

明

在蘇州  
的時期

喜見外弟又言別

十年離亂後，長大一相逢。  
問姓初聞也，稱名憶舊

谷外春鶯曉，城東紫燕驚。  
別來無消息，今日始相見。

語罷春天綠，昔年別後，今歲又逢，故鄉春草，綠如舊時。

明日巴陵道，巴陵，岳陽也。又幾重。  
明日，明也。幾，幾何也。

雲陽館與韓紳宿別

故人江海別，故人，韓紳也。幾度隔山川。  
乍見翻疑夢，乍，初也。相悲各問年。

聞郎江上踏歌聲，郎，韓紳也。羞殺東頭碧玉婷。

一夜風生浪打船，一夜，一作一夕。四更天末浪催人。

更見水村人語笑，更，又也。那知江上日長天。

112 poems

蔡朝恨，蔡朝，蔡文姬之子。惟林尚苦吟。

一

喜外季靈谷山信

昨夜西窗無却客，昨夜，一作昨夜。舊書常向月中青。  
臺榭樓臺下句讀，臺榭，一作臺榭。

以故開元久隘君，以故，一作以故。且生自有文苑甚蓬萊。

一

城半後夏入也曠

世亂同南去，世亂，一作世亂。行看欄北還。  
池御生白髮，池御，一作池御。看國見青山。

一

邊邊靈

草處處作

*112 Poems*



He had not kept up  
with the Kardashians and did  
not know who they were.

None of them have done  
spectacularly well the  
second time around.

It was too late to change some things, like Kat's tenor voice and facial hair.

Hundreds of millions  
did not die of starvation  
in the '70s.

But they did not see  
any Trump Home mirrors or  
lotion dispensers.



They were whispering,  
"We want to send you home in  
a full-body cast."

Surely that shower  
couldn't have been going since  
yesterday morning.

"Nobody ordered  
poutine for the first week it  
was on the menu."

So now for a look  
over the transom of the  
transom-peeper's house.

The auctioneers are addressed as "master," though they call themselves "hammers."

Still, the horse business  
is not as profitable  
as the wine business.

Talk about reaching  
back in time for a club to  
whack Hillary with.

"The world can decide  
where on that curve they want the  
future Earth to be."



She was allergic  
to the arbitrary and  
the exorbitant.

You have to let a routine get dull before it needs shaking up, right?

How we grieve alone  
tells us something about who  
we are together.

The quest for the pure  
original zero may  
well be a lost cause.

"People don't need root  
beer and they don't need to buy  
a painting, either."

Treat all beverages  
with calories in them as  
you would alcohol.

You and your girlfriend  
must come to an arrangement  
that suits both of you.

So how did today  
become associated  
with marijuana?



Time to put on a  
pair of my father's boxers  
and start my new life.

But he acknowledged  
that it is easy to make  
fun of the umlaut.

People will tell you  
exactly what they're good at  
and what they're bad at.

There are sandwiches  
made on long rolls, your subs and  
grinders and cheese steaks.

One image depicts  
a woman moaning in a  
passionate embrace.

All that is missing  
is a pancake sun with ray  
sticks all around it.

I used to pray she  
would slap my face or spank me  
just to feel her touch.

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would slap my face or spank me  
just to feel her touch.



"All I can think is,  
'Oh my gosh, I'm sitting next  
to a big baby.'"

He keeps a hand or  
a body on you, so you're  
always behind him.

There's a mother and  
a daughter who are making  
a muscle gesture.

Nobody ever  
thinks they're going to be in  
this situation.

This is me slowing  
you down, stopping you, so you  
can't get a rhythm.

"Is there someone who  
buys this dress and wears it to  
a cocktail party?"

They filed silently  
off the floor without a look  
over their shoulders.

"I want you to look  
like the squared-away object  
of that reverence."



Even when I took  
it off, I felt as if I  
were still wearing it.

Old ladies will trust  
you when asking for a hand  
when crossing the street.

"The surest path to dementia is to stop working when you're young."

I know I just met  
her but I told her that I  
really liked her hair.

She's just off. She's off.  
She's just odd." I confessed that  
I agreed with her."

I knew I wanted  
to experience more and  
see more of the world.

I won't pretend I  
knew it all, or even that  
I know it all now.

And I know how hard  
it is to write something that  
is easy to read.



To do otherwise  
would be to acknowledge your  
own monstrosity.

And I like to step  
on the winner's podium  
wearing a hijab.

I told her, I said,  
'Honey, you got to calm down  
and listen to me.'

I'm pretty sure it's  
gonna begin and end with  
the mythology.

My vanity and  
my sanity have always  
been bound together.

He takes copious  
notes on his copy of the  
opponent's roster.

Perfection may be  
a goal, but it isn't a  
possibility.

His counsel was not  
about trivial matters  
like what shoes to buy.



I say, 'You don't know  
anything about women,'  
and he'll say, 'It's true.'

I've never taken  
that position and I'm not  
about to start now.

Landscapes are parched and blighted with fields of dead or dormant orange trees.

After all, how much  
do you know about how your  
own email is stored?

This was years ago,  
before Katy Perry and  
everyone went blue.

Gusts of wind rising  
up the chimney face blow his  
feathers the wrong way.

Now, we've reached the point  
where the data gets really  
confusing to me.

"This is the last time  
that I'll be making your drinks  
on the house," she sings.



It has been written,  
by fate or the producers,  
pick your deity.

I wanted to get  
everybody off their feet  
and have a good time.

"You be using mad  
anti words: 'I don't, I can't,  
I ain't,' he tells her."

The work crews roll in  
with big machines and destroy  
a treasured green space.

Her enamel and  
diamond hoops would elicit  
at least an Oh My.

"I was a woman,  
but I obviously knew  
what I was doing."

Updraft or downdraft,  
her gusty poems declare,  
Hang onto your hat.

"But what I believe  
is that people only love  
what they understand."



"Is this a case of  
bullying us because we  
can't go on Twitter?"

If it gave you at  
least one serious earworm,  
then my work is done.

But objects in the  
analog world are bound by  
physical constraints.

I think it's safe to  
say it's the best chicken coop  
we've ever designed.

Online users can choose to view or not view this disturbing content.

"The American dream has become a mirage for far too many."

Passers-by held scarves  
over their mouths to filter  
out the pungent smoke.

And she goes, "Oh, he's pretty nice but he dresses like a teenager."



Many of the twins died during birth as their eight legs became tangled.

Then let's say the guy  
behind the counter asks if  
you want extra cheese.

You can get so much  
more creative with what you  
can do with the ball.

I was in a daze,  
it was all so fantastic  
and unexpected.

The agonizing  
uncertainty I'm feeling  
is intentional.

We know that's where they  
are because we can measure  
the spans between us.

I convinced myself  
that cold feet were just part of  
the experience.

It is still not a  
sure thing that Mitt Romney will  
run for president.



The sun is coming  
up and I'm still wearing wings  
shaped like broken hearts.

"It's part of the blood,  
the culture, the nature of  
its society."

When you get to the point that your lips are cracking, the price is worth it.

I tend to think a  
hit of color cheers things up  
immediately.

I think drugs only  
expound and illuminate  
what's already there.

"This is the working man's opportunity to move up the ladder."

It often look him  
one shot too many to get  
his ball on the green.

It often took him  
one shot too many to get  
his ball on the green.



She said she put down  
the brush and smeared paint on the  
canvas with her hands.

I hold my phone up  
and point to it, hoping she  
gets the pantomime.

I can't imagine  
this creature surviving two  
seconds on his own.

Football's traditions  
further reveal its martial  
sensibilities.

Everything's online,  
of course, so "small print" is just  
a figure of speech.

Then two days later,  
an atomic bomb was dropped  
on Hiroshima.

One huge problem in  
virtual reality  
is motion sickness.

This is not the first  
life he has helped save, and it  
will not be the last.



But peace on earth looks  
much more achievable when  
you take the long view.

Are you wondering  
who messed up and who performed  
above and beyond?

isn't there someplace  
you can lock her away so  
you can have a life?

Irritating the customer is a box no one wants to open.

"There's no need to be  
as skinny as Obama;  
like Putin is good."

Reality was  
kept outside, beyond the doors  
controlled by key cards.

We are real suckers  
for animated graphics  
that reveal some fact.

Dating Chantal may be the sort of mistake some men make only once.



The whole system is  
much more screwed up than you could  
ever imagine.

When he opens his  
mouth to talk, which he doesn't  
do a lot, he's heard.

The deeper he sinks,  
the more beautifully purple  
the bruises become.

*The End*