Akashic Shotgun Alex S. Johnson 2013 chapbook Scarsuomeonqua

Dedication:

To all the wonderful poets and artists in my life, Antony Hitchin, Niall Rasputin, Paula Lietz, Ellyn Maybe, Roxy Contin, Richard Modiano, Billy Burgos, Iris Berry, A. Razor; to Thomas Roche, Rhonda Saenz, Wayne Allen Sallee, Rachel Thompson, Jon R. Meyers, and especially my parents, Steven and Beatrice Johnson.

Preface

by A.D. Hitchin

You are staring down the barrel of Alex S. Johnson's Akashic Shotgun...

And what will happen if he squeezes the trigger? Will you be blasted into a state of postmodern nothingness? Connect to a non-physical, aetheric repository of all mystic knowledge and human experience? Or awaken to something beyond mere stimulus-response; something deeper than your waking, 'rational' mind?

All possibilities are on the table, but as Alex S. Johnson is a writer firmly in the Surrealist, Dada tradition, I'd wager he'd prefer the latter. Thankfully, unlike many of the current crop of avant-garde pretenders, Johnson possesses the necessary literary skill and talent to fulfil such lofty ambitions and to surprise the reader with genuinely fresh, exciting juxtapositions of language. Using his own variation on the cut-up method, Johnson delivers 10 startlingly original, precise poems which threaten to evolve the logical, linear associations determined by the usual conventions of form and grammar into something truly transmutative. This is in every way an alchemic process, with the ingenious collisions of archetypal and alchemic imagery defying any concept of universal meaning or normative ideology – probing a deeper part of us that promises potential beyond stasis and automaticity.

Something transformative may be possible for those open to it. Regardless, all lovers of poetic subversion and ingenuity should offer themselves as target practice for this particular shotgun.

May you be mutated.

A.D. Hitchin

Akashic Shotgun

I. This is the place of union the anointed pyramid plucked from the spy's muscular eyepatch.

The dark sheds its feathers and Dr. Doom has left the theater.

Did you feel his omnishambolic chill parting the mob with claws of hypnosis?

Here suppressed monsters of the Abyss cling to the struts of neuronal bridges

Theory litters the surface with the tenacious grit of indigo measuring swords at one of its extremes.

Now, brooding doves twang the Aybss like a tuning fork, desire develops lovely recipes and tongues spear the hearts of bound and blackened angels.

Choronzon watches from the pit Selecting the sex of the eaglet's hourglass that sucked the fruit of Egypt's auric ghosts.

The Myth of the Apollo Belvedere Cooked and Eaten as a Borderless Dessert

Ampulla of rustic houses.

Glass tubes from erotic convents.

Infantile-archaic landscapes.

The big pill of a crane's bill swallowed by magic.

Phials throb with an assertive backbeat.

Metal retort shreds into Goliath.

Retorts with a second opening for necrophiles.

Iron pots for robotic nudity.

Cementation box for wax masks.

Crucibles in which lamentation bakes emblems of the golden scarab.

Horned feathers in marvelous procession interfere violently with objective accounts of a spit, a burial scaffold and a gurney, nodes of transformation, red and black wings cross-hatched to the utmost detail.

These monsters of nature put off their course by gigglesome gems, build machines of hoarfrost, as obelisks use a spatial map to suppress the boundaries of islands, ships, cubes and moons.

A Buddy Comedy or Adventure Featuring Hydropic Man vs. the Authochthons of Florida

A bloated buffoon twisting in red light has retained stiff feathers of his humor.

And the calendar marks his deaths
with smears of bearded isthmus.
Birds are interlaced with shadows
threaded together in the jeweled cabinet
their song is a golden mirror
their wings the stuff of wonder.

Tall ships puff furiously as drugged damsels, erased by gun-toting lovelies, bury lambent fools in the beach of Panthalassa.

Grainy stock footage of a zoom-ridden elephant repeats the neck-bitten void, making the filmed action savage with mocking bursts of dream-logic.

Becoming the Rosarium, an authentic fleet of the four elements laced with penumbras of the cross carries the body of the bleeding World Clock.



Captain of Yolk

The Captain complete with an egg in the middle, cooks the goblins of Sol that take root at the tower's lower levels and arch skyward with conical helmets.

A yellow light penetrates his heart of Mercurius, the bears of dark like great mountains rising through rings of the Opus alchymicum.

A certain portion of the work magnetized of four cracked points sets sail from the Ports of Kali.

Their masts wrangle fools boarding the April Fish—an anchor of candy dissolved in the wake.

Exiting the known, the moon puffs a big cigar blowing a fortune in succubi from iridescent shores.

The Call

We waited for the call, dynamite in our veins a thick syrup of desire clotting the mortal instruments.

Dripping from the rudder, resplendent serpents appear as coils of black rope.

Making his final appearance, the Captain plays us all like harps of synecdoche.

The Little Red Mouth

The little red mouth breeds grace in a tall glass.

She waits for the bell the alarm the signal to emerge anointed or, whatever's first, impossible.

There lies the other moon in a rapture of blue wings: Our serious faces plucking hammers of nudity.



The Discipline of New Music

And I guess this is the season where we usher harmony from shattered instruments urging the burning strings towards the X-cross of chromaticism summoning their dialect of glitter from the weird world of aquatic theater

And I suppose there is a message in these riddling mazy notes, stabbed out like eyes of vicious pianos

Staves of hammered glass clutching the song like hysteria—plangent echo of hurricane in the guts of atomic guitar

A Devotee of Smoking Lenses

I turn the corner, anvil at the ready sad for the continuous demise of the hammer its cracked thunder still in my ears

boundary

What properties of sexual madness doom us, Zen-bound strangers to grapple in this garbage?

exit

We should be mad to push the frontier over the cliff where it belongs with the rippled ruins of fences property lines, divisions, squares on a grid—killed by unbuilding, slaughtered by calculus, squared off in a formal duel with the moon man.

a pipe smokes itself

Mister Restless says anytime, I'm dressed, putting my shoes on to a slick plastic cadence

And professional death in a dinner jacket inhales the fragrance of any other skin, alchemies of the mystic rose

the slender thread

I feel so utterly but subtly twisted in this climate, my sleight-of-hand revolt a puff of smoke from the emptied sleeve

a cabinet of mirrors gulps her dark hair

The Witch Engine (for Antony Hitchin)

Faster and faster stirs the witch engine

courtyard of rose blooms the inner circle where toads mutter secret alphabets

sweet cluster of bells like grapes on a tinkling vine

the film has to do with precepts for a new mold—they gasp when they see it, a crying blue shame

crystal contagion tar wolves

they write the sex of girls aloud, wings locked to the wall of shadows

the comfort of soft, elaborate mansions mothered by time alone

septic TV

in her hands tough bits of colored glass, meta-vocabularies: white storm. a frontier of bitter numbers. mindless swill that perseveres.

ointment.

Paris in the spring. Prophecy poured on the lay lines.

parasite.

They enumerate Bluebeard's fogged gaze: no hope for the sentient in theater of ibis

wisteria winds through panes of hammered glass

alone, once, is an acid green meadow exhumed from a factory replicating mannequins from the fin de siecle.

Akashic Shotgun

Talking with Myth

I am talking with myth today, sweet as milk

Others may speak their considered opinion weighed and egotistic logic chewed through the cord.

Do you get it I am not you

My knife and gun made in small batches with only the finest natural ingredients.

In a dystopian world, dreamed of adventure.

I will burn.

Setting my own dream right I will shake it down.

My dragon is a beautiful and graceful beast. And I damn well love it. A painful hatching out from the soil of human to something else

that did not resemble their lineaments of mirror

I am going beyond disturbance in a dance of fire and steel I will establish this place, built on the romance of other.

I am talking with myth in a place where all my deaths are sharks and guitars I find the deep so salutary and this corrosion inexplicably catching

I would love to beat those drums of common sense but my outlaw shatters that and

this & this & this

It is a rock and the burning star scratch of a potential psychopath push of a madness declared and though it is hard, it is true.

So I am declaring an armed retreat.

In electric bath flattened highs and lows inhaled the smoke of moon

Welcome or exit. I will come and go. Treading the track of the melting cross

And thank you so much for the concern but see but see

but really see

I am not you.
The tight skin of me.



What For?

Because this hurt is a vessel Driven to a point Dazzled to vicious talons Goaded to machine.

Because substantially they
Closed the door, windows nailed shut,
Glass faces penetrating zero.
They worse than seal the gates,
My magic spring cannot reach!
It bubbles with ghosts,
Slipping time's noose.

Because this rage is a missile
Of vast and soft indifference
Guided towards chaos
On a derelict car with fun wheels.

Because the venom congeals
The rocket fuel so thin and vaporous
So quick and alive when born
I'm bumping my wings on the steps you
Make me climb!

I want what you can't feel The burning raptures of portal "Anywhere, out of this world" where the heavy clay collective doesn't breathe.

I can see from there stunning alphabets spires of dream cities an open circuit...

1--1--1

The Royal Road

Now is the royal road driven to slush, our data-driven fingernails dragging corpses clean.

Now is corruption, the dominion of shit: our noses sniff the stink-wheel.

Where is the royal road burnished, holy, studded with angelic bolts?

It became a highway for sanctimonious phlegm.

And the sails of Kali swept onwards towards the night's final theater.

It—the sucking slits of soldiers in the plaster, funny infantries permuted for their survival—loves the chance of trouble. They—scavenged from the first creation, are committed, the flaws and bubbles in sparkling vultures, this chronology of wonders witnessed by you alone.

As a *mis-en-abyme*, the identical heart shot with Druidic bullets, they—oh decadence

of infinite oceans unfiltered by reason, shooting a dummy plot for an imaginary flat in the Latin Quarter—conceal a smart idea in mists of drama.

When nurses take all things bugs to the river we dreamt of last night, a lover of iced statues creeps inside the fuck-out machine, portrayed in lineups of impossible criminals.

Rock and Roll Suicide

Staggering down sunset In vinyl fetish heels Bird-thin and weightless With the coke-peeled eyes of The newborn, stunned at the Adoration you commanded, But it was probably simple curiosity, as Japanese photographers liked the Way you fell on the cement, Splayed out, you didn't feel it And we were laughing and giddy, as we Carried you like an attaché case Between us, followed by the ghost of Keith Moon in an orangutan suit, Thumping a drum of stretched human Skin, your baby vampire teeth coming Out and your hollow, sucking lances Coming in.

Now you've fallen down
In a very public way
But I've still got your t-shirt
With another name
And another name
And another name.

Who are you today, and what shall we call you?

Sketch Artiste

There are only so many exceptions
Till the rules fall like hammers
Till your skin blazes
As though light were forcing its fingers
Out of your chest
There are only so many
Compromised positions
A man can take
On his journey up and out.
These words are so many drafts,
Notes on doom, left in my wake
For whatever purposes they may serve
Till that vicious angel draws
The shades, and the din of traveling
Sounds so very far away.

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Aurum Nostrum Non Est Aurum Vulgi

I.

We have come to the place where the compass itches, plucking our hearts with the children's pointed beard projected from a vest of cowboy wagons.

II.

Emulating the oval cut from a blonde, her tongue with machine-like precision drills blossoms in a hypnotic laboratory as, embedded in deep echoes, the glass arms of her wedding chamber curl in plantlike loops, the flashes and blips pieced together like jazz mosaic.

Born in chinks of apocalypse, she drains amniotic fluid from a rubber sky, its umbric rays attacked by full and fatal Maya.

IV.

Her hack of *familiaris* characterized as the real bread, draws its condition from drooled swords.

The little arms of hysteria, *Ne plus ultra* of void wolves, match hells in a wet loop—volunteers this time.

Lucky for nodal black: in the back room gorged on close-up its four hollows remain morbidly suspended in the incest urn.

Death by Integers

The aged children recall death by integers.

Red gum of the virgin earth, more or less conscious, unfolds the bird of Astarte, her recumbent doors cleansed by simple music.

Light and warmth develop the guiding function, a sleeper guarding the retort with perfumed curses.

The Prima Materia

Another brick lodged in respect of myrrh, hard datura furniture, the smoking caterpillar (who surfed the wrong black mass and got anxiety issues) pinpoints the

TERROR OF EARTH FUNDAMENTAL DISEASE GHASTLY SHIT

as he molts gloriously
his finger pressing the nerve: the
prima materia is us with a
split-screen sneeze... the artifacts
tumble forward forcing our attention
o-so-very-selective as the vinyl cheeks of
pornography...spreading the psychic
mattress nevertheless on a wine-stained noise...
drunken misadventures urging a kindly weave...
a corpsebaby riddled with glitch huffs Kabbalah...and
the mortar spaded in...and the wall

closed stitch open
wound
up

lately.

A Fashion Play

A sun dressed by Winter Shakes Spring's seeds Like a maraca, Dancing by herself In a circle of burning leaves

She steals our death for her Prismatic fashion, in a blue And golden skirt The talk of all the seasons

A sweet and healing syrup Leaks from her cut throat As her daughters, nude and Oblivious, receive their hard green suitors.

Mind is the Candy

Mind is the candy they Stole with all our medicine Bags, hung on trees like the Sweet necks of witches.

Our shrunken ships clot Their seas, released like Snapshots of their mouths Sealed by black gloves of storm.

Conscience is a sad Accountant in this day and age.

The Girl with the Chaos Eyes

Uh-oh.
I saw it again—
that look.
That paddles to the camera
makes a face and
pisses on the lens look.
That artifice of happiness that's
ripped up inside dance
all the kids are doing.

And the stare that precedes its slick disco moves, heavy with the slam of bats.

Black things inhabit her, the angry girl: bride of Mercury heavy with pollution the one with chaos eyes.

Radiant Beasts

Having seen diamonds rise and split their skins of fiction, adorned with anemone halos, they slay us with a suite of magick.

Radiant beasts flayed Well established forms, a single Indwelling presence formed of Infinite light.

Cordial of Fossils
Offering an invitation to hot filth, that laboratory of ego where the known is crushed in a vise of galaxies, the girl with an arsenal of action-packed applications saw science fume in a lab of oblivion awakening the Monad's spotlight.

Alex S. Johnson

A Bottle of Djinn

I.

His eyes slant like Lee Van Cleef, his pockets spilled of utopian lint!

He's clean, your Honor. Peering down the barrel of the solar god, Prometheus has chosen guilt.

So be it.

The eagle adroitly pecks his freedom corset.

"Bailiff, stuff this miscreant in a bottle of Djinn!"

How do you plead, poet, assassin, martyr, flim-flam man?

He won't defend himself He says that what you see is what you get, the flesh of humanity emancipated...

Did we get here too late? We caught him red-handed, picking the lock of the Law with this blunt crude and shapeless instrument.

It's a harp, Sir.

I can see it's a damn harp!

Admit these staves of music as Exhibit A.

II.
The laurels, weave of
the grape's tricky
navel, cool in sweet splash of nudity.
Eve's lack of guile ratchets up the
bar for corruption—how do you plead?

I'm not guilty
by virtue of my being
not guilty
by the hair on my chinny chin chin
not guilty
of sin
despite being stuffed in a
bottle of Djinn...

III.

Exile in an alternate space ain't so bad once you get the hang of it, Prometheus said. Wait till they need me—they can rub the bottle till they're sore.

Till they're blind. and deaf and dead...

They found his attitude ridiculous and sentenced in absentia to become a poisonous liquor, Prometheus took the shattered fragments of his harp to a new and terrifying altar.

Shocking Casanova

Dryads suck confessions from the thorn of yogic skies, the marvelous fangs of piñatas creating ten years of angels in one cellular hiccup.

We travel the moist gates of freedom draped on the walking rocks, the whole story of justice wagging scarlet tongues.

The triumphal chariot of doves, hidden roost of valentines, springs of the gore watch fermenting raves and icky beds, the sauce of mechanical confab in the fist of the topping room.

The future sutured from a drowning library.

Brutes of art batter holes in the dinner drama.

The marchers hoist Azazel on high-quality rainbows, where strange beaches exterminate dreams



Tincture of Death Couture

Six keys of sub rosa
Get a half step of shadows from muscles of music
Get in the race to stop the corsets of coma
Discarding robotics like the rot of yoga
Trashed wrestling in flames of steel tattoo

We are the seekers of strange vacations, the terminus of raw sticks that forms a picture of the True West, part of why we glide along the loving path. The horses of shock become the apple of heavy neuronal jewelry.

Pudding Spooks

Dip the deadly night shades on, still wet—the forms shudder forth, cursing new breath, egging the Old Ones on.
Chthonic coughs rattle in the throat—a time of insurrection, tears streak meteoric. A ripple of whipped dreams crests the pudding. Spooks say the weirdest things.

In chipped glass, in the crooked hands of trees, in black mirrors ever receding, we learn the true names of silver, wracking lungs in the spirit of Torque's Armada. His long fingers feft burns where the soul fled, laden with heavy glyphs. The ring finger fades with agonizing slowness, as stones skipped us. We who still believe mourning becomes erotic. That way you may tend, between the fires and the chattering teeth, as treachery jogs kindness, eyes cajole a merry witch way forward. They, *les autres*, pluck strange, the flowers of doom, drafting for the army of belief.

Some desserts are just.
That, the thick black mass tickled with a spoon.
The cup's heart closing mysteries, the tracks of tears, the trick of being thick, candied me.

k**

Candle Ending at Both Burns

So you saw me leaving. What did you think, that All my ghosts had tales to tell? These can be found In his books, in the snapped shafts of wand, buried in the ocean.

The magic roughed us up. We have adjourned, barely Intact, to rub our wounds until they gleam. Our genies, Unbottled, kiss the scars till new life shoots. And our hands Grip the tall masts, cursing the Captain with his terrible hooks, His eye-teeth gleaming. Yet still he commands

Ships emptied of sinking rats. He groans as Necro phases shift, romancing the terrible.

Ivan more than I can halve, presumptive of a whole that's somewheres else. My candle ending at both burns, you're welcome to the parts are left, upon the shelf.

-March 15, 2013

About the Author

Alex S. Johnson lives in Central California, where he teaches English at the community college level. His previous books include *The Death Jazz*, *The Doom Hippies*, *Doctor Flesh* and *Black Tongues of the Illuminati*. His short stories, poetry and music journalism have appeared in a variety of publications, including *Metal Hammer* and *Bloodsongs* magazines. He enjoys Italian horror movies, pizza, very strong coffee, cartooning and observing nature.

Akashic Shotgun

Alex S. Johnson

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