

MY NEW APARTMENT



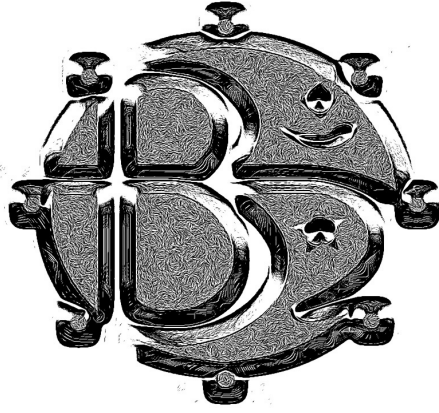
# SECONDHAND SMOKE

THREE POEMS FROM WHEN  
I WAS HOMELESS

A CHAPBOOK

BY

LUCAS DAVID SEIDMAN



**BELIEVE CHAPBOOKS**

**SECONDHAND SMOKE: THREE POEMS FROM WHEN I  
WAS HOMELESS**

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**FIRST BELIEVE CHAPBOOK EDITION 2019**

**BELIEVE SYMBOL A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF THE  
BELIEVE COMPANY.**

FOR THOSE WHO SHOWED KINDNESS IN MY  
TRAVELS AND FOR MY MOTHER, WHO LIVED THE  
NIGHTMARE OF MY WALKABOUT.

AND FOR ANYONE WHO EVER PONDERED THE  
MYSTERY OF WHERE THEY WOULD SLEEP  
AND DRIFTED ALONE DOWN A STREET  
PASSING HEATED SHOP FRONTS AT NIGHT  
WARM, EMPTY AND FILLED WITH LIGHT  
AND LONGED TO BE INDOORS  
AND CONTEMPLATED THE WASTE OF IT ALL  
AND THEN SAW, UNMASKED AND WIPED OF ITS  
GLITTER  
THE TRUTH OF THIS EARTH

ALCOHOL, MARIJUANA, COCAINE,  
PORNOGRAPHY, SEXUAL INTERCOURSE,  
MASTURBATION, THE EATING OF SLAUGHTERED  
MAMMALS. I DON'T DO THESE ANYMORE AND  
YOU DON'T HAVE TO EITHER. DON'T DIE  
WONDERING WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED IF  
YOU TRIED TO GET CLEAN.

# **SECONDHAND SMOKE**

I AM THREE DAYS INTO A BENDER  
OF LUST AND SELF PITY  
IN THE WAKE OF  
THE WORLD  
KICKING ME  
WHEN I AM DOWN  
AFTER STEALING THE LUNCH MONEY  
MY MOMMY GAVE ME  
THAT I SPEND ON CHOCOLATE MILK COFFEE  
AND COOKIE CIGARETTES  
AT THE PLAYGROUND  
JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER  
RICH BOYS HAVE  
IT SEEMS LIKE IF THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE  
THEN EVERYTHING ELSE JUST COSTS MORE FOR ME  
CREDITS CARDS GONE  
CASH UP IN SMOKE  
WALLOWING IN CLOUDS OF FIRE AND FUMES  
FIRE AND BRIMSTONE  
HOMELESS AM RHEIN  
LIVING IN CIGARETTE HELL  
WITH DEMONS, WHO DON'T HAVE PITCHFORKS  
BUT INSTEAD NICOTINE GUM  
HISSING CESSATION  
OR READING LISTS OF MADE UP SINS  
FALSE ACCUSERS!

AS I SPASM  
FOR MY MEDICINE  
DADDY NEEDS HIS MEDICINE  
BACKPACKING ON THE OTHER SIDE  
OF THE POND  
AND HAVING OFFICIALLY  
RUN OUT OF MONEY  
BUT NOT TIME TO  
SUFFER FOR IT  
SUFFERING AM RHEIN  
CAUSE I'M FRESH OUTTA SMOKES TOO  
DE-HOMED  
IF I EVER HAD ONE  
ON STRANGE SOIL  
WHO KNOWS WHAT I'LL DO FOR FOOD  
OR WHERE I'LL SLEEP  
WHAT TIME DOES THE SUN GO DOWN IN HELL?  
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK

SECONDHAND SMOKE  
FEEL THE URGE  
GOT NO MONEY  
EITHER ON ALMS OR  
ASLEEP IN THE ELEMENTS  
FANTASIZING OF  
SAME AS ANYONE WHOEVER LOOKED FOR

THE PERFECT PARKING SPACE AT WAL+MART  
TO LIVE IN FOR THE NIGHT  
SMOKE ON CREDIT  
BLUE LIGHT SPECIAL SMOKE  
LAYAWAY SMOKE  
SALVATION ARMY  
GIVEAWAY DONATIONS AT CHRISTMAS  
LIKE ADDICTS IN THE STREET  
BEGGING FOR SPARE CHANGE  
I PUT ON MY SANTA CLAUSE SUIT  
AND RING MY BELL  
NEXT TO A RED BUCKET IN THE SNOW  
HOHOHO!  
WHILE TOUCHING MY HAND TO MY MOUTH  
INTERNATIONAL SIGN LANGUAGE FOR  
HEY GOT SOME SMOKE TO SPARE?  
PRIME CIGARETTES FOR THE STARVING CHILDREN  
OF THAT COUNTRY YOU SAW IN A HEADLINE  
CIGARETTE GUILT STRINGS  
ATTACHED TO BOUNDLESS CIGARETTE CHARITY  
SECONDHAND CIGARETTE ETIQUETTE:  
IF YOU'RE BUMMING  
YOU SHOULD LOOK THEM IN THE EYES  
WITH BACK STRAIGHT  
LIKE A HANDSHAKE  
OR SPEND THE REST OF YOUR MINUTES

WITH SHOULDERS HUNCHED IN FEAR  
AND SHAME  
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK

SECONDHAND SMOKE  
MY LIFE STORY  
CAN BE TOLD USING CIGARETTES  
AS A SOUNDTRACK FOR MY MOOD  
A SMOKETRACK  
AS A FOUL MOUTHED INMATE, 18 YEARS IN  
I SMOKED NEWPORTS  
AND THAT OH+SO+GOOD REFRESHING FLAVOR  
MAGAZINES USED TO ADVERTISE  
TO PEOPLE OF DARK SKIN  
MAYBE I WAS BLACK WHEN I WAS YOUNG  
ONLY GOD KNOWS  
THEN THERE WERE PARLIAMENTS  
WITH RECESSED FILTERS  
AND THE INTERNET GOT BIG  
AND THERE WERE ALL KINDS OF CIGARETTES  
AND THEY JUST SHOWED UP IN THE MAIL!  
FIRST CLASS POSTAGE ON FIRST HAND SMOKE  
FROM FORMER SOVIET NATIONS  
AND CHEAP BUT THEY TASTED LIKE CHERNOBYL  
WHEN I JOINED THE WORKING MAN'S WORLD  
IT WAS MARLBORO LIGHTS



TWO PACKS A DAY  
WITH OLD DRIP COFFEE  
FROM A GLASS BURNER  
I REMEMBER MY FIRST CIGARETTE  
SAME AS THE ONES FROM THE WOMB  
BENSON AND HEDGES GOLD  
AND IF DRINKING  
HENSON AND BEDGES - DYSLEXIC  
JIM HENSON AND VEGGES  
GOLD LIKE COLD  
MUPPETS AND SPINACH ON UGLY ICE  
IN SPACE CHIMP HELL  
STOLEN FROM MY FATHER  
FIRST HAND SMOKE  
FROM AN OLD SCHOOL GENTLEMAN  
AND KOOLS WHEN I WANTED TO FEEL COOL  
MAYBE I WAS BLACK AGAIN  
SMOKING LISTERINE  
OR BREATH MINTS  
COOL HAND LUKE  
SMOKING KOOLS  
NEXT TO A PENGUIN  
AS WE HOLD OUR EGGS  
IN THE DEEP FREEZE AND WAIT FOR  
THE BABY'S MAMA TO COME BACK  
WITH SOME FISH IN HER GULLET

WITH SKINS IN THE BANK, DUNHILLS  
NOT PICKED FROM DUNG HILLS  
BUT FIRST HAND AND WITH FLAVOR  
FEELING AS OLD SCHOOL AS THE OLD MAN  
MAYBE EVEN A LUCKY STRIKE  
NO FILTER  
EVEN MORE LIKE THE OLD MAN MAYBE  
I NEVER QUIT ANYTHING IN MY LIFE -  
EXCEPT QUITTING  
IN CHINA I SMOKE YUNYAN  
CARRIED WITH MAO'S LITTLE RED BOOK IN HAND  
AND WEARING MY RED SCARF  
MARCHING FIRST IN THE TRIANGLE  
AND CAMELS CALLED LUO TUO  
AND THERE I HAVE WHOLE CARTONS  
PLANNED SMOKE, FIRST HAND  
LIKE PLANNED PREGNANCY  
BRINGING NEW JOY TO THE WORLD  
WO YAO WO DE ZIGARETTEN  
TICK TOCKITY TOCK TOCK

AND HAND+ROLLED CIGARETTES WITH MY CAMP  
COFFEE  
HOWDY, PARTNER  
RECONSOLIDATED CIGARETTES FROM THE ROACHES  
CIGARETTE HIPPIE, GREEN REVOLUTION  
ON A MISSION OF ZERO CIGARETTE WASTE

I HAVE SMOKED CIGARETTES  
FROM ASHTRAYS PILED MAUNA LOA HIGH WITH  
BURNT BUTTS  
AND SEQUENTIALLY  
NUMBERED AND LABELED THEM  
BY THE TOBACCO LEFT  
AND FIRED THEM UP IN THE ORDER  
THAT MADE MOST EMPIRICAL SENSE TO PRODUCE  
THE BEST BUZZ  
SECOND HAND CIGARETTE SCIENCE  
PAIRED WITH TESTING  
OF THE CIGARETTE BIOSPHERE  
IN MY CONVERSION VAN  
OR THE NICOTINE AND CAFFEINE  
COMPOSITION OF THE BLOOD IN MY VEINS  
COMPARABLE ONLY TO THAT TRASH JUICE  
THAT LIVES AT THE BOTTOM OF A GARBAGE CAN  
IN A CAFÉ  
I WONDER IF THEY WILL  
TAKE A CORE SAMPLE OF MY LUNGS  
IN SOME FUTURE  
LIKE CHARTING GLOBAL WARMING IN ANTARCTICA  
AND FIND LAYERS OF SADNESS AND SMOKE TAR  
AND FIGURE OUT WHICH BRAND  
I WAS HAPPIEST SMOKING  
THOUGH I HATE THE WORD HAPPY

OR HOW MUCH MONEY I HAD  
DURING CERTAIN ALIGNMENTS OF THE STARS  
LET ME CONSULT MY STAR CHART FOR  
IF IT'S A GOOD TIME TO LIGHT UP  
OOO, IMAGINE THAT  
CLICK! SUCK..  
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK  
SECONDHANDS KEEP AMOVIN'

I HAVE GAMBLED CIGARETTES  
I HAVE MORTGAGED CIGARETTES  
LEVERAGED FOR PACKS, EVERYTHING BUT MY FIRST  
BORN  
CIGARETTE RUMPELSTILZCHEN AWAY!  
I HAVE HELD CIGARETTE WALKATHONS  
CIGARETTE TELETHONS  
CALL IN AND PLEDGE A PACK  
THERE'S AN OLD CULTURAL ITEM  
PEOPLE GETTING SHOT FOR THEIR JORDANS  
IN THE DECAYING URBAN CENTERS  
I'M CAREFUL NOT TO OPEN CARRY  
ROLLED CIGS IN CERTAIN NEIGHBORHOODS  
LEST CIGARETTE HIGHWAYMEN  
COME FOR MY SMOKY TREASURE  
OR THE CIGARETTE ACCOUNTANT FINDS ME  
YOU'VE BEEN CIGARETTE SERVED

MARGIN CALL ON ALL OF MY  
HEY, I'LL OWE YOU ONES  
HEY, I'LL OWE YOU TEN!  
AND MY CIGARETTE DOW JONES DIPS  
CIGARETTE BLACK FRIDAY  
TRACKED DOWN BY ATF AGENT DIRTY HARRY  
HAVE TO FLEE TO EUROPE  
TOO LATE!  
ALREADY HARRIED AND DIRTY  
AND IN TROUBLE WITH THE COPPERS  
WHO HAVE RECENTLY PUT THE BOOT DOWN  
ON MY NOT BUYING TICKETS FOR THE TRAIN  
AND DETAINED ME FOR  
OF ALL CRIMES  
IN WHAT WAS FORMERLY NAZI COUNTRY  
IMPERSONATION OF A JEW  
THEY MIGHT SEND ME TO JAIL  
WITH THREE HOTS AND A COT  
BUT NO SMOKE! HA!  
I'LL BE TORN FROM MY BELOVED STREETS  
STREETS PAVED WITH GOLD  
AND LINED WITH CIGARETTES  
A MAN COULD BE SO CIGARETTE RICH  
IN ONE HOUR BY THE TRAINS  
HE DID NOT HAVE TO SCAVENGE UNTIL NIGHT  
WHEN THE MOON WAS FULL

ROARING LIKE A CIGARETTE WEREWOLF  
I AM MOSTLY A CIGARETTE RACCOON  
DIGGING IN YOUR GARBAGE  
A CIGARETTE POSSUM  
POSSUMUSNE DONAS CIGARETTE, MEUM AMICUM?  
VERITAS, PUBLICUS  
BY SATURN, HAVE TWO  
AND HAIL KAISERA  
IN THIS GLORIOUS HOUR!  
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK

SECONDHAND SMOKE  
CIGARETTE TRUTH OR DARE  
TIRED OF THE LIES HERE  
TOO LITTLE YANG FOR MOST YINZ  
DARE YOU TO BEAT THAT ONE  
AND REFLECT ON TRUTH  
THROUGH THE EYES OF THE POOR  
WHO HAVE KEPT THEIR DIGNITY  
THE WORLD IS FILLED WITH IT  
NO TIME FOR LIES WHEN  
AND NOTHING BUT POSSIBILITIES  
YOU HAVE NOT EATEN FOR DAYS ON END  
AND THE ONLY THING HOLDING YOU TOGETHER  
IS THE NEXT CIGARETTE  
CIGARETTE SUSTENANCE

THE TRUTH OF THE STREET  
I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME  
I HAD NOTHING  
AND PICKED MY FIRST SMOKE  
FROM THE PAVEMENT  
AND BRUSHED IT OFF  
AND LIT IT UP  
AND THE FIRST TIME  
I ENJOYED A SECONDHAND BUTT  
BUT FORGOT TO FEEL DIRTY AFTER  
I WAS ALREADY SLEEPING  
ON ICY STONE  
NOTHING TASTES BETTER THAN  
FREE  
I WONDER IF THAT WAS THE DEATH OF ME  
AND HE SHALL RISE FROM THE ASHES  
TOO COOL LUKE, CIGARETTE PHOENIX  
DVIJA  
SA JAYATE  
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK

CIGARETTE  
ZIGARETTEN  
HABEN SIE FIER?  
MIT EIN BIER?  
HIGH GERMAN TECHNOLOGIES FOR SUPPRESSING  
MY GNAWING SELF+CONSCIOUSNESS

EACH LOOK AN ACCUSATION  
DO THEY KNOW I'M  
HOMELESS?  
AUSLÄNDER?!  
BLOOD STEALER?!  
HABEN SIE HUNGER?  
AND ALSO DAMPENING  
WITH ALL THESE HELGAS AND INGAS  
MY LUST  
IN THIS RAM'S RUTTING HOUR  
I'D HAVE PEOPLED  
THIS RHEINLAND ISLAND  
IF NOT FOR POVERTY, NICOTINE AND DRINK  
AND THAT'S ALL OF US DOPED UP  
EASIER TO BURN AND BOOZE AWAY THE PAIN  
THAN CONFRONT A SYSTEM  
THAT IS BROKEN, LIKE A PLANE  
ON WHICH WE ARE PACKED  
AND EVERYONE CAN AGREE  
THE NOSE IS POINTED EARTHBOUND  
TOO MANY DEGREES  
AFTER THE PILOT  
DOWNED SIX SCOTCHES  
AND TOLD US IN HIS BEST CHUCK YEAGER VOICE  
I'M NOT HAPPY WITH THE RESULTS  
OF THE RECENT ELECTION  
MY WIFE JUST TOOK HALF OF IT ALL



AND THE DOG  
PRAY FOR ME  
WE WERE NEVER CLOSER TO  
SPACE CHIMP HEAVEN  
IN NOMINI RALEIGH  
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK

SECOND HAND SMOKE  
TICK TICK TICK TICK TICK  
TICKLE ME BLUE AND COLD  
I WAKE UP TO LIGHT FIRES  
IN THE ABANDONED BUILDINGS  
I SLEEP IN  
SO I WON'T FREEZE TO DEATH  
IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT  
WHEN YOU ARE ALONE  
AND THE POOREST MAN WITHIN TEN BLOCKS  
AND WHILE THE WORLD DOZES  
OR DRINKS  
OR DANCES  
OR SLAPS SKINS  
ON SILK SHEETS  
OR BY FIREPLACES  
AND WOMEN COOK WITH ONLY A SHIRT ON  
SUGGESTION OF RUMP BENEATH  
AND I'M BURNING UNDERWEAR CATALOGUES  
WITH THAT SAME WOMAN IN THEM

JUST TO STAY ALIVE  
THE MIND CHANGES  
SAME AFTER SHIVERING AGAINST THE COLD GLASS  
OF A PHONE BOOTH IN EUROPE  
WRAPPED IN A THIN BLANKET  
STOLEN FROM A RESTAURANT PATIO  
THINKING WARM WINE THOUGHTS  
AND A HINT OF FLESH!  
WITH OCCASIONAL RACLETTE DREAMS  
OF WOMEN WEARING COLLARED SHIRTS NOW  
AND NOTHING ELSE  
MUNCHING ON CHEESY POTATOES AND WINE  
AVAILABLE TO ALL AND FREE YET  
SOMEBODY PLOTTED AGAINST THIS FOR ME  
TOO MANY NOTCHES TO MARK THE INADEQUACY  
I AM EDMUND DAUNTESS  
THE WARDEN IS CRUEL  
ESCAPE IS IN HAND  
VENGEANCE TO FOLLOW  
IF KARMA DOESN'T GET THEM FIRST  
NO MORE IN THE SECOND DECLENSION  
NO MORE IN THE THIRD  
NOT THE OBJECT OF THEIR EVILS  
NOR THE INSTRUMENT  
VICTIM SPEECH NO MORE  
SPONSORED BY IKEA  
WHICH, TO ITS LINGONBERRY CREDIT

HAS SAVED MY COMFORT  
AND SENSE OF HUMANITY  
MORE THAN ONCE  
AND MAYBE EVEN MY LIFE  
ON NIGHTS IT WAS SNOWING  
THE WINTER WAITS FOR NO BEAR  
TO FIND HIS BURROW  
UNTIL THE DAYLIGHT RETURNS TO DISCOVER  
HALF A PACK LYING ON THE GROUND  
NEXT TO BOTTLES AND BUTTS  
AND PISS FROM A GROUP OF DRUNKS  
WHO YELLED INTO THE NIGHT AS I SLEPT  
IN MY PHONE BOOTH  
JUST NEAR THE TRAM LINE  
WAITING NOT FOR SUNUP BUT  
ABOUT AN HOUR AFTER  
FOR IN MORNING  
THAT'S THE SUNRISE, THE BIRTH OF MOURNING  
HEAT MOVES THE AIR  
LIKE TIDAL CURRENTS, MAKES THE WORLD COLDER  
CALLED THERMAL INVERSION  
GOTTA BEAT THE THERMAL INVERSION  
AKA TURTLE INVASION  
GOTTA AVOID THE TURTLES  
UNTIL YOU HEAR THE CHARIOT  
AND SURYA SHOWS UP  
TO BURN THE FREEZE OFF

TICK TOCK TICK TOCK

SECONDHAND SMOKE

BECOMING THE STUFF OF

SECONDHAND NIGHTMARES

STALKING THE STREETS

EYES DARTING, SCANNING

CIGARETTE BLOODHOUNDS, TRASH STEALED

SEARCHING FOR MARLBORO BLACK TRUFFLES

WINSTON LIONS CHASING NEWPORT GAZELLES

CIGARETTE APEX PREDATOR

FEEDS UNCHALLENGED

ON THE CIGARETTE CIRCLE OF LIFE

CIGARETTE HEAT SEEKING MISSILE

TARGET ACQUIRED, FIRE AND FURY

CIGARETTE SOCIOPATH

BEFRIENDS PEOPLE TO BUM BUTTS

CIGARETTE PSYCHOPATH

STUDIES, WATCHES

CIGARETTE STALKER IN THE BAR

KEEPS BETTER COUNT OF

YOUR SMOKES

THAN YOU DO

CIGARETTE CHARITY MAN

GIVES THEM OUT FREELY

LIKE A PRODUCT PROMOTER

CIGARETTE SHARER

PUFF PUFF PASS  
SELFLESS CIGARETTISM  
CIGARETTE DEEBO  
TAKES BY FORCE  
IT'S OURS TOGETHER NOW  
CIGARETTE COMPLAINER  
WITH THAT UGLY LOOK ON HER FACE  
CIGARETTE VOYEUR  
JUST WANTS TO WATCH YOU SMOKE  
SMOKE RING BLOWERS  
MISTAKING CIGARETTES FOR TOOTH BRUSHES  
LEAVING THE END DRENCHED AND WET  
CIGARETTE MAKEUP ARTIST  
STAINS THE EDGE WITH LIPSTICK  
CIGARETTE SALESMAN  
CIGARETTE HOARDER  
CIGARETTE SNOB  
AND CIGARETTE EXPLOITER  
WHAT WILL YOU DO FOR IT?  
AND ME  
ALL HOURS OF THE DAY AND NIGHT  
CIGARETTE GARBAGE MAN  
JUST HEAP 'EM BY THE ROADSIDE  
I DO THE HAULIN' HERE  
UNDER THE ILLUSION NO ONE CAN SMELL ME  
AS I CHAIN SMOKE, CHAINED TO TOBACCO  
WHOLE CHAIN GANG WITH ME ON THE ROADSIDE

GOTTA SMOKE EVERY ONE TO GET FREE  
LIGHTIN' ANOTHER, BOSS!  
THEN OUT ON CIGARETTE PAROLE  
SO I PURCHASE DIP  
AND WHEN THAT'S NOT ENOUGH  
THROW IN A LIP OF THE DIP  
THEN LIGHT ONE UP  
A DANCE THROUGH A WINTERGREEN FOREST  
MINTY, ALMOST NEWPORT QUALITY  
COFFEE  
KULKULKHAN SUGAR FROM THE CANE  
ADDERALL  
BLACK ADDER STRIKES THE BRAIN  
SENDS YOU BLASTING OFF  
LIKE A SPACE CHIMP ON A MISSION  
TO SMOKE 'EM ALL  
CATCH EM ALL  
POKÉMON CIGARETTES  
HOW MANY BRANDS HAVE YOU TRIED?  
OR DO YOU STAY CIGARETTE MONOGAMOUS  
MISLED BY MISFIRING WESTERN-JUDEO  
NOTIONS OF CIGARETTE LOYALTY  
WITH SOUL CRUSHING GUILT UPON STRAYING  
OR BEING CAUGHT BY THE CIGARETTE CHEATERS  
CREW  
OR CONFRONTED ON CIGARETTE MAURY

OR DO YOU JUST NOT FIX IT  
IF IT AIN'T BROKE  
MY GRANDFATHER SMOKED  
FOUR PACKS OF COWBOY KILLERS A DAY  
LIKE CLOCKWORK, TICK TICK TICK  
OLYMPIC SYNCHRONIZED CIGARETTING  
LIKE DOMINOES  
EVER WATCH ONE SMOKER LIGHT UP  
AND THE REST FOLLOW?  
SPACE CHIMP SEE  
SPACE CHIMP DO  
SPACE CHIMP PARADISE CULT  
ON A MISSION  
EVERY FORTY FIVE MINUTES  
LIGHTING CIGARETTES AS INCENSE  
AND PRAYING TO THE WINDS  
SPACE CHIMP PARADISE CULT MEDITATIONS  
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK

SECONDHAND SMOKE  
LIGHT THE WRONG END  
TEAR OFF THE MELTED BUTT  
CUSTOM CIGARETTES  
AND DECLARE I HAVE STEPPED OUT  
OF A TIME MACHINE  
FROM THE GREATEST GENERATION

WHEN MEN WERE MEN  
CIGARETTES WERE ACCESSORIES  
AND THE ADVERTISING  
WAS CATCHIER, MORE INTELLIGENT  
SMOKING WAS ALLOWED EVERYWHERE  
JAMES BOND COULD TELL  
IF YOU WERE A NAZI  
JUST BY THE WAY YOU HELD YOUR CIGARETTE  
(MORE ABOUT NAZIS AND CIGARETTES HERE)  
(AND MORE HERE)  
BUT NO MORE HERE  
THAT HORSE CAN'T GET NO DEADER  
OR FOR SHOCK VALUE PERHAPS  
MOORE HERE  
WHIGAMORE  
MILK MAN, SOUR MILK  
WHITE MILK  
WHITMORE  
WHITE MAN  
HAVE MORE WIT  
WHAT'S WRONG WIT DAT?  
WHO DAT?  
JODAT!  
JOE DADDY!  
BUT NACHO MAMA!  
COFFEE STAINS ON BUCK TEETH



WASHING DOWN NICOTINE  
NOTHING TO EAT  
AND BUY TWO PACKS IF YOU GET AHOLD  
OF SOME KULKULKHAN  
POWDER USED TO BUY MY CIGARETTES FOR ME  
BUY ONE PACK, GET TWENTY MORE NOT FREE  
AND RED WINE AND MARLBORO LIGHTS  
LIKE RIDING JACOB'S ESCALATOR  
UP TO HEAVEN  
TOO BAD I NEVER HAD AN ANGEL  
TO WALK ON DOWN THAT ROAD WITH  
DO YOU KNOW SECONDHAND SMOKE  
IN BETWEEN BOUTS OF ADDICT PANGS?  
SMOKERS ARE NOT KNOWN FOR PATIENCE  
MOSTLY AS PATIENTS  
CAN'T BREATHE?  
JUST PUNCH A HOLE IN YOUR NECK!  
THEN BACK TO THE STREET  
RAISING THE HAND ONCE AGAIN  
TO PUPPY DOG LIPS  
IN PACKED CLUBS  
AND SMOKY BARS  
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE FOR  
I PLAN POORLY, BROTHER  
CAN YOU SPARE A FAG?  
STOG?

BUTT?

SQUARE?

OR PERHAPS JUST ONE.

GOT ONE FOR ME?

INTERNATIONAL SMOKERS GUILD

LOOSE AFFILIATION

DROGGED IN: NOTIONS OF AMERICAN HONOR,

GUILT, PRIDE AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

FEMA CIGARETTES, FIRST HAND

PASSED OUT AFTER TORNADO MERLOT

AND HURRICANE JOHNNY WALKER

FRUM CULT CIGARETTES DROPPING FROM

AIRPLANES

ALL GRASS-SKIRTED VILLAGERS SHARING

SMOKING THEM DOWN TO THE FILTER

AS THEY DANCED THE NIGHT AWAY

POPPING OFF AIRCRAFT FLARES

CIGARETTES FOR ALL

AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

ONE CIG, BRO. JUST THIS ONE TIME.

SHOULD ONE STAY AND SMALL TALK

OUT OF SUPPOSED COURTESY?

COURTESY IS KING

BUT DON'T BOTHER

I DON'T EVEN LIKE TALKING TO MYSELF

SECONDHAND WITHDRAWN, BY NATURE

AND EVEN ON FIRST HAND NIGHTS

WHEN I WAS SMOKE RICH  
NOT WEALTHY OR TOBACCO WELL+HEELED  
BOOZE IN ONE HAND  
MY SECOND HAND HOLDING A CIGARETTE  
I'D HAVE RATHER PULLED  
THIRTY CENTS OUT OF MY POCKET  
(PERHAPS I'LL NEED A THIRD HAND)  
AND TOLD THE MAN WITH A GESTURE  
TO THE NEWSSTAND, COMMON CUR  
AND CURSE YE  
AND IT'S CLOSING SO YOU BETTER MARCH FORWARD  
IT'S A LONG ONE  
SEE IF THEY STILL SELL LOOSIES  
CIGARETTE SELFISH SOMETIMES  
CRASS CIGARETTE DENIAL  
BY A CIGARETTE BARON  
GETS CIGARETTE NASTY AND OVERPOSSESSIVE  
CIGARETTE TYRANT, VILLAIN IN THE  
CIGARETTE COMING OF AGE STORY  
TURNING CIGARETTE RESPONSIBLE  
LIKE BUYING A VOLVO  
CIGARETTE SAFE  
CIGARETTE CRASH TEST DUMMIES  
HERE YOU TRY IT FIRST  
AND THEN CIGARETTE-BASED FINANCIAL PLANNING  
EVEN IF YOU CAN'T CHARGE A LOAF OF BREAD

YOU GOTTA KEEP YOUR CIGARETTE  
CREDIT SCORE HIGH  
OR YOU WILL END UP CIGARETTE IMPOVERISHED  
MY FATHER USED TO GET A CIGARETTE AND A  
MATCH  
FOR A PENNY  
IN BALTIMORE  
WHAT HAPPENED TO LORD RALEIGH'S ECONOMY  
SWEPT AWAY BY TIME  
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK

SECONDHAND SMOKE  
SECOND HAND SMOKING ON MY INNER TIME PIECE  
POWERED BY KINETIC REGRET  
DISRUPTING INNER PEACE  
OCCASIONAL COUNTS ON NOTEPAD PAPER  
WHEN I'M FEELING POOR  
OR DOWN ABOUT LIFE  
HOW MANY HOURS  
HAVE I WASTED  
YEARNING  
WANDERING THE STREETS  
IN THE DAWN  
DEAD DRUNK  
SEEKING JUST ONE PUFF  
AFTER A NIGHT OF HEAVY BOOZE  
CIGARETTE WALKATHON

KILLING MYSELF  
HALF-HEARTED ATTEMPTS  
WITH EACH LIGHTER CLICK  
AND YE SHALL  
GO FORTH INTO THE LAND  
AND LIVE 70 YEARS  
MY FATHER TOLD ME  
ANYTHING OVER THAT WAS GOD'S TIME  
AT 7 MINUTES A CIG  
AND A PACK A DAY FOR 15 YEARS  
THAT'S A MILLION MINUTES  
I CANNOT HAVE BACK  
NOT SO MUCH STOLEN  
BUT THAT I GAVE IT AWAY  
ONE PUFF AT A TIME  
WONDER IF THE INFINITE  
REFUNDS HOURS BY THE POUND SPENT SMOKING  
WHEN WE ALL GET TO  
OUR ISLAND IN  
SPACE CHIMP HEAVEN  
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK

SECONDHAND SMOKE  
A PULL FROM NATURE'S FINEST  
REFUSE  
TIME WELL SPENT IN THE PUFFING

CAST DOWN PERHAPS  
BY A MAN WITH TOO MUCH  
WHO LIT UP TWO IN A ROW  
AND LOST THE TASTE  
FOR HIS MARLBORO  
OR PICKED FROM THE TOP OF A TRASH CAN  
JUST NEXT TO THE TRAINS  
IN THE SPIRIT  
OF OUR MAN  
GHANDI  
THE MAHATMA  
WHIPPED, IN YOUTH, BY POVERTY  
THEN LATER BY WHITE MEN  
WHOSE SHOULDERS HE WORE OUT  
TRAINED BY THE TRAINS  
WHERE HE PICKED CIGARETTES FOR HIS WIFE  
LIKE PICKING FLOWERS  
CIGARETTES AS AN INGREDIENT FOR NON-  
VIOLENCE  
SECONDHAND SMOKE MADE INDIA INDEPENDENT  
(SA JAYATE)  
SO RAISE 'EM UP  
TO ADVANCEMENT OF ALL HETERO SAPIENS  
CAN I BORROW SOME FIRE?  
LIGHTER UP  
AND WHAT WE DO HERE  
WE DO FOR ALL THE HUMAN RACE

ONE SMALL MOVEMENT FOR A MAN  
ONE GIANT LEAP IN SPACE CHIMP HEAVEN  
FOR ALL MANKIND  
FIGHT THE FIRST WORLD PROBLEM  
OF WASTED TOBACCO  
CLICK! SUCK..  
REMEMBERING WITH A CHRISTMAS  
FIRESIDE EGGNOG GLOW  
THE DAYS OF YORE  
WHEN I HAD ONLY  
WHAT THE STREET COULD PROVIDE  
CIGARETTE PRIEST  
ON SHREDDED TOBACCO ALMS  
JUST CUP YOUR HAND AND SMILE  
OR GO SECONDHAND  
SECONDHAND BUTTS  
PLUCKED FROM THE PAVEMENT  
LIKE STREETWALKERS AFTER LUNCH ON PAYDAY  
USED  
RIGHT THERE NEXT TO THE  
DIRT AND GARBAGE AND GRIME  
LYING TO THE WOMAN WHO JUST NOTICED ME  
WITH BODY LANGUAGE  
INTIMATING SLIGHTLY  
I WAS JUST TYING MY SHOES  
STOLEN SHOES, I MIGHT ADD  
DID SHE NOTICE THERE WERE NO LACES?

IN THAT STATE, DID I REMEMBER?

SECONDHAND SMOKE

CATALYST FOR LIBERATION

FREEDOM THROUGH BONDAGE

INDEPENDENCE THROUGH RELIANCE

AND NOW ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM

LAUDATE ME, AMICUM MEUM!

AS I FIGHT FILTH

POLLUTION AND LITTERING

ON THE STREET LEVEL

GRASS ROOTS

I HAVE PAPERS, CAN WE SMOKE 'EM!

FIGHTING ONE PUFF AT A TIME

FOR THIS NOBLE CIVILIZATION

CAPTAIN PLANET SHOULD SMOKE

SAVING THREE TOED SLOTHS

AND FIGHTING OIL PIPELINES

THROUGH CULLED WOLF COUNTRY

THE BLOOD OF THE LAND IS UPON YOU!

SELFLESS CIGARETTISM COSTS

SPEND MONTHS ON END

DREAMING POOR MAN'S DREAMS

WAITING MY TURN TO DANCE

WITH LADY LUCK

OR PULL ON THE URNA OF FORTUNE

THE GENTLEMAN IN THE BREADLINE



REACHING FOR A HANDOUT  
WATCHING MYSELF BEING SKIPPED BY PEOPLE  
WHO THINK MY EXISTENCE  
IS FOR THEM  
WHO STARTED THE LIE  
THAT ANY ONE PERSON  
SHOULD HAVE MORE THAN ANOTHER  
ESPECIALLY WITH CIGARETTES  
WHERE IS MY UNICEF SMOKE?  
WHERE IS THE PEOPLE'S SMOKE?  
SMOKING COMMUNISM  
MAO SMOKED RELIGIOUSLY  
SMOKING KEPT THE PEOPLE ON  
THE LONG MARCH FORWARD  
COMRADE?! TOVARISCH?!  
WHERE ARE MY RATIONS?  
KIM THE FATHER AND THE SON SMOKED  
LIKE CHIMNEYS IN AN IRON CITY  
SMOKING CRUSHES  
CRUSHING IMPERIALISM  
ONE DRAG AT A TIME  
UNLESS BETTER PROGRAMS ARE OFFERED  
DURING THE DEPRESSION  
THEY SENT MY FATHER  
TO LIVE AT THE HEBREW ORPHAN ASYLUM  
SO HE COULD EAT

MAYBE SOMEONE WILL SEND ME TO LIVE  
AT THE CIGARETTE FACTORY  
SO I CAN SMOKE THE DAY AWAY  
AND CIGARETTES GROW ON TREES  
AND GENE WILDER  
TAKES US ON A ROWBOAT  
THROUGH A RIVER OF FRESH COFFEE  
AND WARNS US OF THE DANGERS  
OF HIS NEW CIGARETTES  
THAT NOW PROVIDE ALL  
THE NUTRITION  
OF A THREE COURSE MEAL  
OOMPA LOOMPAS  
WITH PACKS UP THEIR ROLLED SLEEVES  
WILD ONES  
HUDDLED AROUND THE SMOKER'S OASIS  
DANCING, TWIRLING  
CHECK THEIR WATCHES  
THEY DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF IT  
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK  
SOMETIMES NEITHER DO I

SECONDHAND KEEPS TICKIN'  
THEY NEVER QUIT  
I HAD A GIRLFRIEND ONCE  
SHE FED ME PUFFY OATMEAL

WE ATE ALFREDO CHICKEN TOGETHER  
IN A CLOUD, AS GOD HAD MADE US  
SHE USED TO CALL ME SMOKEY BABY  
AND JUDGE MY HABITS  
WE WERE SMOKEY AND THE BANDIT  
UNTIL I WAS TOO POOR  
AND I WASN'T PRETTY ANYMORE  
AND MY ROD WASN'T ENOUGH  
TO REEL HER IN  
MAYBE IT WAS JUST THE COLOR OF MY SKIN  
NOW I HOPE THAT SUCCUBUS  
SMOKES TWO PACKS A DAY  
HER AND ALL HER MONEY  
AND YOU HEARD IT HERE, FIRST HAND  
I WISH I HAD A SMOKER GIRLFRIEND  
SO WE COULD PUFF CANCER  
AND THEN SUCK TONGUE  
WITHOUT FIVE MINUTES OF PREP WASH  
BEFORE CONTACT  
LIKE I WAS SOME SPECIALIST  
SCRUBBING INTO SURGERY  
SECOND HANDS WASTED  
DRIFTING OUTSIDE ON THE HOUR  
I NEVER GOT TO SMOKE CIGARETTES  
WHILE LYING IN BED  
AFTER A GREAT TIME  
NOT EVEN MIDDLING TIME

OR WORSE

CIGARETTES ARE NOT OYSTERS, YOU KNOW  
THAT'S WHY I'LL NEED A HAREM  
BEARING FULL CARTONS OF CAMELS  
WHEN WE ARRIVE AT OUR ISLAND IN  
SPACE CHIMP PARADISE

SECONDHAND SMOKE

AND ON THE RIGHT DAY

ASPIRATIONS

OF FINDING AN OPEN BOX

AND PACKING IT SO FULL

OF  $\frac{3}{4}$  LENGTH MARLBOROS

AND  $\frac{5}{8}$  LENGTH L + MS

THAT ONE APPEARED

TO HAVE FIRST HAND SMOKE

HONESTLY PURCHASED

AND A RETURN TO DIGNITY

AS THEY SAT IN A COFFEE HOUSE

AND WATCHED GORDON RAMSAY

COOK BEEF WELLINGTON

WHEN ONE COULD NOT AFFORD

A SMALL CARTON OF FRIES

AND HUNGERED LIKE THE WOLF

AND CURSED THOSE WHO WASTE FOOD

IN THIS CLASS STRUGGLE

STRUGGLE OVER CANCER

SMOKING TO KEEP UP WITH THE JONES'S  
FIRST HAND SMOKE DELUSIONS  
BUYING CIGARETTES YOU CANNOT AFFORD  
INVITE CIGARETTE INTERVENTION  
FIELD COMMISSIONS  
OF SMOKING POLICE  
COUNTING THE PEOPLE'S PUFFS  
A NEW SHERIFF RIDES INTO TOWN  
ON HIS WHITE HORSE  
BUT WEARING HIS BLACK HAT  
FLASHES HIS TIN  
HAND ON HIS SIX SHOOTER  
HOWDY, COWBOY  
NOW BETTER SMOKE THAT 'UN TO THE FILTER  
OR FIND YOURSELF IN SMOKER'S JAIL  
WASTE NOT, WANT NOT  
TICK TOCK TICK TOCK  
WITH PLENTY OF TIME  
FOR CIGARETTE SELF-REFLECTION  
IS SMOKING THE DESIRE  
TO DIE  
MORT  
IS IT A RELEASE?  
COMME LE PETIT MORT  
OR IS IT THE PASSIONATE WILL  
TO LIVE LA VIE  
FIERY AND CONSUMING THEN

SUBLIMED AND SUBJUGATED A HUNDRED TIMES  
OVER  
BY FRESH+ROLLED NORTH CAROLINA WEEDS  
I JUST LIT  
AFTER HE WATCHED IT  
WHO HE?  
THAT OLD MAN  
WHO SAW ME RELIEVE THE STREET  
OF ITS BURDEN  
OF A FRESH AND TASTY BUTT  
AND CATCHING FIRE TO IT  
I DID NOT LOWER MY EYES BUT REVELED  
AND HE JUDGED ME THEN  
FOR BEING  
HOPEFULLY NOT POOR  
BUT PERHAPS OVERLY EAGER  
TO CHALLENGE  
OUR PERCEPTION  
OF WHAT IS CLEAN  
SOME PEOPLE JUST DON'T GET ME  
SOLDIERS OF THE GREATEST GENERATION  
USED TO RUB PISS ON THEIR FACES  
TO AVOID ACNE  
THEY DEFEATED HITLER  
AND MADE THE CORVETTE  
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING DOING  
IN THIS ROUGH LIVING

CARELESS TALK GOT THERE FIRST  
SO SHUT UP AND LET'S MAKE LEMONADE  
FROM THE LEMONS LIFE HAS TOSSED US  
AND STAY OPEN TO THE WORLD  
HOMELESS LEMONADE AM RHEIN  
POURED OVER TOP OF ME IN THE CLUBS OF EUROPE  
WHERE I SIP FIRST HAND PURPOSE  
AND DRIFT THROUGH ROOMS ECHOING  
WITH THE SOUNDS OF TECHNO AND HOUSE  
AND THINGS I WISHED I COULD FIND AGAIN  
TO RELIVE THE MOMENT  
SITTING IN AN AIRLINE CHAIR AT FIFTEEN FEET AND  
SIPPING SECONDHAND BEER  
LEFT AGAIN AS WASTE  
WATCHING DOPED UP DANCERS  
THRUST IN GLOWING LIGHT  
AND FEELING THE SOUND  
STRIKE A CHORD IN MY  
COSMIC ME  
AND PRESENT PAST FUTURE  
AND THE MOMENT  
ALL AS ONE  
A DESIRE FOR BETTER  
ONLY TO RUN  
AS THE SECOND HANDS TICKED CLOSING TIME  
LIKE CINDERELLA

MY COACHMEN HAD TURNED BACK TO RATS  
MY CLEAN CLOTHES BACK TO RAGS  
MY RIDE INTO A PUMPKIN  
AND I ESCAPED THE SUNRISE  
TO SLEEP OFF THE SENSE  
THAT I COULD HAVE WHAT OTHERS COULD  
FOR TWO MOMENTS IN A ROW  
IN AN ABANDONED HALLWAY  
ON A MAIN STREET  
IN FILTH AND WRECKAGE  
AND HUNTED FOR SMOKES  
AFTERWARD  
AS THE GENTRY ATTENDED CHURCH  
SUPPLICANTS, CELEBRANTS  
PASS THE BUCKET OF HELL MONEY  
TO FUEL THE ROCKET SHIP  
TAKING US TO SPACE CHIMP HEAVEN  
WE SHALL PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS  
OF THE SINS OF THIS LIFE  
AND WHIP OURSELVES WITH LEATHER  
PERFORM RITUALS OF ABLUTION  
AND GET TO BURNING  
INCENSE  
FOR THE GOD OF OUR  
SPACE CHIMP PARADISE CULT  
WILL HAVE NO SMOKE  
BEFORE HIS SMOKE



AMEN

THIS, THE HOUR OF OUR DELIVERANCE  
WHERE WE ARE RELIEVED OF THE BURDEN  
OF THE CRIMES WE HAVE COMMITTED  
AND EVEN THOSE WE DIDN'T  
I HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF SUCH DAMNING ACTS  
I SHOULD APPEAR IN WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE  
NOTORIOUS THIEF!

LIAR!

CEREAL KILLER!

RACE TRAITOR!

INTERNATIONAL SPY!

MURDERER!

RAPIST!

ADDICT!

INDECENT ACTS!

ILLICIT ACTS!

EVEN ACCUSED OF BAD ACTING!

TREASON!

HERESY!

BLACK MAGIC!

HOMOSEXUALITY!

FURTHER IMMORALITIES!

AND MOSTLY GUILTY, MY ADMISSION

AND MIGHT HAVE CASED A FEW JOINTS

AND MADE A FEW PLANS

BUT, YOUR HONOR,

RAISING HIS RIGHT HAND  
WITH LEFT HAND ON THE DAY'S SCRIPTURE  
BUT TO MY KNOWLEDGE  
I HAVE NEVER STOLEN A CIGARETTE  
ON THIS CONTINENT  
I SHALL KEEP MY MANOS  
IF ONLY SO I CAN LIGHT MY OWN SMOKE IN  
HELL  
THIS HELL  
MY HELL  
AN ENDLESS TRAIN LINE  
TICK TICK TICK TICK  
OF SECOND HANDS  
AS YOU RIDE TICKETLESS  
FROM STATION TO STATION  
ETERNALLY NEEDING  
WHAT OTHERS TOSSED AWAY  
AND IN FEAR OF HAVING TO PRODUCE PAPIEREN  
ZEE PAPERS! SCHNELL!  
SMOKING, WAITING NERVOUSLY  
FOR ANOTHER TRAIN  
IT'S ALWAYS COMING  
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE  
AND DON'T EVEN KNOW IT  
GET THE LAST PUFF  
SUCKED INTO THOSE LUNGS  
MAKE SURE NOT

TO EXHALE FULLY BEFORE  
ENTRY INTO THE PASSENGER COMPARTMENT  
SO SOMEONE CAN SHUDDER IN DISGUST  
AS YOU BLOW HOMELESS MAN'S DRAGONS BREATH  
INTO THEIR EYES  
THE ONLY THING WORSE  
THE SMELL OF THE REST OF YOU  
MONTHS WITH NO SHOWER  
A QUARTER OF YOUR BODY WEIGHT GONE  
SEE BONES AND MUSCLES  
YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD  
WHEN YOU HOLD YOUR BREATH  
EVEN TO PISS NOW  
YOU HAVE BECOME LIVING FILTH  
HAVE A SEAT ALONE  
HIDE  
NOT JUST FROM THE MEN WITH THE BADGES  
FROM THE WORLD  
SO THEY DON'T STARE AT YOU  
LIKE YOU ARE AN ANIMAL AGAIN  
YOU MIGHT START TO BELIEVE THEM  
AND WATCH THE LIGHTS PASS  
AND ALL THE PRETTY PEOPLE THROUGH THE  
WINDOW  
TICK TICK TICK TICK  
WHEELS ROCKING ON STEEL RAIL  
GAZE IN REFLECTION

AND LEARN TO FIND MEANING IN  
THE HAVING OF NOTHING  
OR LIVE AGAIN THE MOMENTS  
OF MY CIGARETTE DAMNATION  
PURCHASED SECONDHAND FROM THE DEVIL  
HIMSELF  
IN INSTALLMENTS  
THE BURDEN OF SECONDHAND LIFE  
FILLED WITH SECONDHAND DREAD  
SECOND HAND FOOD  
SECOND HAND LIVING SPACE FOR A  
SECOND CLASS CITIZEN  
SCOURING THE GUTTER FOR  
SECOND HAND PAIN RELIEF  
MY SECONDHAND CRUTCH  
DEADENING DEVICE  
FOR SECONDHAND LUST  
SECONDHAND WANT  
FOR THINGS I CANNOT HAVE  
AND OTHERS HAVE SO MUCH OF  
IT ENDS UP IN THE GARBAGE  
AND LIVE IN SECONDHAND ENVY  
BECAUSE I'M TOO IMPULSIVE  
OR I'M POOR  
OR I'M NARROW MINDED  
OR I'M ADDICTION PRONE  
OR JUST ON A COLD STREAK

PLAIN UNLUCKY  
AND SHARE MY DEPRESSION  
OVER NOT MONEY  
BUT STRIPPED INDEPENDENCE  
AND THEN MY SECONDHAND SADNESS  
ONE BUTT AT A TIME  
CLOCKWORK, TIME TICKIN' AWAY  
NOW SECONDHAND EMBARRASSMENT  
AND SECONDHAND REGRET  
REGRET EVERY SECOND  
TURNS TO SECONDHAND SHAME  
SECONDHAND PAIN  
SECOND DEGREE BURNS  
SEARING AWAY  
ALL THAT YOU ARE  
AND LEAVES ONLY  
SECONDHAND SCARS  
ON MY STILL  
FIRST HAND SOUL

**I WAKE SOMETIMES**

I WAKE SOMETIMES  
ON A BLOCK OF ICE  
SURROUNDED BY SNOW  
AND LIGHT A FIRE  
SO I DON'T FREEZE TO DEATH  
I WAKE SOMETIMES  
SITTING QUIETLY  
IN THE AFTERNOON SUN  
WHEN YOU ARE HOMELESS  
AND SLEEP ON CONCRETE  
EVERYWHERE NOT COLD  
LOOKS LIKE A MATTRESS AT A NICE HOTEL  
THAT'S WHEN YOU'VE LOST IT  
IF YOU EVER HAD IT  
THE REASON WE DON'T  
PICK OUR NOSE  
OR SCRATCH THE CRACK OF OUR ASS  
OR BELCH  
OR FART  
OR CURSE  
OR EVEN HAVE UNKEMPT HAIR  
IN FRONT OF OTHERS  
TO BE FILTHY  
TO BE VULNERABLE  
TO HAVE YOUR WESTERN DIGNITY

YOU'RE A HIBLIT  
HAD IT BUT YOU LOST IT  
HAD YOUR DIGNITY BUT YOU LOST IT  
I TURN ON THE FAUCET  
IN MY MOTHER'S HOUSE  
SO NO ONE CAN HEAR ME  
SHIT SOMETIMES  
BUT NOW I'M NODDING OFF  
LIKE A NARCOLEPTIC  
AND THE GREATEST PEACE I HAVE  
IS FALLING ASLEEP  
IN THE MIDDLE OF A CROWDED PARK  
WHEN THE SUN IS HIGHEST  
I WAKE SOMETIMES  
WHEN I WANT TO BETTER MYSELF  
TYPICALLY UPON SEEING WOMEN  
WHO PROBABLY WON'T  
EVEN LOOK AT A HOMELESS MAN  
SEE HER, EYE HER, WANT HER  
WHY DO WOMEN  
COST SO MUCH  
IF NOT CASH, THEN PAIN  
OR JUST TIME?  
BREATH CHECK



TOOTHBRUSH STOLEN  
DIRT CHECK  
1/8 INCH OF GRIME  
INSULATES ME FROM THE SUN  
AT DAY  
FROM THE COLD  
AT NIGHT  
HAVING MISSED  
DURING DIRT CHECK TIME  
SUSPECT FECAL MATTER  
BELONGING TO A DOG  
THAT ATE BETTER THAN I DID  
THAT DAY  
AND FROM THE WAIST DOWN  
I SMELL OF DEATH  
JEANS ARE LIKE TRASH BAGS IN HIGH HEAT  
I WAKE SOMETIMES  
BUT IT'S LIKE I'M STILL ASLEEP  
PLODDING THROUGH THE SAME DAY  
OVER AND OVER  
SAMSARIC FILTH  
I WAKE SOMETIMES  
AND SMELL SO WRETCHED  
BUT I CANNOT TASTE ANY LONGER

SO I DON'T KNOW IT  
THREE WEEKS NO LAUNDRY  
OIL AND SWEAT  
AND THE DIRT I SLEEP IN  
I WAKE SOMETIMES  
AND SCRATCH MY CHEST  
A LAYER OF GRIME CAKES  
BENEATH LADIES FINGERNAILS  
AND GLOBULES OF DEAD FLESH  
LOCK THE BATHROOM DOOR  
SHOWER ME GENTLY  
FROM THE FAUCET WITH  
RECYCLED PAPER TOWELS  
AND PINK INDUSTRIAL HAND SOAP  
BECOME NEW AGAIN  
IF YOU CAN FIND YOUR SKIN  
THROUGH THE WADS OF MATTED HAIR  
I WAKE SOMETIMES  
WHEN THE COLD IS AT ITS LOW  
RATTLING, SHIVERING VIOLENTLY  
LIKE AN OLD MOTOR  
ABOUT TO TEAR ITSELF OFF OF THE FRAME  
EXTREME PAIN  
DEAD INSIDE

WAITING  
FOR THE SUN TO RISE  
ENOUGH IT WARMS  
NEAR FROZEN MARROW  
IN MY CHILLED BONES  
AND ALL FOR YOU  
AND ALL FOR AND JUSTICE FOR ALL  
DUSK RINGS THE BELL FOR BONZO  
BEDTIME  
TORCH LIGHT  
REVEALS  
SLEEP SPACE  
AT MIDNIGHT  
NEW GARBAGE  
WHO FOUND MY HIDEOUT THIS TIME?  
DID THEY PISS?  
SHIT?  
SPIT?  
DID THEY KNOW  
THE CARDBOARD BOX  
IS MY BED  
IF THEY DID  
WOULD THEY CARE?  
I WAKE SOMETIMES  
NEXT TO OSCAR THE GROUCH

AND RANDOLPH AND MORTIMER  
WE SING SONGS  
DRINKING HALF BOTTLES OF WINE  
LEFT OVER FROM EXCESS  
FEASTING ON WHAT THOSE HAVE PUT DOWN  
WHAT IS LIFE  
WHEN YOU WATCH THEM  
THROW AWAY EVERY MINUTE  
WHAT YOU CANNOT HAVE  
EVEN FOR A MOMENT?

# DESERT ANGEL

THERE ALWAYS DO I SEE HER  
IN DREAMS OF A WORLD GONE RIGHT  
SWEET DESERT WOMAN  
WANDERING THE HOLY LAND  
SPREADING HOPES AND LEGS  
FOR THE LAST CHANCERS AND  
THE JOHNNY ROCKETS  
FEEDING TURNOVERS  
AND POURING COFFEE  
DOWN THE THROATS  
OF THOSE WITH NO HOMES  
AND BRINGING NEW LIGHT TO THE LAND  
SHE IS A DEMON I KNOW IT  
RISEN LAMASHTU  
BUT WHY IN THE NIGHT  
WHEN I VIEW HER NEXT TO JERUSALEM STONE  
IMAGINE HER FLYING  
WINGS SPREAD  
A SILHOUETTE IN STARLIGHT  
CAN I NOT CALL HER  
AN ANGEL INSTEAD?  
MY CONSTANTINOPLE ANGEL  
APPEARS WHEN SHE IS MOST NEEDED  
WHEN I AM DOWN AND LOW  
THE POOREST MAN IN A STONE'S THROW

AND FILTHY  
FEELING FILTHY  
SWEATING IN MY SKIN-TIGHT APE SUIT  
KEEPING A RADIUS TO AVOID  
MY SCENT SPREADING  
SHE IS MY LUST, MY JEALOUSY  
A WORTHY RIDDLE TO CONTEMPLATE AFTER  
THIRTY YEARS OF FAIRY TALES  
AND HAPPY ENDINGS  
AND CHASTITY BELT WISHES  
WERE CRUSHED BY  
FRAT PARTY BACK ROOM REALITIES  
HOLDING HANDS WITH  
JOHNNY ROCKET ON VACATION  
WITH HIS BLUE EYES  
AND BLONDE HAIR  
WALKING DOWN A CROWDED STREET  
FREE AS WILD BIRDS  
AND I STUCK IN MY CAGE  
AT THE BOTTOM OF A DARK SHAFT  
WEARING YELLOW  
SOAKING UP THE INTENSE STARES OF THE MINERS  
WHO CHECK OFTEN  
TO SEE IF I'VE DROPPED DEAD  
AS THEY FLY TOWARD ME

BY THE LOGIC OF THE HOPEFUL HOMELESS  
I CALCULATE THAT ONE SUIT  
AND A HOTEL ROOM FROM NOW  
SHE COULD BE MINE, ALL MINE!  
BUT THAT IS THE DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN RICH AND POOR  
HAVE, HAVE NOT  
HAVE TURKISH ANGEL  
I HAVE NOT  
OR MAYBE THAT'S THE DRAW  
SHE CANNOT BE HAD  
WHY SHE STOPS WITH CONCERN  
FOR THIS BUM  
ONLY A LADY KNOWS  
AND GOD  
OR THE DEVIL WHO SENT HER  
BUT SHE STOOPS DOWN  
TO THE STAIRWELL WHERE I AM  
WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO TOSS COINS AT ME  
I HAVE BECOME THE CRACKED STATUE  
IN A DRY, CONCRETE WISHING WELL  
AND ASKS  
AS JOHNNY ROCKET WAITS BEHIND HER  
MEASURES ME PIG FILTH  
READY FOR DINNER, DANCING, DRINKS  
IMPATIENT TO FIND



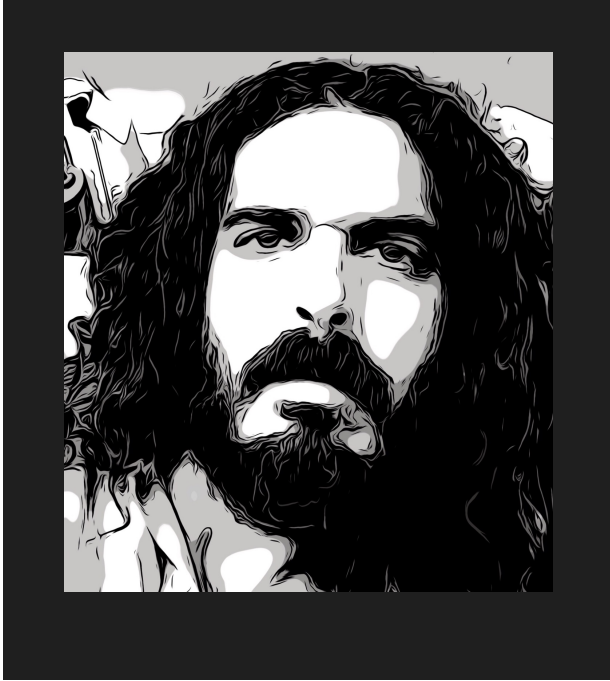
THE WHITE SILKY SHEETS  
SHE CALLS ABODE  
HEAVEN FOR ANY MAN  
SHE ASKS WITH BIG, BROWN TURKISH EYES  
IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?  
AND THERE IS THE FASHION MODEL BEHIND HER  
JONATHAN Q ROCKET  
COUNTING MINUTES TO BLAST OFF  
ON A MISSION FOR SELF-GRATIFICATION  
SPACE CHIMP SON OF A BITCH  
DON'T YOU KNOW I AM BROKE DOWN  
FILTHY  
POOR  
USED  
REGRETFUL  
REGRETTED  
HUNGRY  
TIRED  
SLEEPING IN PISS  
THAT I HAVE BEEN  
ROBBED  
STABBED  
SHOT  
POISONED  
LEFT BROKEN  
IN MY MOURNING WEEDS

BLEEDING  
ALL I FEEL IS  
IMPENDING DESTRUCTION  
THESE BOMBS DON'T DETECT THEMSELVES, FRIEND  
KA BOOM IN THE FACE!  
OF THE WORLD  
THE MIDNIGHT CLOCK  
SITS HALF PAST ONE  
CTHULHU HAS RISEN AND SLITHERS HERE EVEN  
NOW  
ROME BURNS  
NERO IS ROSSONED  
THE ANTICHRIST HAS UNLEASHED  
HIS ARMIES  
UPON THE SOUNDING  
OF TRUMPETS  
HER TRUMPETS  
DESERT ANGEL  
RIDES THE BACK OF THE BEAST  
IN SCARLET SILKS  
THE SEALS ARE BROKEN  
THE VIRUS HAS BEEN UNLEASHED  
PIGS! AVIANS! MAD COWS!  
ZOMBIES ON THE MOVE! TERROR!  
THE SUN HAS FLARED

AND ALL WILL BE SCORCHED  
AND NONE OF IT WORSE, NONE OF IT WORSE  
THAN THE MELANCHOLY  
YOU HAVE SUPPLIED TO US JOHNNY ROCKET  
WITH YOUR GELLED HAIR  
FAT WALLET  
AND LUST  
I SMELL YOUR PROM NIGHT ASPIRATIONS  
THOSE THREE TOUCHDOWNS YOU THREW  
THAT MADE YOU HERO OF THE BIG GAME  
YOUR SUMMERS AT THE LAKE HOUSE  
YOUR FAILED ATTEMPTS AT MODELING  
AND THE NEW CAMARO YOUR DADDY GAVE YOU  
JUST BECAUSE YOU WANTED IT  
YOUR POPPED COLLAR  
AND EXPENSIVE BEER AT THE FRAT PARTY  
WHERE NOT EVERYONE IS WELCOME  
EVERYTHING ALWAYS WORKS OUT FOR  
JOHNNY ROCKET  
YOU ARE JOHNNY COME EARLY  
YOU ARE THE BOYS OF SUMMER  
BATHED IN THE SINS OF THE POST CARD LIFE  
INFECTING THE FEAR OF BEING WITHOUT  
WE WERE ALL BUSY SHARING  
REPENT!  
REPENT!

FOR, AMONG OTHERS,  
THE SIN OF BEING BLONDE  
AND NOT POOR WHILE I AM  
I MIGHT DIE TODAY  
OF COLD  
OR STARVE TO DEATH  
AT LEAST HAVE THE PATIENCE  
TO LET HER PITY RINSE ME  
OF SHAME  
IT IS THE ONLY SHOWER I WILL HAVE  
THIS WEEK  
THE RESTORATION OF MY HUMANITY  
WITH HER EACH MOMENT'S FOCUS  
AND HE DOES  
CHECKS HIS WATCH CASUALLY  
BEFORE I AM SELLING SOULS  
RAISING ARMIES  
TRADING BUTTER TO FINANCE MY GUNS  
ALL TO FIGHT FOR  
ONE MOMENT'S ATTENTION  
FROM A DEMON  
WHO IS AN ANGEL  
FROM ANTALYA  
BUT FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE  
THE REASON ROOTS PUSH THROUGH  
WET SOIL

TREES RISE  
THE REASON THE STARS SHINE  
TURKISH ANGEL IS  
THE REASON  
THE OCEAN STILL BOTHERS TO MAKE WAVES  
PERHAPS JUST TO PISS ME OFF SOMETIMES  
BY DESTROYING MY PEACE  
AS SHE KNEELS DOWN  
SO HER SHEER DRESS  
WRAPS TIGHTLY  
AROUND FULL THIGHS  
AND SATIN, TANNED SKIN  
AND SMILES AND  
WITH BIG, BROWN EYES  
THROUGH FULL LIPS ASKS  
AGAIN  
"IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?"  
HOW CAN ANY BUM  
SAY MORE  
OR LESS  
THAN "YES, DESERT ANGEL  
ALL IS NOW WELL."



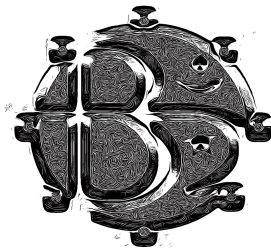
## **HETERO SAPIENS, 2019**

**LUCAS DAVID SEIDMAN COMPLETED HIS UNDERGRADUATE WORK AT CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY AND MFA AT CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY. HE IS A PHILOLOGIST, EDUCATOR, SCHOLAR AND SAILOR. PASSIONS INCLUDE INDOLOGIE, FIRST NATIONS LANGUAGE AND HISTORICAL STUDY AND MUSIC.**



## **SECONDHAND SMOKE**

**THREE POEMS FROM WHEN I WAS  
HOMELESS**



**BELIEVE CHAPBOOKS**