CEE

2013 chapbook Scars Joise Scars To Drummer Hoff, who, in Drummer Hoff, fired it off.

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Thank you. I am in debt to you. Here is some advice: Monsters Can Hurt You.

—loose text quotation, from the arcade video game, Black Tiger (1987; Capcom)

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This slender book of verse represents one in a series of 4 chaps, each delineating on one aspect of the following third-rate CEE poem:

The Quartering of the Universe Into Active and Passive Principles

Booze Beasts of Burden* Heraldry Death The 4 Basic Food Groups of Existence

The drunkie-wunkie stuff, is elsewhere. My treatise on spacious skies, amber waves of grain, purple mountains' majesty, a fruited plain and a shining sea, is also elsewhere. You can read about dying in a different chap, too, pretend you relate and "know". This is the BEASTS OF BURDEN volume, taking its cue not from Br'er Donkey or the weak bet that finished 4th in the Preakness, but from the institution of marriage and cohabitation. I'm truthfully no good at this subject. Like higher math, it looks interesting, but requires effort.

I really thought you just paired off. Really. Just paired off. Simple approach, take her by the hand, no different than asking someone to dance. It was just a lifelong dance, that's all, a Lindy Hop at 78 RPM...but, together, you know: "Here we are. Let's hang out. Your toothbrush goes there. No, no kids for me, thanks, I'm allergic." Very simple. Quite easy. No mess, no fuss. Add water, stir. *Voila!* I find Otherness an impossible concept. It seems a mere hoax, something sociologists make up, so prospective couples have a choice of which party gets subjugated. One or the other does, I've found. My mother once revealed that as the Secret to Marital Bliss. I'd queried in my 30's, re: the "50-50" thing, and she said, "It'd be nice if it worked like that, CEE, but in my lifetime (she died @ 82), that isn't what I've seen. The marriages I've seen that survived and worked best, were the ones where one person did 90% of the giving."

Amen, Mom. I'm screaming down myself on the half-century mark, and I've seen exactly 4 marital archetypes pass by. Either he grovels or she crawls, or it's Balboa vs. Creed, Round 14...or, both parties are emotionally dead. And, don't know it. And, don't care. And, those statisticians pretending to be professors, hold the dead people up to us as "the norm". And maybe, in this post-9/11, head-blur SFX straight out of *Jacob's Ladder*, they should be.

However, speaking for myself, I much prefer the *Rocky* fight. It's far more exciting, if painful. As I've said many times, Drama IS Conflict. Within the maelstrom of LoveHateLove, at least I know I'm alive. Yo! Cut me, Mick!

CEE doing morning milking, Chicago, IL, October 8th, 1871

I'd love to drive the Autobahn

like it was some Coleco piece a' fantasy Walkin' the *lines...! Nah-Nah*, Nahnana-*Nahnah*, nahnana Heavy-Ba-BOOM "Oh, NO!" explosion And, you learn After 70 or 80 or 100 cars But, that's not gonna happen, A.I. scientists Metal and wire people are just four-digit IQ Quasimodos Until we can be as unreal As at least Really Bad vuh-dee-oh, You haven't improved the species

The Battle of Hampered Crossroads (Ironclad Selves)

Wind and water Pierced by hotshot Our tears I, ignorant hogfat casemate You, cold cheesebox of dark Unknowable, closed off, we See out but to Damage Hurting, marring, Ugly-ing But never to purpose Never getting through Only Wind and water Pierced by "What about me?"

As opposed to "We"

Is that new person The one you don't actually know Yet, Is that person a monster?

You're asking Me? You're Serious?

If you're at least of voting age, Do a quick fruits inspection Re: Your little life in the human orchard, Okay? You got that? Now, ask your dumb question It's really only a Menu choice Between They and Ye as Human persons And, "Wii"

(Sam Kinison, etc.)

That's a succubus on that bed of roses That's an incubus on that bed of roses That's a demon on that bed of roses I'm the gender that got hurt I'm the gender that does no hurt I'm the one who is bled I'm the one who is the victim Relationships don't work out for me I am full of Love

Only the vampires love

CEE

I see London I see France I see means to ends Humankind is, as with its own, collected WisDumb of the Ages Mosaic scraps, An enterprising force of nature Might use quite a number of human scraps To construct a soulish ransom note Which reads as follows: "One of us is Going to have to be reasonable, and It's not going to be Me." Which isn't a wild bunch different From a stereo-desperado Blasting his nickelplate: "Dance! Dance!" That's pretty cruel, pard That's your reflection If it's not, I assume you were abused Which case, It's the reflection that took yours Away

And, kids are bills

Eat my bluebird Bite my rose We're just gonna hurt each other I can't be "good" I'm not some soaring something That "behaves" itself Up your reality! I'm just a squab Yes I'm only a squab

Little red hearts and pretty, happy things

Why is You stabbing me with *your*Self More legitimate Than *Me* stabbing you with *my*Self? Why is it legitimate?? What legitimizes it??? Just because I can't argue Why it's *not* legitimate Doesn't mean that *ipso facto* It *is* legitimate My humble: You lose, Because I'm Me and you ain't Chevy Chase

Song of Bathsheba (Zip It)

She hands the camera to her man After laying down all these rules, that They're really no more than friends before Jesus They're at the park, it's warm, She says take her picture And he takes several And at least one I noticed later, how could ya Not?, Was from neck to knees, close up Of the Who he apparently was wasting time with In the sunnywarm park Trying to get beyond Jesus, When he could be tokin' out Or watching the Cubs lose Or jammin' to old metal Or something else without Other words In other words, he had a Life to get back to His Life, no one else's But this R. Crumb HDR scaledown Of the essential Who he was with Spelled it all out I'll say it did, You could read "Calvin Klein" In the zipper-pull tab of her shorts Like it was Lindbergh Baby headlines

Daydreamin' on the airport pathways

I didn't love to be loved in return But if I wasn't I sure didn't hang around Mowing her lawn

Express Relationshipping and Handling

No one's asking you to mother me For one thing, that would mean you're in charge And, nobody wants a maid Who said anything about a maid? Leave it on the floor Walk around it Who CARES?!? Nononono, wait, wait No Be No Such Thing As "Partner" "Partnership" is a law firm, even\ steven, 50-50 Allagoddammedtime As we sit and stare in glossy stasis lock FrozenFuckingFantasyland Liquid Nitrogen Tip-It humans Traditionally painted, warm-cheeked Toy people Nope, noooo No "Partnership" Someone is calling the shots in any diad In this one. Need I indicate?

What? What kind of person *am* I looking for? Uhhhh I just said

A World of When's Enough

CEE

Narcissism is bad Insecurity is bad Threading the needle of Human With boxing gloves on, Sigmund Freud as special guest star also starring as God Gets very sad and unhappy If you ain't an ancient Greek

Secondary emotions are tertiary

Injury fast in her eyes, Wounded murk pools Refusing to allow HD dawning of LCD image of him as The Thing Without a Name

"Can't you just show *compassion*?"

Two-Three-Four

"Um... Okay... Um... How's that one go?"

Cross-Cultural no-can-pollinate pollination

Nicaraguan "date" Years past the relationship Which my poor friend was still pitching pennies into, Says she wants to travel ANYWHERE BUT an American city, Because they (American cities) Alll look the saaame, They have the same street signs, the same businesses Date prognosticates, "Maybe I go to Mexico!" And my friend says, "Ah, I've been to Mexico, I was in Tijuana, once, and it's Alll poverty, it's an ugggly ciiittty!" A-huff, date puffs, "Ah! They have poverty in Amerika! 'You been to Cabrini Green?!" Commuter straight on, my friend says, "Yeah, but you don't take vacations to Cabrini Green."

Even The Monster Could Say "Friend"

Hello. Other Men's Wives I wish only to commiserate Because I am Open Free Genuine A genuine person Yes, I am, I'm genuine I genuinely am Hi (and they *buy* this) **Epiphany!** Take Fred Rogers Subtract Fred Rogers You've got an incubus

Get the Hell off Twitter

Super Macho Man

Fernando Lamas on Johnny Carson Explained what "macho" meant It sounded lame and boring Like a cross between having to be a guard at Buckingham Palace, just so's no one sneers at you, And and Actually, it just sounded like being the guard at **Buckingham** Palace No real emotion, all work, zero fun A lot of affected, King Kong thumpetyass If another man comes off at your SO Like an evil twin on a soap, but Other than that I don't see how it's any different from Walter Mitty buying a quart of milk Because he was ordered to

How much, for a lifetime of semiregular orgasms? Duty, Responsibility, Maturity, Honor, Stoicism. Hmm. How much for a houseful of tchotchkes? Oh, maybe, a couple hundred grand. Uhuh. Well. 'Paypal all right?

CEE

Nay Thee, Base Villain!

You know why people beat one another? Because it's all about You're god and nobody understands But, you go play god in an outburst Give it the old "YIELD!! Yield To Me!!" Like you're a king or knight or loincloth person In a story never-actually-written-you-just-think-it-was, You either get laughed at Or flipped off And, wounded fantasy is a very personal world So, people At that point Beat other people, physically Savagely Mr. T as Clubber Lang at Gettysburg on crank, Control issues, yeah, I agree, but It's really about forcing nakedness On the someone who rendered you same I'm pretty sure that kid in The Emperor's New Clothes Was never heard from again.

Pretty Permanent Time-Outs (suggestions)

CEE

Ohh

I dunno

Send you to some Hell for fifteen minutes?

Then grin, when you reappear

Termite-white, screaming and bawling

"Now, then...

Now will you behave?"

Or, we could kill each other, endless Looney Tunes Punching clown homicides, resurrecting

Immediately

And, we could do this every time we Got horked off

Be Nice To Me (second verse, same as the first)

You have to believe in forgiveness For there to be such a thing As "make up sex" You have to forgive You have to Be Able To forgive You have to be structured in such a way Through genes or learning or both To really, truthfully and honestly, say, "I realize I've invested in You With every weak link of every vulnerable fiber Of every failed aspect of every affected It-ain't-really-like-this-but-Society-says-I-HAVE-TO-SAY-IT Of my scared Gollum shunning the light, Nakedass Self. And that you took the kitten of my frail Who And smashed it to pieces, And you've done this more than once More than twice, But I care more for You, than want you dead and in Hell" You have to be able to do and say and Provide manual stimulation To That To "make up", in fashion denoted Above Above has to, with no deformity, be your def of Love

As for me, whatever it says, I'd rather be a chancre-ridden centenarian Teuton Who, in a larger times, Shot down little *Juden* as they ran for their lives

The Problem (The USS Poseidon of Man and Woman)

Every Alone has its reason Mine is a reasoning process I believed The Story *en toto*, wholly, i.e. I Am Power You are unfulfillable longing I can appreciate your suffering (I can) I'm sorry for your pain We can still dive up, out through the round hole Together, and I understand if you won't (I do) But if You won't I can't

The Problem Is (Mother Theresienstadt)

Do you love?

No, no, wait a minute, don't, no, wait, wait I know you Say you love Yes, and you Do From a distance In your heart If the check clears Out of habit Out of need Out of obedience Out of fear From toilet training From necessity For a position, or for fame Or, because your mother wants you to See, that last one? That's selling out, too Just as much Of course, that's confusing what could be Called "Selling out" With what *is* "Selling out" But, Love? It's action or reaction One is control, the other is response to control Mmm? What? Sure, I dig physical warmth, But now, you're just proving my point

What The Problem Is (No Stanley Kowalski, No Huntress Diana, No Deal)

You've turned out to be just a person Like Santa being bullshit Like the prof Uzi-ing Christ Like the (friend?) who wouldn't pay me back After he'd so earnestly sought the loan, And like everyone I dated who Brought up nothing but My dinner Spending every better day like golden tickets Burned wholesale, in laughing flames Of a joke hope

Yes

Yes, I know But, I'm not caring about power relationships Right now I'm sure it sucks, patriarchal history and the chattel thing, I just wanted a tangible something Some Happiness outside of Me

I realize that, shut up I know it isn't going to happen Apparently, neither are We You turned out to be just a person And, I'm already one of those

Tell Ya What The Problem Is (Prototypes of an Uncreative God)

I imagine had I dated or Bedded An amputee Better yet, fill in your own blank "check, please" of Physical uncomfortability Some tenth-rate Kristy McNichol vehicle Of freak-you-out personhood One leg shorter No nose Twelve toes, as Multiplication Rock goes off Wacky synapse In your head, I imagine intimacy with such a person It's a lot like Imagining intimacy with any person Intimacy with a person is Imagining intimacy with a person A lot of people don't know that People aren't Theory And, that's a great pity

I'll Tell Ya What The Problem Is (Fresh)

If at end of days, a skele-total-flat person If but for stopwatch second draped With off the rack suit of Relative, relevant flesh, Isn't attraction, then The same coin As loving the juice in the carton? I hereby compliment and love and swear by This juice, But Garbage Day is universal

The Problem Is This: Where language falls into the sea

HATE is a very negative word Parenting class instructor: "No use 'no'." My friend: "What replaces it? *Don't*? Same thing!" HATE is a very negative word You have to have some word

Bonus Paper Trax: Five (5) poems with some pugilistic take

ROCKY, me, me, ROCKY? (scripting of this Life)

To always stand as having won Which in the literal, he often did not To be the eternal Greek glory of YOUNG Which he was not, that often being a theme To stay in one moment, a moment of roar Never to cease And, he would shake his head, calling that "a mental disturbance" To be my Ever-dreams of Me, not him Me,

As hallowed, envisioned ideal

That is my value

Me

The Undisputed Champion of the Never Having to Strive

CEE

Throwing in the Feathered Towel

Y'know, If Stallone had actually been attractive (No, He's NOT) They could have cooked up/marketed Foxy Rocky Boxing Enlisted the Chippendales And, women could have really advanced

Glass Joe (yadda-yadda, warden)

This

This is what I think of young men, today Young men other than The young men who may as well Each, individually Be the only bull On a dairy farm in Montana I don't like them, either But I understand them At least they are honest, in their lust As for the rest. Do you know of Glass Joe? Do you know how he looked and How he (was unable to) Google him Tube him See his body, see his face Especially when Player One is Hitting him That's what I think of young men, today And, not out of jealousy Because if I was 21, today I'd be being jealous from Stateville

Dynamite Joe (young men of Today, Part Deux)

There's some misconception about "Alpha" In a friendly friendly world, So, let me spell it out for you: You can have a man who snivels before men And grovels before women -this includes boyishly cute men Who give the perfect foot massage and where the "Groveling" Only involves phoning the police and using the word "Inappropriate"— You can have that guy He isn't Alpha Neither is the one Who destroys everything and everyone in his path Except his woman of mesmerism Effectively, Pinkie of "Brain" fame Is Not Alpha ...so, you know what's left A force of nature uncontrolled, unfriendly glows in the dark Dangerous it You don't want to call that Alpha You don't have to But pick some other word, for the other Aboves Battery acid is Not hot sauce If it ain't Shatner, it ain't Trek

Boxing Hell

I think Mike Tyson could have beaten Mike Tyson What? Oh Yeah Right

XY

I'm bad at Otherness. I think many people are. I blame all media; it has served, more and more, to turn the perspective of each individual into a crystal meth version of *Starring Sally J. Freedman As Herself.* We each one, live and flow and walk through each day, believing we are God...only, one way or another, we've been taught otherwise, or that this is not a healthy way in which to approach the world, it's immoral or unethical, it's disrespectful or dysfunctional, it's exclusionary or some kind of ego problem, it's haughty or just not nice. And, no one wants to sit outside the circle from "GO", so there's a collective crack of booted heels, and everyone pays lip service to Otherness. The fact it's all lip service, comes out most strongly, in the domicile. Two gods is intolerable, but that's usually what you've got, nowadays, 'neath any tiles or planks or stucco.

So, thanks to the bottomless pit of iThis, eThat and BlinkYourEyesPro, we're down from 4 archetypes to 2: the hot and the cold. A unit so selfish, self-centered and automata, each god exists happily in their own delusion, hearts forever closed because they never had one between them to begin with...or, a Master of Disaster and Italian Stallion try to murder each other with their love. Sociologists find the first of these models, to be a form of actualization, but sociologists believe it's possible, at least clinically, to be unbiased, and in a postmodern world chocked with "spin", I'd say that alone negates their whole science.

It took me until the age of 47, to realize I was a narcissist. It took only a short while to embrace it—it is, after all, an incurable personality type, making its human much akin to the cancer or Lou Gehrig's Disease or HIV victim who has no choice but to charge, Light Brigade, into chaos. It's not that far in mode of being, from the Dark Side of the Force, e.g. "Your hate has made you powerful", and yes, I admit there is bad in that, but you have to Be It, to know the good. To some extent, the work in this chap is conceptual, only because my own lifemate is a Pollyanna of indescribable, Little Match Girl purity. This demonstrates that, as the saying goes, "water finds its own level", because Edward Hyde couldn't bunk with anyone else. My Mrs. is beyond belief. A hippie chick, endlessly enthralled with me as Nixon. Dagger, to my Cloak. She's the only true and living sustenance I've found, in this fallow, stinking ground called Human.

Though, don't mistake me. The fights, they happen, and then it's Apollo dancing deadly as Rocky takes it on the chin, willing to suffer six to land one haymaker of his own. Drama. What everyone says they don't want. What those alone can never accept emanates from their own, contrived tin deity. What those who exist brawling within, take for granted. The drama of a Bill Conti musical score, championing all our triumphs and tears. It's Round 14, and still we try to make The Other understand. Make them comprehend. Make them behave. Still we stand there, slugging, slogging on toward the Draw known as Death. Drama IS Conflict. Unfortunately, it is very breath.

It bothers me, the deliberate and completely misrepresented uncare of Simon and Garfunkel's "Dangling Conversation", being held up as brass ring to grab for. Such couples and individuals, more narcissistic than we narcissists, are today, truly, the champions of the world. Bronze statues. Utterly hollow—and as such, impervious. These supposedly realized persons, cannot be affected by pain in any real way, for these persons stopped being persons before they drank their first beer. And, they'll build the Dachau's of tomorrow, nonfriends. Build them out of "otherness". Relatedness. Oneness. Community. *Ein volk*, "appropriate". Making gone the nature of Man. Out of Love. —CEE, 8/24/11

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