

The Jumble Maker... by Paul Beckman

WHY WE LIKE IT:

Participative nonfiction! Innovative, off the rails, witty and fun—just the kind of literary mischief we're looking for! You can contact him to follow through by using his published email. But don't let the hyped-up high jinks fool you; there's a sophisticated fillip to this writing. Here's an author who is fully in charge of his game. Ready, set, GO!

The Jumble Maker's on Vacation. His Intern has Come Up With a Match the Collective Nouns Contest

By Paul Beckman

Write a line like the samples below connecting the

Group Name (**A**) to the Group Noun (**B**)

e.g. A Murder of Crows

a—A Noise of Cicadas.

b—A Shitload of Troubles.

(The yellow can be eliminated if you don't want a contest)

The first person to email in all of the correct answers gets a copy of my latest collection of flash and micro-fiction Kiss Kiss (Truth Serum Press). The second person to send in the correct answers gets a copy of my flash and micro-book, Peek (Big Table Publishing)

The runner up gets a book from my book case.

E-mail to me paul@paulbeckman.com with

Contest in the Subject line.

Remember—only one entry per person.

(A) Spoke, Flash, Waft, Plop, Amen, Stream, Level, Picnic, Stirrup, Wafer, Push, Crown, Obsession, Lox, Cheese, Amalgam, Grease, Tone

(B) Urologists, Princes, Audiologists, Ants, Photographers, Priests, Seagulls, Gynecologists, Carpenters, Rabbis, Cell Phones, Midwives, Bikers, Dentists, Perfume, Mechanics, Clergy, Writers

AUTHOR'S NOTE:

I have, for a very long time been fascinated by collective nouns—well before I knew there was a name for them. Probably, the most common is a ‘Murder of Crows’ but there are so many more and most seem to have no connection between the noun and the description which makes them all the more interesting and worth investigating.

In 2017 I was in Breckinridge, Colorado with a group of authors taking a writing course from Nancy Stohlman and Kathy Fish. At the time there was another senseless school shooting and Kathy wrote a short, brilliant piece that incorporated the theme of our workshop, flash fiction, with the current event. I was beyond impressed with this touching piece written in largely collective nouns, and pleased to see it published shortly thereafter as ‘Collective Nouns for Humans in the Wild’ in the Jellyfish Review, a fine literary magazine <https://bit.ly/2ztimRm>

Unable to shake Kathy’s story from my mind I wrote my own—not close to being lofty as Kathy’s but nonetheless it came out in my style and with a new collection of flash out I decided to make a contest out of it and FLEAS ON THE DOG was kind enough to go along with the concept and publish it in a style they called ‘participative nonfiction’. The editors were flexible and accepted this piece in a different format and sans contest. Meanwhile, prior to hearing back from the magazine I changed the format and added the contest and when my story was accepted, I wrote them and shared my changes and asked if they would be interested in the new concept and thankfully, they were great to work with and went along with it.

My literary influences are wide ranging including Leonard Michaels, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Frederick Barthelme, Phillip Roth, John Cheever, Alice Mattison, Raymond Carver, Jim Thompson, Dashiell Hammet, Joe Nesbo, Lee Child, Robert Scobellaro, Len Kunta, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, the aforementioned Nancy Stohlman and Kathy Fish and dozens more. I consider myself a literary sponge.

BIO: Paul Beckman is an award winning author with a new flash collection *Kiss Kiss* (Truth Serum Press). He had a story selected for the 2018 Norton Micro Fiction Anthology and another nominated for Best

Small Fictions 2019 BSF. He lives in CT and runs the FBomb NY flash fiction reading series in KGB's Red Room. Some of his publications are Spelk, Necessary Fiction, Litro, Pank, Playboy. Thrice Fiction, The Lost Balloon and The Jellyfish Review.