



**neurotica:**  
**cambodian poems**

by chris butler

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Down n the Dirt 2016 chapbook  
**scarsuoitæoꝛlqnd**

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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.

These poems were previously featured  
by the following publishers:

*Asphodel Madness 2.0*  
*Boyslut*  
*The Camel Saloon*  
*Dark Chaos*  
*Horror Sleaze Trash*  
*Leaf Garden Press*  
*Love's Chance Magazine*  
*Meatheads and Muscle Cars*  
*MediaVirus Magazine*  
*The Mind[less] Muse*  
*Napalm and Novocain*  
*Opium Poetry 2.0*  
*Our Day's Encounter*  
*Pyrokinjection*  
*The Rainbow Rose*  
*Raven Images*  
*Whisper and Scream*

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## scars publications

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### Magazines:

Children, Churches and Daddies (e&d magazine), founded June 1993; Down in the Dirt, conceived 1994, founded 2000

### 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 Verus, 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 Performances, Six Evers, Life of Cafe Alibi, Creams, Rough Rhyme, 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, Outspines, 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), Get Your Buzz On, Janet & Joan Together, pe-on, Taking Poetry to the Streets, the One-Sided Old-School Union, the Whitten 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 Stab Stab Stab, a Poet's Worth 1,000 words (e&d art book and e&d art book), Life in Color, Post-Apocalyptic, Burn Through Me, Under the Sea (e&d book), Partial Reality, Revealed, 100 Dollars, Give me the Money, Let me See you Stripped, Part of my Path, Hope Seeks Life & Death, Say Nothing, Tenthredin, when you dream tonight, the Parallel Table of Poetry, a year long Journey, Ben Venguel, 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 Showdown, 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 Book, Annie: An Understanding of her Art (second printing), **Deardar Kunder / Charly Newman**, 12 Times 12 Equals Gross, a Marble Nods 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 Camouflage'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, Alaskan Shotgun, Champagne - Hot Water, How a Bullet Believes, the Things in the Lounge at WagonWheel (I Come in Avatica), Postcards from Exile, the Five Steps of Macbeth, Stay in Formation, Showcaring Other Footprints, the Gel Next Door and Other Poems, Major Arcana, Sine Peoria Mollis est Gloria, Short Takes, Seeing Strangers, Re-Viewing Amis, The Tribes Joshua Drove Out of the Land, History of the Incontinent, Hammer-Chaind, No Red! - No Ocean, Donding at the Abyss, a nation of toddlers with guns, the Blazing Planes of 100 Drummers, Make the Wind, \* the Planner, the Corrosion, the 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, Undersown, 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 Deal, 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 & Mearrow, 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 Mystics, 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, Survival of the Fittest, Crawling Through the Dirt, Laying the Groundwork, Watchword, who, link in my blood, (second) [4 editions], Enchanted Poetry, e&d Enchanted Poets, Enchanted with Dirt, An Open Book, Literary Tumbler Book (2 editions), Prominent Poet (2 editions), 100 Words, the 2012 Literary Date Book, It Was All Forgiven, Cultural Touchstone, the Mission (essay edition and chapbook edition), Purpose, 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 (pre-edited 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 demo tapes, Koyers the Tool (MP3 Inclusive), Wands and Flowers the beauty & the desolation, The Second Aging Something is Sweating, The Second Aging Live in Alaska, Petrus & Koyers Live of Cafe Alibi, MPaintines Orchestra Rough Mixes, 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 Controversy-Culture-Critique, the DMU Art Connection the DMU Art Connection, Koyers Dissections in a World Without Koyers, Koyers 1020 Radio (2 CD set), Men's Favorite Vice These Tapes, unrecorded artist Strip Theory, Oh (audio CD), Life in the City (13 CD set), the DMU Art Connection Indian Ink, the DMU Art Connection Music Impressions 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 Classic Radio 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 Portrait, Koyers the Beated Top/Paul Baker/The Johnson Parties Trio Fusion (4 CD set), produces 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 Psychiatric (13 CD set), Koyers SA Punk (13 CD set), Koyers the 2009 Poetry Game Show (3 CD set), Koyers and the History 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 "Sammy" (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)*