,
congealed by
the last thing
I did to myself
the night before.

a man

A man who sleeps on concrete beds with no cotton sheets or pillows
never rests his head.

A man who awakens to a fading overcast sunset of shaded gray
never shoots his star.

A man who endures hour icicle showers during winter mornings
never sheds his skin.

A man who stomachs the slaughter of a vegan's hunting season
never fills his gut.

A man who sells common sense for cents and exchanges it for happiness
never owns his soul.

A man who pays to play with fingertips pinned to skinless gadgets
never lives his life.

A man who allows gravitational pressure to induce scoliosis posture
never cracks his back.

A man who musters abrasive pulses of a bull's dosage of testosterone
never binds his balls.

A man who instigates internal warfare for the welfare of the world
never breaks his peace.

A man who surrenders to the fake phonetic contents of white pages
never writes his ending.

duck tape

Being a man,
I believe that I
and
all of my
problems
can be fixed by
duck tape.

But you'll only see
a shiny, silver mummy

with a stiffy.

broken asshole

Daily
diarrhea
forces my anus
to hemorrhage
hemorrhoids,
after the world
finishes fucking me
from behind
with a bandaged condom
secreting semen
and covered
in dirtied
AIDs blood,
without the common
courtesy of a
reach around.

in the closet

Broken skeleton,
autoerotically
asphyxiated.

bogeyman

At night,
I leave the windows and doors
unlocked
to my bedroom

and lay naked,
wearing no underwear,
crying out loud
without a sound,
choking on a
pacifier gagger,

in the hope I won't have to sleep alone
forever.

serenity

I find
a friend
of
a friend
in my
bed,

where
comfort
appears
after the
stranger
departs,

and the bipolar
cold melts
two hearts
into molds
of pure souls.

Misery loves
company
but
serenity never
sleeps
alone.

first kiss goodbye

I've fucked
every girl
that I've
ever kissed,

so does this
make me a
whore,

or just a
goddamn good
kisser?

:)

A colon
and parenthesis

:)

makes me happy
and a semicolon
wink

;)

makes me think
of you.

The two of us is
less than three

<3

but equals that I
love you.

But eventually,
you will only
see
a colon and
a capitol c

:C

and you know
what that means.

la la la love

Love
is the conductor
on my inner orchestra,

featuring an angel's vocal solo,
backed up by sirens' chorus,
a ribcage xylophone crescendo,
the vanae caveas brass section,
heart strings strummed and
a pumping bass line pulse,

until we beat in rhythmic sync.

u

My favorite letter
in the English
alphabet is
w,
because more of
you
is always better.

cavity

She's so sweet
her kiss gives me
cavities,

but I don't need
Novocain to
kill the pain.

I want to feel
everything.

perfume

She is never
absent from
my presence,
when I am
awarded with
the present
of her scent
embedded in
my fabric,
so when she
is away,
I can't help
but smell
myself.

easy

She helps me
sleep
through the night,
despite never
laying next to me,
and with only the
thought of her
breath resting
against my neck,
it makes me
sleep
easy.

blew

When she blew me
that last kiss,
I tried to
pocket and save it
for an eternal later,
but I didn't know
I was also carrying
around a hole,
so it's long lost
along with all of my
loose change.

Icarus

I've plucked v flocks of ducks
and bathed my skin in superglue,
just so I may fly to you.

smorgasbord

I grant you permission
to be the whore of my heart,
bullshitting circles over my
chest as you play the dart,
a carnivore feasting on
organs crystallized hard,
seated in a fancy restaurant
wrapped with fine art,
expressing our satisfaction
with cigarette sparks
and lukewarm farts,
before the waitress
snaps the plastic credit
low score cards,
then I must begin again
from the start.

hopeless romantic

I write her love letters
without a signature,

while falling for her
on tendon bended knee

after tripping over
my stuttering words.

I present flowers
borrowed from grim reapers,

sing love songs
with my one man band

and offer rings
to quadriplegic mistresses,

proposing engagements
for dates set by fate.

I'm a hopeless romantic
claiming to be a poet.

pretentious Venus

She was my
pretentious Venus,
stiffening this
flaccid penis
despite my
placid
erectile
dysfunction,

bounding my two
turtle-shelled
testicles
into a rubber
band bound
memorial,

neutered
to better suit
my suitor.

medusa

The snake
licks her lips
with a forked tongue,
whispering with lips
against my sensitive skin,
slithering spineless into
constrictive positions
around my internal organs,
until I'm frozen in stone.

But every time I think
I've cut off her head,
another deadly dread
grows back.

money shot

I can no longer
take pleasure
in pornography,

for fear
that the girl,
whose love
I once
suffered over,

might be the star
of the money shot.

gone fishing

Keeping my head
above water,
I am able to see
all of the fish
swimming in the sea,
but I'm not yet
brain dead, so
I know that none
of their schools
will accept me.

toad

Even desperate princesses
French kiss frogs.

love won't come

Love won't come
from just anyone.

Love won't come
if unspoken of.

Love won't come
when blind and dumb.

Love won't come
from up above.

Love won't come
like rising suns.

Love won't come
with turtledoves.

Love won't come
in red rose groves.

Love won't come
by touching gloves.

Love won't come
until two becomes one.

Love won't come
from under a thumb.

Love won't come
with forced shoves.

Love won't come
when cumbersome.

Love won't come
except for some.

garden

Laying in
her
dirty bed,
I plunge
my pointer
and middle
finger
several inches
into the
moist soil,
to plant
the buds
that just
may bloom
into a
beautiful
flower.

forgetting the words to her clichéd phrase

Laying within her
during the denouement
of our one night stand,
I repeat inside of my
rapidly depleted head
the clichéd phrase
scarred into the
skin of her right
forearm,

but apparently not
enough times
to remember
those words,
so this poem
could not have
a better
title.

dirty secret

I am her
dirty secret,
together
forever
by our
dried fusion
of sweat
and cum,
until I am
washed off
in the shower
the morning
after
when one thing
led to
another.

sober woman

I love her whenever I am sober,
but she just likes to fuck me when she's drunk.
I throw my body overboard for her
from our relationship set sail then sunk.

Her kiss swirls my brain cells to succumb
on her moistened tongue, stimulating
my words to slur stumbling mumbles, dumb
enough to forget her masturbating.

The other nights I long for her longer,
as she disappears in the red lit bars
to cuddle up with another lover,
only to return in a stranger's car.

I know now the truth as to why she lies,
seeing through her inebriated eyes.

buzzed

The busy bee,
dizzy from
the day's
work of
deflowering
her earth,

gets buzzed
from the love
he receives
in the webbed
bed of a
black widow,

neglecting to
notice his
dismembered
abdomen.

yellow wife beater

The Louisville Slugger,
wearing a beer stained
wife beater, struggles with
his anger as he swings for
the fences and hits the misses
in her kisser, then
kisses her to make
it all better.

violence

The holes in the wall
are fresh from her last
appearance.

Battering painted plaster
into asbestos crumbs

creates craterous
emotions, from
gritting knuckles
forming decorations
of demarcated waves,

just to picture
my fist through
her world.

in a box

All of my past loves
are locked in a box,
buried in the
basement.

Our repressed memories
live inside of a
cardboard coffin
sporting Air Jordan,

holding bouquets
of wilting plastic flowers
sprinkled with the ashes
of soulless photographs

and love letters sponging
up gallons of gasoline.
But in the box my loves stay
until a teenaged February day.

dead rose

I gave her
the final rose
on the bush

but she let
each petal
wilt away...

...she loves me,
she loves me not,
she loves me,
she loves me not...

Before the first
frost of winter,
the beheaded stem
regenerated one
more flower...

...she loves me,
she loves me not.

the funeral director's daughter

I met her at the funeral
of my former lover,
as she greeted the
spectators
and collected their
black jackets.

She wore a black dress,
black hair, black nails,
black eyes and a
blank stare.

After the ceremony,
we strolled
through the cemetery,
while I pilfered
flowers from forgotten
graves for her pleasure,
and we pictured
our matching heart-
shaped caskets,

until she left me
for a dead guy,
once she realized
that I was alive.

garbage pail Gail

Garbage Pail Gail

was the whorish hoarder
for the aborted treasures
of others.

She threw her last baby away
yet she kept her precious
collected keepsakes safe
inside herself.

She had become cluster
fucked by the overwhelming
clutter of depression- era
newspapers molding in the
fruit cellar, covering the
taxidermy statues of feral
felines with plastic artifacts
classified as knick-knacks
and her vacuum sealed
soul, littered and archived
across the condemned
flea market,

when the frayed
leftover copper wire
twist-tied to faulty
electrical sockets
sparked over the
desiccated stacks
of trash,
combusting her world's
worth of stuff into
possessive flames,

but in her attempt to
prolong her belongings,
she could not be saved.

negative Nancy

Negative Nancy
possessed no positivity,
expecting the worst
since aborting her birth.

Negative Nancy
could not see
the bright side
of the sunrise.

Negative Nancy
trampled pansies
because she thought
they'd cry drops of dew.

Negative Nancy
waited outdoors on rainy
days just to color over
rainbows with dark markers.

Negative Nancy
was only a lonely
loner finding comfort
in strangers.

Negative Nancy
slept in cemeteries
for the peace
of quiet company.

Negative Nancy
stomped atop the streets
until she met Mr. Nice Guy,
who made her smile.

lmfao

I don't speak text,
yet I can talk to you
in your foreign language

through the carpal tunnel dialing
of our cellular dismemberment,

but what will we say
when there are no
electronics between us?

I'm on silent.

all alone

All alone,
off on my own.
All alone,
a hobo in my home.
All alone,
flying higher than solo drones.
All alone,
under a mossy stone.
All alone,
buried with a dead dog's bone.
All alone,
lost in this limitless limbo.
All alone,
roaming down ghost town roads.
All alone,
out into the great unknown.

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by the following publishers:

Asphodel Madness 2.0
Boyslut
The Camel Saloon
Dark Chaos
Horror Sleaze Trash
Leaf Garden Press
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Books:

*Hope Quest in the Arctic, the Whiskey, One Cover Before Striking, (Women), Autumn Rain, Contacts Under Pressure, the Average Guy's Odds (to Founding), Changing Gears, the Key to Believing, Domestic Matters, Eric, Corvus, Eurus Verax, L'arte, The Other Side, The Best Lady's Editorial (regular and 2003 Expanded Edition), Duality, Seeking Things Differently, Change/Revenge, Death Comes in Threes, Moving Performance, Six Evers, Life of Cafe Alibi, Cream, Rough Mitten, The Embassy Project, The Other Side (2004 Edition), Stop, Stay Your Life, The Beauty and the Destruction, e&d v1&7.5 (Writing to Honor & Grieve, other editor), Blister & Burn (the Koyers edition), S&L, e&d v170.5 Distinguished Writings editor, Living in Chaos, Silent Screams, Taking It All In, It All Comes Down, Hiding to the Surface, Outspaced, Chapter 38 (v1, v2 & v3), Finally, Literature for the Sassy and Elite (v1, v2 & part 7), a Wake-Up Call From Tradition, (recovery), Dark Matter: the Mind of Janet Koyers, Evolution, (two), Got Your Buzz On, Janet & Joan Together, pe-on, Taking Poetry to the Streets, the One-Sided Old-Lovers Union, the Written Word, Don't Prepare Her for This, Uncovered, Living in a Big World, Pulled the Trigger, Vectors to the Unknown, Janet Koyers: Enchanted, Sir's an Open Book, "40", Section and Other Stories, the Status of Things, Prominent Poet (Koyers edition), Hometown, the 2012 Databook, Prominent Poets, Classic Elements, Poems, Stability Stability Still Stab Stab, a Poet's Worth 1,000 words (e&d art book and i&d art book), Life in Color, Post-Apocalyptic, Burn Through Me, Under the Sea (e&d book), Partial Reality, Revealed, 100 Hidden, Give me the Honey, Let me See you Stripped, Part of my Pulse, Hope Seeks Life & Death, Say Nothing, Tattered, when you dream tonight, the Parallel Table of Poetry, a year long Journey, Ben Vengard, Introduction of my Prime, Annie: an Understanding of her Art, The Electronic Windmill, Changing Wonders, the Swan Road, the Significance of the Frontier, The Svetovidarska Unpublished, Harvest of Gems, the Little Monk, Death in Midlife, Moments Not in the Palace of Creation, R.I.P., Bob the Rumble Bee, Remnants and Shadows, I Saw This, the Drive, Thomas of Ten, Creating Down Hintershi, Blue Collar Ballet, appears, in Your Best the Apocalyptic's Vestiges of God, the Adventures of the Key to Believing Boy, Annie: An Understanding of her Art (second printing), **Deardr Klander / Charly Newman**, 12 Times 12 Equals Gross, a Marble Nodis Pauline Barthes with a Marble Apple in her Marble Head, Challenge of Night and Day and Chicago Poems, Lighten Up, Not Far From Here, Watershed, You Have Finally Won, Avenue C, Suburban Rhythms, Down Syndrome, the Dark Side of Love, the pill is a man's best friend, Angel's Syllable is Good Boss of Devil's Spine, Poems and Stories from The Blue Collar Book of the Dead, Cat People, Death of an Angel, Ghost, Science: A Camargue's View, Ghost Dancers Leaping from a Tone, the 4-D Window, Open Wounds, Anime Junkie, Intersite, Gunther, Cats, Scream Cloud Island, When the World was Black and White, a Petal Under Pavement, the Holy See of CEE, Book 15 * Thailand to Volcanoes, Lost in an Echo, I Was Charles Bronson's Secret Hostage, Eretable Road, Royal Dane's Death Scene 'tis of Thee, Understood, Alaschic Shotgun, Champagne - Hot Water, How a Bullet Believes, the Strings in the Lounge at WagonWheel (I Come in Avicaria), Postcards from Exile, the Five Steps of Macbeth, Stay in Formation, Showdown Other Footprints, the Gel Next Door and Other Poems, Major Arcana, Sine Peoria Malle est Gloria, Short Takes, Seeing Strangers, Re-Viewing Amis, The Tribes Joshua Drove Out of the Land, History of the Incontinent, Hummer-Chaind, No Red! - No Ocean, Donding at the Abyss, a nation of toddlers with guns, the Blazing Flaming of 100 Drummers, Make the Wind, the Planner, the Corrosion, the Cowbirds, Cowboy Hats and Rainbows, Give What You Can, Come Fly with Me, One of the Web, Don't Travel on Me, Entering the Ice Age, the Line to Power, Fear the Forsaken, Falling Into Place, Undersnow, Forever Bound, Exploding on the Scene, Moving the Earth, Autumn Again, Up In Smoke, No Return, Worrying It Up, link in its Chain, Shot out of a Cannon, incelside link, a sw era, hole, Friction, Sex Drift, and Then he Moved, Approaching Front, Beyond the Gates, the Curve of Arctic Air, Idea, a Mad Escape, Testament, the New Dead, the Captive and the Dead, When the Walls are Paper Thin, Nighttime City, Suggested Torture, Down in the Dirt v0&4, Clearing the Debris, Skeletal Remains, When the World Settles, Along the Surface, Into the White, Life... from Nothing, Down In It, Wake Up and Smell the Flowers, Looking Beyond, See the World, Burn, America the Lost, Catch Fire in the Treetops, Wisdom in Broken Hinges, Symbols Manifest, Grounded, Perfectly Imperfect, I Pull the Strings, am I really extinct, Home at Last, Spiraling, a Rural Story, Treading Water, Black Cat, a Bad Influence, Too Many Miles, the Path of Least Resistance, hello goodbye goodbye hello, When the Walls are Paper Thin, Planets Apart, Planets Apart, Nighttime City, the Breaking, Suggested Torture, Now moon, a Perfect Solitude, 8 Feet Under, The Hive, the 23 Enigma, Suicidal Birds, Being Red, the Blind Eye, the Redic the Effort the Yell, Sulphur & Sordid, Slate & Marrow, Blister & Burn, Kiss & Repeat, Survive & Thrive, (not so) Warm & Fuzzy, Torture & Triumph, Oh, the Elements, Side A/Side B, Balance, Chaos Theory, Writing To Honor & Grieve, Distinguished Writings, Breaking Silences, Unlocking the Mysteries, the Book of Stars, We The Poets, Life on the Edge, Revealing all your Dirty Little Secrets, George Remmie, Charred Remnants, Rage & Creation, Beating the Curve, Layers of Creation, Don't Matter, Service of the Finest, Crawling Through the Dirt, Laying the Groundwork, Watched, who, link in my blood, (second) [4 editions], Enchanted Poets, e&d Enchanted Poets, Enchanted with Dirt, An Open Book, Literary Tumbler (2 editions), Prominent Poet (2 editions), 100 Words, 1,000 Words, the 2012 Literary Date Book, It Was All Forgiven, Cultural Touchstone, the Mission (e&d edition and chapbook edition), Purposes, Falling, Cheap Thrills, After the Apocalypse 2013 date book, After the Apocalypse (poetry edition), Entertainment, Guilt by Association, don't listen, read, be minimum, Post as Socioeconomic, Drowning, Art is not Meant to be Touched, the Beaten Path, a New Pen, Need to Know Beats (e&d extended edition and extended edition), the "need to know" 2015 literary date book, one Solitary Word, What Must be Done, Adrift, Salvation, the 2016 literary date book anthology, the Chosen Few, Sunlight in the Sanctuary, from Smoke, the Intersection, a Storying Binding, Clouds Over My Moon*

Compact Discs:

Men's Favorite Vice the drama tapes, Koyers the Tool (MP3 Inclusive), Wands and Flowers the beauty & the desolation, The Second Acting Something is Sweating, The Second Acting Live in Alaska, Petrus & Koyers Live of Cafe Alibi, MPaintines Orchestra Rough Mitten, Koyers Seeking Things Differently, 50/50 Tick Tock, Koyers Change Rearrange, Order From Chaos the Embassy Project, Koyers SA One One, Koyers Stop, Koyers Masterful Performances mp3 CD, Koyers Death Comes in Threes, Koyers Changing Gears, Koyers Dreams, Koyers How Do I Get There?, Koyers Contests-Collaps-Curtain, the DMU Art Connection the DMU Art Connection, Koyers Disasters in a World Without Koyers, Koyers TEDD Radio (2 CD set), Men's Favorite Vice and the Second Acting These Tapes, unrecorded artist string theory, Oh (audio CD), Life in the City (13 CD set), the DMU Art Connection Indian Fox, the DMU Art Connection Moose Expressive or Something, Classic Radio Classic Radio Week #1, Classic Radio Classic Radio Week #2, Classic Radio Classic Radio Week #3, Classic Radio Classic Radio Week #4, Classic Radio Classic Radio Week #5, Classic Radio the Classic Collection Collection #01 02 03 04 set (audio CD, 2 CD set), Classic Elements (2 CD set), Class in Motion (4 CD set), 50/50 Scratching to a Halt (EP), P&L Two for the Price of One (EP), K&L, J&K and Haystack An American Parrot, Koyers the Beated Top/Paul Baker/The Johnson Parrots Trio, Fusion (4 CD set), postcards the Evolution of Performance Art (13 CD set), Koyers Live (14 CD set), the DMU Art Connection the Things They Did to You (2 CD set), Koyers Seeking a Psychical (13 CD set), Koyers SA, Post-13 CD set, Koyers the 2009 Poetry Game Show (3 CD set), Koyers and the Hillman of South Africa Burn Through Me (2 CD set), Koyers "40", Koyers Section and Other Stories, Koyers the Stories of Woman (amazon.com release), Koyers "Debra Cole" (4 CD set), Koyers "Summer" (4 CD set), Koyers "Letting It All Out", Koyers "What We Need in Life" (CD single), Koyers "Made Any Difference" (CD single), Koyers/Archie/Ed "Across the Pond" (3 CD set)