



Commander
Garry Cardinal

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Venus And Mars

Suppose the differences between
women and men can be summed up
so simply, with braintead ease

We can identify cases where a man there
a woman there, men and women fit the
jigsaw cutouts of this new form

I choose to believe I am from a planet
that is radiant for her children
distant from the vulgar glare of the sun

And orbiting in Jupiter's warm glow
I am nurtured with a quiet energy
That I might radiate on my own

-01 November 1998

The Tour

knock! knock!

door opens

"...last part of our tour."

"Dark in there eh?

They got this machine.

Sounds just like someone cryin'."

-01 November 1998

Let Love Go

No, no defending
No, no depending

Let love go
Let it go, let it go

Throw it there in the air
Grind it down on the ground

Let love go
Oh no, no depending

If she's thin or she's fat
Upon this or on that

Let love go
Let it go, oh-oh

-12 November 1998

Clairvoyance

When was that first brush with a
Peculiar kind of knowing
Beyond space?

Waking from REM with a start
Knowing your wife is having sex
With your father 150Km away

Just roll over and smile
Being raped by dad
Does strange things to a boy

click

In recovery travel thirty years into the future
For the love of a lady
You can never have

Go home after work, close the door
Fall to your knees and weep uncontrollably
The next day she says they're moving across the continent

click

Maybe you already know but need the words
After all
Its only been bad news so far

So you'll settle for just a glimpse
One stiletto footstep, one finger's motion
One fabrics embrace, one simple smile

To keep the hammer click away

-14 November 1998

La Fleurs De La Table

To each of the precious ladies who attend
or stop to visit from time to time:

There are perhaps two or three dozen
reasons why I love being here.

You are one of them.

-15 January 1999, revised 17 January 1999

Shooting Star

"Welcome aboard Icarus, Commander,
You are first on board...
No other crew have been assigned..."

Thank you.

I will be alone this trip.

Please set course for Earth and
proceed at best speed in standard space.

My person will cease functioning en route.

Place it to maintain course then
return to origin for further assignments.

"I understand, Commander.

It's been a pleasure serving with you."

-07 February 1999

Awakening

"What did she do to you?"

Was she the origin
Or a reflection of the future?

A device put away
Like a fetish that's been abandoned

Ripples in time
Like ripples in the stillness of a pond

To taste the dampness on your fingertip
To caress your lips, your lips

I am love
I am here for you

-14 February 1999

Criterion

Answering the faint knock at your door reveals
A small bear with breadcrumbs on his ears
Scented slightly of marmalade

Do you know what you would do?

You find a piece of chocolate
Exactly half a portion
Waiting at your desk

Would you know who left it for you?

And by mere proximity
Acts with selfish selflessness
Identities blur, merge, emerge

I do

-27 February 1999, 04 June 1999

Simply Zero

What is Soul?

A satisfactory definition

Exceeds bigotries inclusion

Nebulous, insulting, confusion

What is Love?

A product bought by innuendo

Manipulation and coercion

A bastard sensual perversion?

Whats it mean?

To sum in a word revulsion

Misunderstood if spoken by our hero

And so remain,

-10 March 1999

Dear Heart

A beginning is a delicate time

Particles of time drift into now
Fluttering as we gesture and pose
Solidifying at our feet as past

I am here and you are there
A life yet unfixed in the future
Now there are details to attend

I place my faith out there
That one day will simply say
Please come and play with me

-13 March 1999

The Made Up Man

What would you do with a man
Unlike any man you have ever known?

Relearned the mechanics of how to walk and talk
Remade the linkages between conduct thought and soul

Knows the semaphores of cultural cliché
But refuses to respond in kind without sincerity

Grants every creature its own unique dignity
Sees the known universe as a very small place

Just walk with him and be with him
When you no longer need him, he will let you go

-03 April 1999

Mirror

We are only bags of skin
Without carriage, grace of motion
And a dignity that says "this is me"

We are known by our associations

Letters made by keycap presses
Words strung along in sentences
How could you write such beautiful things

And not write something of you?

-17 April 1999

Must Be Love

Doesn't flirt like a gentle girl
Acts like she's afraid, oh yeah

Lockin' on some sweet sweet action
Checkin' out those lovin' moves

Settin' up a collision course
Fixed to get the whiff she needs

She's a psycho killer sex bitch
Gots a big heart on for you

-24 April 1999

It Begins With Hello

"He just ignores me,
He won't even look at me!"

I saw on PBS or TLQ or something
They were talking about action chains
Courting is an action chain

It only works directly, one on one
It's a sequence, 1, 2, 3, 4
A step skipped or out of sequence breaks the chain

If a guy just wants to cop a feel or get laid
He'll jump to 4 right away
But if he...

What if he won't let you make a mistake?

-27 April 1999, revised 29 April 1999

Time To Time

Was it lifetimes ago
Or only yesterday?
From time to time to time
In glint rememberances

You made me happy. You.

It's often been said that
Love feels just like falling
I guess it must be true
I know that's how I felt

Each time I looked at you

-08 May 1999, revised 14 May 1999

Soul Mate

A focus for many points of light
A vessel for that adoration
Igniting sublimated desire

In the end what do we really know?
Only words spoken in their good time
And places made ready in our hearts

-09 May 1999, revised 12 May 1999

Mimic

An impostor lost within his role
Speaks his script with convincing authority
And watches armies die by his command

At which point does the masquerade collapse?
Falling like soldiers standing in harms way
Giving up their lives to protect his station

And know there are no choices
No words of forgiveness
No end of tears

-17 May 1999, revised 22 May 1999

Woman Descending Stairs

Beautiful

She was only beautiful

Stepping down the stairway

With such exquisite grace

And when she looked at me

I thought it doesn't get much better than this

I sigh and whisper, "Wow."

The man beside me

Model employee

Productive taxpayer

Church elder

Husband and father

Pillar of society

He says, "Yeah, and every one of them's got a cunt."

-22 May 1999

You Might Think

What does it mean?

What relays click inside a mind?

Creature thinks itself human

As shallow as a veiled request

For physical gratification

A mental masturbation

What if that same phrase

Represents the shallowest part

Of a global articulation

Gestured in silence like pantomime

Whispered like the breath of a sigh

Enveloping everything that you are

Everything

-03 June 1999, revised 06 June 1999

Prisoner Of Convention

Look at you

Look at all of the beautiful things

You can do

-06 July 1999

Benny's World

What's it like being a boa
Three inches tall but
Really, really long?

One can only imagine
I know he was afraid of falling
He hated being dirty but didn't like baths

He had a docile, gentle temperament
And an elegance of motion sublimating incredible speed
He was only aggressive when he was hungry or scared

The last time he bit me was over two years ago
Hard enough to draw blood and imbed teeth
Applying a band-aid I thought very hard, "You hurt me."

Almost immediately, he maneuvered near my ear
And his tongue made the air hum for a few seconds
He never made that sound again, neither did he bite

Living room carpet twice a week doesn't replace jungle
Caged living can't compare to life in the wild
What if roles were reversed?

...

His tongue flicked in recognition of my presence
And my whispered words and thoughts,
"Goodbye Benny, I love you."

He went to sleep with his head cradled in my hand
Fingertips gently stroking him until he was still
Benny's world ended 31 July 1999

-01 August 1999, revised 02 August 1999

Trick Of Light

And I will swear that every word was true
Each one a portion of the wish that

You are

-05 October 1999

Voice Of The Bells

He introduces you to the bells
Addressing each one by name

Covering all but a good eye and a patch of skin
He tries to speak the words aloud but stops

Afraid what comes out will be nothing like
The voice that is in his heart

-23 October 1999, revised

Commander

"I dreamed of Commander"

One envisions a man who takes responsibility
For those in his domain both innocent and powerful

Perhaps an exile from a foreign royal court
A prince forsaking title, holdings, comfort

To be here

Or maybe a stallion stamping in place in the mist
Alert, keeping his station as placed

Like a knight on a chessboard made of glass and mirror
Divisions of squares, glitter of edges, temper of swords

He's a horse, just a horse

His nimble lips pluck sugar cubes from small outstretched palms
As natural as the grass and the air and poops nothing foul

He will carry you away with giant sure footed strides
His skin delights in firm strokes of towel and brush and bare hand

And he loves you

-26 October 1999

Torn Asunder

I'm startled awake lying alone in a room on a tile floor
Bright lights, shrieking noise is some kind of alarm
I automatically roll over on my right side
And sit up using my right arm to raise myself

I recognize a human arm lying on the floor
Its stump is white, like meat drained of blood
And there's a metal post where the bone should be
I see a stump below my left shoulder. That's my arm

Instinctively, I grab the arm and hug it in front of me
And line up the metal post with my shoulder stump
It gurgles and rises hydraulically into place
The stumps squirm, go pink then red and the shrieking stops

The skin of my shoulder melts over the interface
Covering the seam and changing to normal colour
I feel a surge as circulation is restored
And then a shock, temperature shock, the arm was cool

I take a deep breath and force air through clenched teeth
Where am I? Why is my arm like this? What's going on?
I'm still hugging my left arm, heavy dead weight, but not limp
Then the needles start. The needles are supposed to be a
good thing

-30 November 1999

The Jesus Incident

"Love is, just is.
It has no reason, no logic,
No understanding."

In the end we run out of time
Like He ran out of time
Out of His time

Born an evolution of man
A man who was truly Human
And cared to speak His heart

Then suffered His return
To a time of man
Where there is no understanding

-17 December 1999

Perception Of Colour

A colour is not just a colour
Affected by illumination
Transmission, refraction, reflection

Colour can be altered on a field of colour
Doppler shifts toward blue and red
Dryness lightens, dampness saturates

Colour is an attribute
Of a surface with a texture
On a presence

She did that
She did that
For me

-17 December 1999

The Hardest Part

A logical certainty
To be alone for
The rest of your life

A cultural reality
That when you croak you will be
Just another dead indian

Arguments to convince a heart
You can't have, you can never have
The one you want.

-15 January 2000

Venus In Black

Her title could be Princess

Not out of place

Making a graceful exit from

Mister Lamborghini's little car

A model with skin the colour of milk chocolate

Wearing the haute couture prototype

Of a dress made for you

Wearing beauty

And grace

In black

-10 February 2000

Salad Man Baba

So maybe a little brown guy bumps into a Rolls
No big deal, Baba
The driver gets out to rub away the smudge

But a skinny rickety donkey cart
I don't know, Baba
Things could get dangerous

Anyway I had to say thanks
I was awed by the faith, the beauty
The love and the forgiveness

You made me laugh
You made me cry, Baba
And that's not always a bad thing

-02 April 2000

Out Loud

How can words
Express a universe
Held within a gaze

"Look at you
So beautiful
God must be missing an angel

Now I know that when I die
I won't be going to heaven
I'm already there"

That's what I think sometimes
As I patiently wait
To say the words

-24 April 2000

Kong

Without the symbols
It's just a movie
About a big monkey

Mister Rambaldi's
Bejeezus big rig
An animated fur rug

I know this guy
He cries at the end
When the monster dies

-18 May 2000, revised 14 July 2000

Ambiguous Embrace

Ok

So maybe the most a quiet man can do
Is muster a smile and a silent, "Hi"

A animal in the wild
Will seek solitude when injured
The pain too great, the wound too deep

And there is nothing left but
A silent deafening
Agony

To return, a way must be restored
For a life, for a love, for a wife
From the ashes of an ambiguous embrace

-29 June 2000

The Beheaded Servant

There were rumours

A servant speaking
Disdainfully of a Princess
In his presence

A minor courtier
Falling ill or out of sorts
Having been served

His becoming enraged
When direct sight of his portion
Is obscured by the servant's bulk

A man may have his suspicions
A servant will bow to honour her family
A Samurai will have his certainties

-06 July 2000

Monkeyboy

Monkeyboy he say,
"Wanna? Wanna?
Ready for the money shot baby?"

Monkeyboy he doos best he can do
Making a joy ride running
On testosterone fumes

Monkeyboy he recruiting
For the monkeyboy club
He love her, he pass her around

Hang around monkeyboy
"Hey! Monkeygirl!
Wanna? Wanna?"

And a mind is a mirror
An animated meat puppet
Happy monkeyboy

He doesn't know
What it's like when
A Knight thinks of love

-24 July 2000

With Pleasure

Oh, My...

My, my, my

Fat assed woman

Driving me insane

-02 August 2000

The Future Of Us

Hope that powerful women in the future
Are not as stupid as men in power now
Or we'll be in for more of the same

There's only so much a man can comprehend
With a pantload of hormones and circumsized foresight
Compartmented and partitioned bitloaded brawn

When will we evolve to fill our capacity
And begin to answer our own questions
What are we here for?

Do you really understand?

-03 August 2000

Dear Diary

I saw
Her again today
I don't remember what she wore

Or the
Colour of her shoes
No particular tint or hue

She knows
That I adore her
Moist thoughts in shades of midnight blue

-08 August 2000

The Guitar

A guy at a Goodwill store
Holds an old guitar, thumps the wood,
Presses the braces with his fingers

Listening, concentrating

He leaves without the guitar
But returns days later to buy it
Far too much, a worthy charity

"She wants to sing"

A thorough cleaning, a new set of strings
Out of practice, tuning octaves too high,
A string breaks and stings him

"Forgive my clumsiness! I'm sorry"

Then practice begins:
Posture, left hand, right hand
Terminology, timing, technique

Remembering, breathing

New strings need time to stay in tune
Fingers strengthen and relearn proportion
A guitar is not just a guitar

And a performance can be a lifetime

-23 August 2000

Bad Pronunciation

There is this amazing airplane
The developers knew it as "RS-71"
PR people called it "Blackbird"
The ones who fly it just call it "SR"

Some Willie in DC reversed the letters
At a press function
It was easier to rename the bird
Than embarrass an official of the US of A

Like the brilliant Allied officer
Reading distances from signs whizzing by
During the WW2 or thereabouts
Calling the numbers "Ka-Law-miters"

That stuck too, official in every english lexicon
Scientific notation? Wow! That's a novel idea!
nano, micro, milli, Kilo, Mega, Giga
"Kill-Oh-Metres", was ist das, "Ka-Law-miters"?

It's just pronunciation
"That's how we say it down here."
Bad pronunciation of scientific notation
Sloppy units, sloppy thinking, sloppy science

Making an unscientific plume
Speak eloquently from the surface of Mars

-04 September 2000, revised 07 September 2000, 12 May 2017

Intensity Of

You sense him watching
He quickly looks away

His eyes fixed outside
Smiling at the window

Curious, you ask,
"What are you looking at?"

"A lady moving
With such exquisite grace..."

Before you can go
To the window yourself

He turns and holds you
Tenderly with his eyes

"...she's so beautiful."

-17 September 2000

Gateway

I dreamed
I held and kissed
A lady made of diamond

Her eyes were every colour but no colour
Her hair, skin, features transforming
continuously from moment to moment
Being only femininity and grace

I said, "I love you."
She replied, "I love you. I love all men."
And I knew exactly what she meant

-11 October 2000

Missing Man

In the darkness of a room
Illuminated by a burning candle
A lady sits alone

Two places set for dinner
A dress jacket draped on the back of a chair
Slightly askew as if...

She looks across the table
Holding her gaze steady and warm and composed
Focusing into space...

Expressing in body language
The close flight formation of a missing man

-20 November 2000, for Roslyn, in memory of Barry

Freedom Of Motion

I sit alone at a hamburger joint
And notice motion at the entrance
Of an apartment building

A young woman removes her jacket and top
Pulls her leggings down to her ankles
Straightens herself and bounces in the cold

A young female voice shouts clearly,
"There's a naked girl across the street!"
Then the stripper dresses and walks away

At first I thought, spontaneous frenzy
But the voice gave it away for what it was
An initiation, some kind of coercion

I sit with company at a table
Watching the activities and constructs
Performance of a social function

Discreetly keeping an eye on a woman
Nothing in particular
I love the way she moves

Within an exclusive viewpoint
And a window of opportunity, a pose
She did that for me

So maybe it's just a story
And none of this ever happened
She knows the difference

-18 December 2000

Just Say Yes

He wept when he discovered
They suffer with so little

And if he were rewarded
He would give it all away

If he could have anything he wanted
Do you know what it would be?

Anything.

-22 April 2001

Masculist

Put a dick on a person

IQ drops by half and

Ego swells to make up the difference

Indexing by degrees of context

The opposite of Feminist

Is Imbecile

-13 May 2001, for Frances

Sociopath

Simple economics

Chickens grow fast using Hormo-Gro

Maximizing productivity

They're messy eaters in a high density, high stress environment

Pecking and illness reduce stock, laying stock tags expire

Suck 'em up, grind 'em up, add Bio-Fix, put 'em on the feed conveyor

Biotechnology researchers

Don't use grocery eggs to make growth media

Lab bacteria would die in their petri dishes

Children precociously fertile

Kids harbouring antibiotic resistant bacteria

Increasing occurrences of flesh eating disease

Human antibiotics dispensed by milligram

Commercial deliveries by boxcar

Simple economics

Not too bright

I like that

In a victim

-27 May 2001, revised 17 June 2001

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Le Unite Finale

Words

Like mind, body, soul

Partition us into define-ability

As

Close a facsimile

That feeble expertise can engineer

And

What of us?

At what time are we complete, at Unity?

In

The beginning was Void

Then something happened and everything changed

I never thought, I never imagined

It would be

Like This

-10 June 2001, por La Petite Morte

Message

Maybe my message is simply
The incoherent blubberings
Of a smitten old fool
No proposal of marriage
No collection of words
Hacked together
To charm a lady

My message is only this:

You are

-09 September 1999, revised 24 July 2001

Regret

That I can sustain
This love for thee
For so short
A time

-12 August 2001

Good News

You are invited to dinner
And as you dine you notice
The dog keeps looking at you strangely

You are using his bowl

In polite company
That fact will be kept from you
And the dog just behaves strangely

How exquisitely perverse

That the plight of a single dog
Would more likely be on the 6PM news
Than the plight of an actively impoverished nation

-01 September 2001

Projection

That she will know
With absolute certainty

And all my life
Will be proved a counterpoint

-25 September 2001

No Shoes No Feet

I selfishly wept
'I have no chick!'

'Til I met a girl
Who had no dick!

-30 September 2001

Goodbye

Wherever you go
There is a place in my heart
That belongs to you

-21 April 1992, revised 01 October 2001