

M_{ost}

of the

Pro_Nou_Ns

Have

Left



The

Bui_Lding

See ya tomorrow

By

Mark

Y_{oung}

WHY I LIKE IT: *Poetry Editor HEZEKIAH writes...In a world of infighters and outliers, how could a neo-pronoun possibly come to be unloved? Mark Young's treatise on the subject is nothing short of inconclusive yet undeniably delightful. Let's see if we can start it off without spoiling it for you. "Announcing the participants in the / pronoun singalong took so long / that the event started late... everybody was positive about / caring & sharing..." It is respectfully hilarious and only goes to show you that the Addams Family's Cousin Itt and Thing T. Thing were way ahead of their time.*

Five Stars

from 100 Titles From Tom Beckett

#16: Most of the Pronouns Have Left the Building

Announcing the participants in the
pronoun singalong took so long
that the event started late. Still, all
seemed to go okay. No-one got
possessive about the way aer / eir /
his / pers / her / their / vis / xyr /
hir / faer pronoun was used, &
everybody was positive about

caring & sharing. The only bump
in the road came when most had
left the building, & a single pro-
noun was found crying in a dark
corner. Seems as if everyone in
the lovefest had overlooked it.

THE POET SPEAKS: *The prompt for this poem comes from a "One Hundred Titles," a list poem by Tom Beckett that was published in issue sixty-four of Otoliths. I've so far written about 40 poems using those titles, decide what one to do next by using a random number generator. The styles vary from poem to poem, & range from some created stochastically using the Google search function through to more structured & traditional forms.*

As to why poetry is important to me, I suppose the basic reason is because I can write it quite competently, & I find that I can use it as a platform to make fun of or engage in more serious commentary on a contemporary world that's become ridiculous.

AUTHOR BIO: Mark Young was born in Aotearoa / New Zealand but now lives in a small town in North Queensland in Australia. He has been publishing poetry for over sixty years, & is the author of over sixty books, primarily text poetry but also including speculative fiction, vispo, non-fiction, & art history. His most recent books are *Songs to Come for the Salamander: Poems 2013-2021*, selected & with an introduction by Thomas Fink (Meritage Press & Sandy Press); *Your order is now equipped for shipping* (Sandy Press); & *The Advantages of Cable* (Luna Bisonte Prods).

