

FURTHEREST

FICTIONS

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PREFACE

This volume contains my uncollected experiments in radically alternative fictions apart from single-sentence stories, minimal stories (no more than three words long), and constructivist fictions. Many of the first two groups have yet to be collected into books, though nearly all of the third group have. “Infinities” would be here had they not already been published as a limited edition of Möbius strips.

Oddly, though a few hundred selections from my fictions have appeared over the past four decades in literary magazines (to whose editors and publishers I remain eternally grateful) and my radical contributions to this genre (over others) are acknowledged in histories and encyclopedias, books wholly of my fiction have had remarkably scarce circulation (making me wonder how my fiction ever entered the minds of authors of those selective compendia). Anthologists of fiction ignore them as well, though poems of mine are frequently reprinted.

Where can your fictions be found, I’m often asked. Here is one place.

Richard Kostelanetz
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F U L C R A

ADDRESS. ADHERENTS. ALLAY. ALLIED.
ARMY. BANDIED. BUTTONS. BYE. CAME.
CALLOUSES. CALLOW. CAMERAS. COMET.
CONFIDENT. COUNTRIES. DAME. EATEN.
EXAMINES. EXCELLENT. FAILURES. FISHER.
FLICKERINGS. FOUNDER. FUCKING.
GALLOPES. GNAWING. GROWING. HAILED.
HAMMERINGS. IMPORTUNE. INDULGENT.
JEWISH. LABORATORY. LADIES. LARGEST.
LOGO. MEAT. MISSPELLS. MISTAKEN.
MOON. MOTHERINGS. MOUTHING.
MULLIONS. OFFERINGS. OFTENEST.
ORALLY. ORATION. PAGED. PEACHES.
POETRIES. POOREST. POSTAGE. PRODUCTS.
PROMOTION. PROJECTILES. PROVERBS.
PUBLISHED. PUSHED. QUEEREST.
RAGED. RAMBLING. REFERENTS.
REMEMBERED. REVERBERATE. RODENTS.
RUINATION. SEAT. SEEKING. SEVERALLY.
SHATTERINGS. SHEAVES. SHORTEN.
SHOWED. SIGNATURE. SLEEPING. SKILL.
SOLVENT. SOONEST. SORTIES. STUDIES.
SURELY SWIFTEST. TARTANED. TABOOED.
TEACHER. THRASHER. THREATEN. TOILET.
TOWARDS. TRANSCENDENTAL. TREATIES.
TRUMPETER. URGENT. USING. VILLAGES.
WAGES. WHETHER. WOVEN. YELLOW.
YOUNGEST. AMASSINGS. TARPAPERED.

EXCHANGES

Haven't we met before?

Yeah, in the hospital where we were born.

May I invite you to lunch next Tuesday?

No, because I'm expecting a stomach ache.

Do you?

You do.

I just got home from a Christmas party.

Christmas, my dear, was six months ago.

The charge for putting a "jobs wanted" ad in our newspaper is fifty cents per inch.

But I'm five feet tall.

You murdered my father.

He got in the way.

How much money do you earn each week?

Zero, comma, zero, comma, zero zero.

Who was that woman you were kissing last night?

At what hour?

It's God's will.

So where did you put it?

Everyone knows who I am.

Do they know you as a guy or a gal?

TWO-WAY STORIES

ERSATZ	.	BUBBLING
EMBELLISH	.	VENTURE
ALPHABETIZE	.	ENUMERATE
AMBIVALENCE	.	QUESTION
EMPOWER	.	ENTITLE
ECSTASY	.	EBULLIENCE
EXCELLENCE	.	PERFECT
ABOLUTION	.	INNOCENCE
SUPERCILIOUS	.	REPROACH
CHANCE	.	WISDOM
GHOSTS	.	SPIRITS
CONFUSION	.	CONGRUENCE
DRINKS	.	EATS
BOOGIE	.	WOOGIE
FATIGUE	.	INSPIRATION

A SINGLE-SENTENCE STORY

When we fired a single shot into the enemy's territory, the enemy fired back, with one bullet destroying the gun that had fired on them; when we fired a volley of bullets, we received a volley twice as large in return; as we moved our canon to the top of the hill, it was immediately hit by a hail of bullets, making its operation impossible; once we sent a patrol of draftees to reconnoiter by night, they were met by a large spotlight that sent them scampering for shade; when we sent a radio signal promising their troops rewards if they surrendered, our message was jammed; when we tried to tunnel under their fortifications, we hit an underground river; once we tossed grenades, they were shot to smithereens before they could land; when we threw spears with poisoned tips, they were met by the force of a powerful magnet that made them all turn left and flow like a herd to a single repository; when we sent up a helicopter by night, it was shot down as it took off, indeed falling into our troop encampment and destroying several tents; when we sent home a radio message proclaiming a victory that vanquished the enemy, the media of the world were supplied with photographs and videotapes conclusively illustrating that we conquered nothing; when we fired a surface-to-air missile, they fired a projectile that intercepted ours in midair, our bomb exploding over the no-man's land between us; when we threatened to use a thermonuclear device that, if our demands were not met by the enemy, would annihilate us all, we discovered that the passkeys essential for detonating our device had suspiciously vanished; and finally when, demoralized by unending frustration, we offered to surrender and even ran up a white flag, our entreatings were refused.

INTERMITTENT STORIES

She enlightenment greed.
ingested digested expelled .
discipline monastery money.
The creation forever.
sensuous radiated danger.
walk water snow.
Insincere questioned death.
youth inexperience excuses.
temperature shiver addle.
Intercourse before married.
grave cinderblocks moat.
story palindrome story .
We alabaster disintegrated .
mirror present past.

G I V E N O M.
ESTABLISHAMENABLY.
LOANOTHERMINE.
CRYSTALCHEMYTHOLOGY.
RICHARDKOSTELANETZ.
FLIPPANTELOPEEING.
APPLICABLECHEATS.
METHODORMANT.
EXCONCLUSIVELYLNCHING.
ETIQUETTESTINKERS.
GURUFFLESSONS.
RANGYPPEDERASTS.
SAFEGUARDENTHUSIASM.
MESSENGERRANDANT.
OVERDRAWNESOMERCENARIES.

SHORT NOVELS

ADVERTISING

He relished paternity suits not as threats upon his integrity but as opportunities to publicize his potency.

BETTERMENT

A virgin at twenty, she was a snob at thirty and a spinster at forty.

APEXEPA

In the story a that is palindrome is that a story the inn.

CONFUSED

I'm a man buried inside a man buried inside a woman all wanting to get out.

DIE KUNST DER FUGUE

He spent the day listening in sequence to all the versions he owned of J. S. Bach's *Die Kunst der Fugue*, crying every time the last triple fugue ended in mid-phrase, its incompleteness signaling the composer's death.

SHIFTING COMMAS

Lord, have mercy.

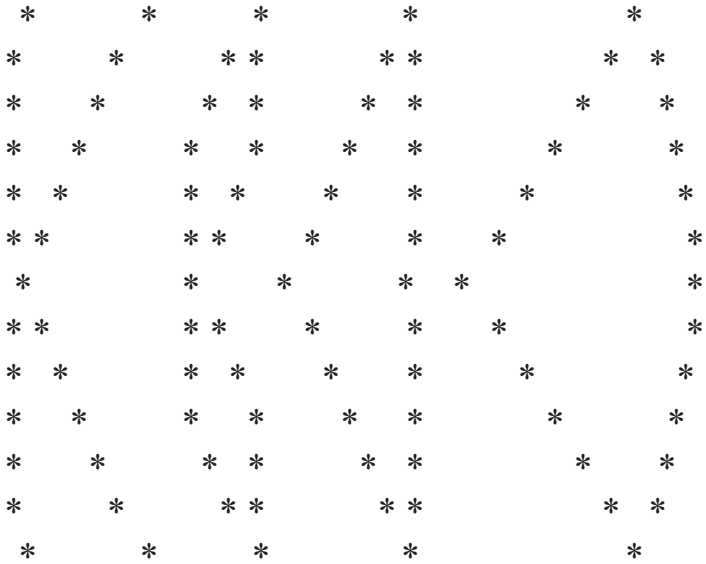
Lord have, mercy.

Lord have mercy.

ANAGRAMMATIC STORIES

**Urn run.
Stop pots.
Lure rule.
Static attics.
Mustang mustnag.
Bosom booms.
Waist waits.
Vine vein.
Resinous neurosis.
Tame meat.
Rectify, certify.
Sonar arson.
Abhorrent earthborn.
Swine wines.
Desiccant accidents.
Felt left.**

VISUAL NARRATIVE(S)



SHUFFLINGS

*Women won me.
Intrusion is to run in.
House to let, hotel to use.
The eyes, they see.
Butterfly flutter by.
I tear irate.
Allegories, lies galore.
Fiances' fancies.
Bargain sale, an aisle grab.
Absence make the heart grow
fonder. He wants back dearest
gone from here.
Wild oats, lad sow it.
Intoxicate excitation.
Vile turn—virulent.
Integral calculus—calculating
rules.
Asinine is inane.
Sweat waste.
Fortunate turn o' fate.*

IN
CRE
MENTS

chic
chick
chick be
chick bee
chick been
chick been he
chick been her
chick been here.

bar
bard
bard us
bard use
bard use me
bard use met
bard use mete
bard use meter.

cove
cover
cover fee
cover feet.

MORE ANAGRAM STORIES

Misanthrope, spare him not.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson—person whom
all read.*

*Incomprehensible problem in
Chinese.*

Spirited riptides.

Thy errors plead the Lord's Prayer.

*Roentgen's cathode rays, a stronger
eye doth scan.*

Unresting insurgent.

Intoxicate excitation.

Bedroom—robedom.

Emit grunt, muttering.

I'm a dot in place—a decimal point.

Moustache, mouth case.

Mensural numerals.

Painter, patenir.

Edict cited.

Beneath the sod—death, then be so.

MORE RHYMES

contradictory interdictory benedictory
valedictory

—

requested molested protested congested
arrested divested attested detested infested
suggested rested

—

obstinacy consonancy excellency idiocy
delinquency pertinency

—

stubbed dubbed cubbed rubbed drubbed
grubbed scrubbed hubbed snubbed shrubbed

—

palate valet palette mallet ballot pallet

—

ejaculate escalate expostulate emulate
emasculate encapsulate extrapolate

—

smeer near sneer peer here gear hear
sphere leer veer queer

—

dominant dissonant covenant resonant
assonant remnant germinant determinant
consonant ruminant

—

bounce pounce flounce trounce denounce
announce ounce

—

heaved achieved believed upheaved grieved
bereaved reprieved deceived disbelieved

—

soggy foggy boggy cloggy groggy

TWO INCOMPLETE NOVELS

EPISODE I

I discovered in my late mother's diary that she was so promiscuous before I was born that she didn't know for sure which of several men, residing in several countries, might be my father.

EPISODE II

I am now older than everyone I've ever known when they died.

EPISODE III

The world doesn't come alive until human beings, God's homo sapiens, begin to move as only men and women can.

EPISODE IV

On the wall in front of me, a pitted concrete surface, suddenly appeared the image of a face that I recognized as mine.

EPISODE V

Because I like to dream, I tend to sleep an awful lot.

I LOVE YOU ALWAYS

A Short Fiction

I love you always. I love you always. I love you always. I love
you always. I love you always. I love you always. I love
I love you always. I love you always. I
love you always. I love you always. I
love you always. I love you always. I
I love you always. I love you always. I
always. I love you always. I
love you always. I love you
always. I love you always.
I love you always. I love
love you always. I love
you always. I love
always.

I am it is I am
it is I am it is
I am it is I am
it is I am it is I
am it is I am it
is I am it is am
it is I am it is.