



A TRUCKER'S GUIDE TO THE UNIVERSE

BY

JOHN KOLB

WHY I LIKE IT: *Senior Editor CHARLES writes...We ordinarily don't publish Creative Nonfiction and you wouldn't either if you read some of the submissions we get. But there was something different about 'A Trucker's Guide' that made us take notice. The author, who I confess to know, adamantly, vociferously and sometimes even hilariously, decries any notion that he has a talent for setting things down in words but his modesty does not become him. As I think I said somewhere else, the writer who doesn't know he has talent or won't believe it is the best kind of talent. The text here reads like poetry and maybe it is, but it is also a reflection of John's way of looking at life. When he puts on a pair of glasses one lens in rose-coloured, one lens is dark, one lens is clear...*

A Trucker's Guide to the Universe

AS I GO quietly into the good night, the sadness of the unknown pulls at the fabric of understanding, for it has been a life. Like all it was mixed, dreams and expectations, responsibility and not, losses and wins. Invention allowed for distraction and procrastination of dealing with that which is inescapable.

Fuck that, I ain't going quietly.

OLD TRUCK, you've earned your rest...

Many stories and but one friend...

Unknown are your enemies that openly cut,

And lacking an idea.....

In the moment selfishness, is vomited

by a cancer you helped assemble,

To the general peril.....

Old truck, you've earned your rest.

Charlie Morgan

8/19/2023 'a cancer' best described as car culture'

THE SWEET SMELL OF MEMORY

OH SWEET, sweet alyssum

You came from a Mediterranean world,

Not asking much.

Take me back to that time,

When anything was possible

And life was sweet....

You stole my youth...

But left your fragrance,

Ah sweet alyssum.

4

THE LAST STAGE

STEPS APPEARED and reluctantly I climbed,

Steeper than memory painted, to a

Slowly lowering curtain, unswept stage...

The audience had left nothing,

But reminders of a life lived-

A small part good,

Which will keep me mostly at peace.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: Considering the metaphor 'Life is a Highway' (Tom Cochrane 1991) kind of builds on the journey of life idea, which I suspect has been around for at least a few millenniums, 'Trucker's Guide to the Universe' (title idea from Douglas Adams 'Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy) views what some would call a life, from the window/portal of 'Charlie Morgan'. 'Morgan' has and will spend his entire 'working career' (birth to death, there's that journey of life thing again) in the transportation field. Fifteen, of those seventy-four years and counting, were as a 'big trucker' driving large 'over the road' vehicles.

AUTHOR BIO: John Kolb lives in Waterloo Region, Ontario. He divides his time between thinking and *thinking*. This is his first published work.