



the end of the world + 1

by

Ron Riecki

WHY I LIKE IT: *Poetry Editor HEZEKIAH writes...*

What if you were the adventurous type--from an armchair perspective--and sought to go deeper-and-deeper into Ron Riecki's head-full of mind-fields? I am no guide. In 'On the pre-bomb squad' "they never told us 'good job.' / Maybe we never did a good job." "If there had been an explosion, we probably wouldn't have died. / We'd have just lost an eye / or found an eye." ""Everyone hates cops, but everyone acts like a cop." / My brother said that to me one day." Now, for 'The end of the world.' "already happened...I'm hoping it will have / a lot of dragons." We've been invited to trespass. (Spacing is poet's own.)

On the pre-bomb squad

they never told us 'good job.'
Maybe we never did a good job.
It was the bomb squad that did the good job.
Our job was to stand there and wait for the bomb squad to show up.
If someone started to walk in that direction,
we'd wave our arms like beasts on fire.
We were instructed to never yell.
If there had been an explosion, we probably wouldn't have died.
We'd have just lost an eye
or found an eye.
Who knows.
It was the bomb squad that did everything.
I wonder if they ever got any praise.
Probably not.

"Everyone hates cops, but everyone acts like a cop."
My brother said that to me one day.
I have no idea what it means.
Or maybe I have somewhat of an idea.

The end of the world

already happened.

I'm waiting

for the start of the world.

I'm hoping it will have
a lot of dragons.

THE POET SPEAKS:

Briefly tell me what inspired your poem.

I was reading some Richard Brautigan and thought I'd try some Brautiganish type poetry myself, so these poems came out.

Your stylistic influences.

It was all Richard Brautigan. Although I studied with Eric Torgersen a thousand years ago and he really influenced me as far as writing brief poems.

Why poetry is important to you.

C'est une thérapie.

AUTHOR BIO: Ron Riecki's books include *Blood/Not Blood Then the Gates* (Middle West Press, poetry), *My Ancestors are Reindeer Herders and I Am Melting in Extinction* (Loyola University Maryland's Apprentice House Press, hybrid), *Posttraumatic* (Hoot 'n' Waddle, nonfiction), and *U.P.* (Ghost Road Press, fiction). Right now, Riecki's listening to "Brian Eno message - Don't get a job" on Youtube.