

STREET CAKE

experimental writing magazine

issue 81

part 2



©pauline mccarthy

contents

issue 81

part 2

COVER: pauline mccarthy - stepping out

bob gielow - dearly departed

damon hubbs - the hydrodynamics of muskrats

jason ly - boat

amy marques - the noises of the great city

thomas mixon - are you and i

leanne moden - a kandinsky kind of day

m. ocampo mcivor - modern poetry

brad rose - lucky animals

sylvia santiago & jenny wong - conversation killers for asian girls

jp seabright - like brd nth hnd

aidan stickles - trees in autumn

mims sully - a very british gravestone

lydia waites - mii

nathan williams - tearing it apart

nathan whiting – underated disaster cowed

DEARLY DEPARTED

Do You Wonder ... What They Will Say at Your Funeral?

You need not wonder anymore. You can pre-determine how you will be described and what stories will be told about you during your memorial service. Thanks to our proven system of connections with members of the clergy (all faiths), funeral home Directors and obituary writers, along with our extensive list of actors/actresses ready to speak as if they knew you, *Dearly Departed®* guarantees that during your final, public farewell, you will be portrayed

- as being an inspiration to others,
- possessing a charming personality, and
- having an impressive intellect.

Depending on the unique category of *Memorial Service* you select, you can also choose to be described (for example) as ...

- being a rare-type blood donor who has saved several children,
- being the author of several best-selling books written anonymously,
- being the anonymous benefactor of a now-successful orphan from sub-Saharan Africa,
- being an elusive drug-lord who has been wanted by the FBI for over a decade, and/or
- being the secret lover of a former soap opera star who will describe you as “inexhaustible and inventive in bed.”

It doesn't matter if you do not, in fact, possess these qualities. It does not matter if these stories about you are untrue. What matters is that this is how you will be remembered by those who attend your memorial service. For those purchasing the *Deluxe Memorial Service*, the praise and adoration for you will continue long past your public farewell in the form of blog entries and social media posts (please ask about our “#SpurnedLover Twitter Package”).

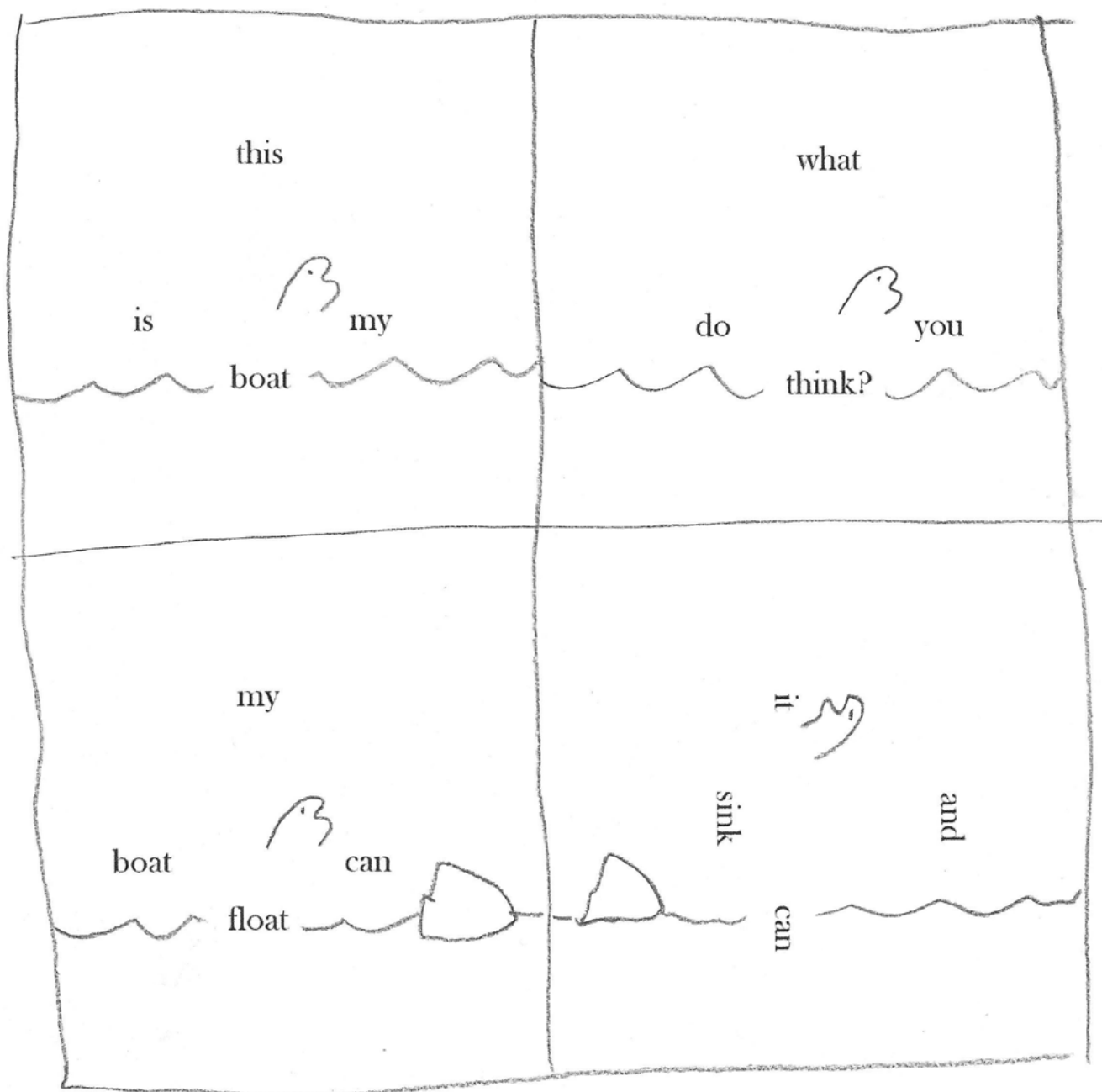
Are you, like most people, upset that you haven't done more with your life, haven't taken enough risks, haven't “made a name for yourself?” If so, then make an investment in your legacy by purchasing the Dearly Departed package that best fits your unfulfilled personal aspirations, and that will shout out to the world all that you have accomplished ... even if the reality of your life doesn't quite live up to the hype of your memorial service.

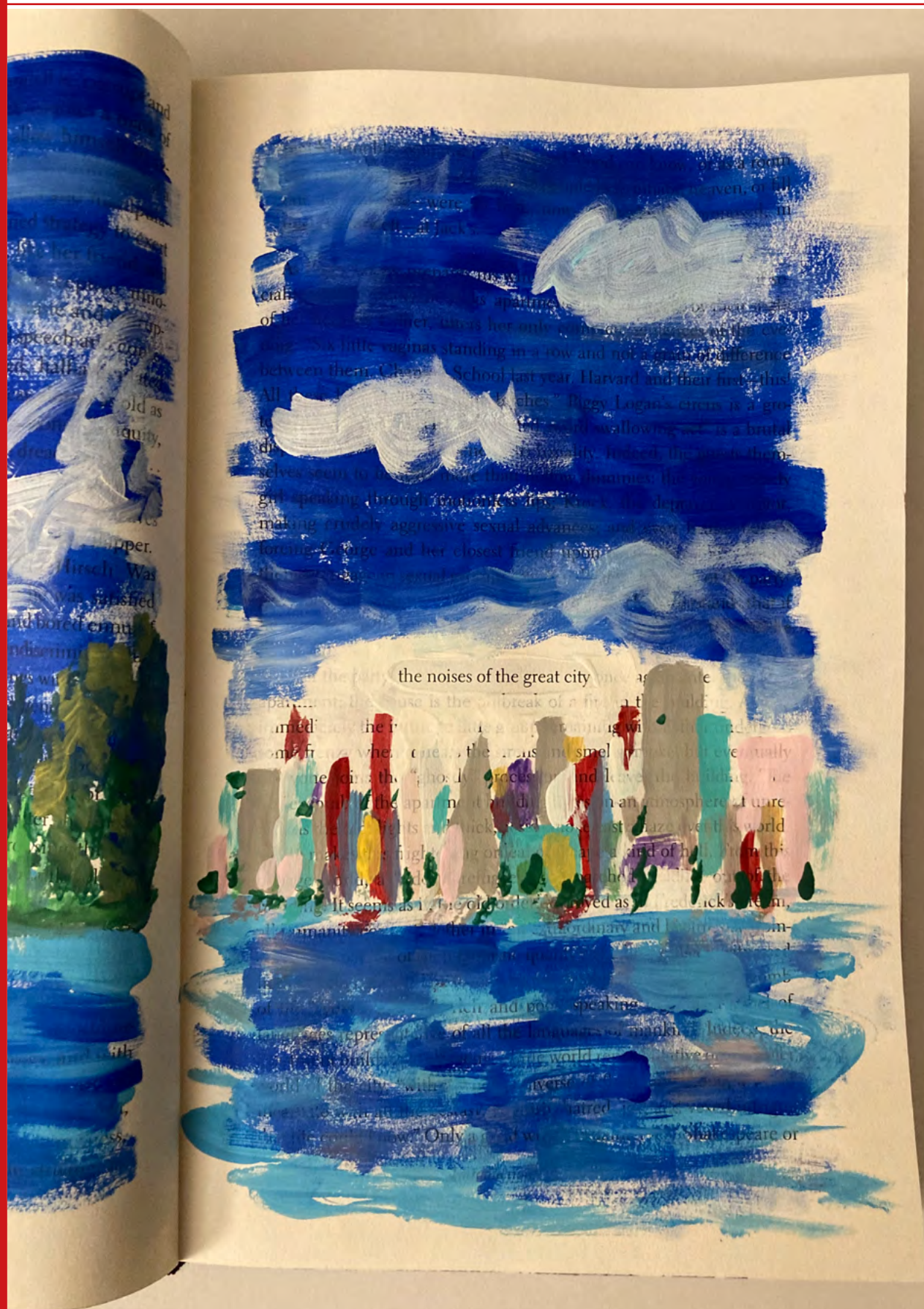
To enhance how the world will remember you, visit us online or call the number below.

DEARLY DEPARTED | 2428 Railroad Ave, Teaneck, NJ 07605
(800) DEPARTD or 337-2783 | <http://dearlydeparted.com>

the hydrodynamics of muskrats

the physics of why ducklings swim in line formation
 is like the sickle and the padlocked toe /
 rotary control
 of column knobs on Sunday morning(s)
 and autumn's first red leaf cries shaped faucets / the web umbrella
 grips a line of brutalist rain
 we need more fingers to t(urn) this
 impossibility of returning /
 compressed / tail / surface / swimming.





Are You and I

a regular

thing? In laundry

we currently

wash separately,

does your denim

daydream my sleeves?

Will you wean me

away from bleach?

Can I bra bag

exactly how

you and I are

now, so future

frays can't be blamed

on the machine?

A Kandinsky kind of day

Today, it's circles. I roll circles over my tongue, slowly swallowing the curve of Tracing patterns scribble-scarred flesh of curling repetition. my cheeks, ribboning on molars, wide as tongue tombstones. Enamel shards dug from the dirt of my own mouth. This wide circle mouth framed by teeth like circles. I am lazy with circles, lousy with the stop/start of this curving continuum. Moments slipping one into the next, into the next, into a skipping elliptical; moth circling a bare bulb in a dark room. I am made of circles now: eyes, hips, belly, breasts, the balls of my feet, the space inside my pelvis. One circle against another against another against... All collapsing, telescopic, circuitous. This halo meridian, circling my head, my hands, everything. Everything is circles. Everything is chaos. Everything is perfect.

Modern Poetry


Stream of
consciousness
and tidy enjamb-
ment
just for the sake of
it;
a thoughtless run-
on to-
do list on the back of
a grocery receipt
and *boom*—
modern poetry.

Lucky Animals

What's your lucky animal? Hey, mine too. Just think of all the miracles the devil provides. See how the impulsive prairies flatten themselves into routine heydays? You'd like to grade them on a curve of their smooth emptiness, but before you know it, it's the same damn thing, over and over again. But enough of this gimcrack malarkey, shall we? Point your ears toward the broken-hearted noise. In the land of the loud, you can hardly hear the screams of the living. And we've scarcely had enough time to sharpen our knives. Of course, on the day all hell floods over, there's bound to be a little bit of steam. Look, over there, under the highest cloud. The animals wait. We dare not disappoint them.

Conversation Killers for Asian Girls

[redacted] Our [redacted]
 [redacted] maid [redacted] nanny [redacted] caregiver [redacted]
 [redacted] is [insert Asian race] [redacted] Are you [redacted]
 [redacted] two [redacted]
 [redacted] Maganda [redacted] related? [redacted]
 [redacted] ka! [redacted]
 [redacted] I played [redacted]
 [redacted] hockey [redacted] basketball [redacted] soccer [redacted]
 [redacted] Knee [redacted] with a [insert Asian race] guy [redacted]
 [redacted] how! [redacted] in high school! [redacted]
 [redacted]
 [redacted] You don't [redacted] Do you speak English? [redacted]
 [redacted] have an [redacted]
 [redacted] accent! [redacted] When [redacted]
 [redacted] did you come to [redacted]
 [redacted] [insert North American city]? [redacted]
 [redacted] I know you [redacted]
 [redacted] [insert Asian race] girls like [redacted]
 [redacted] to go lighter [redacted] Maganda [redacted]
 [redacted] with the foundation. [redacted] ka! [redacted]
 [redacted] Your English [redacted]
 [redacted] I love [redacted] is so [redacted]
 [redacted] pan-sit! [redacted] good! [redacted] Where are you from? [redacted]
 [redacted] No ... I mean, where [redacted]
 [redacted] Maganda [redacted] are you [redacted]
 [redacted] ka! [redacted] Does [redacted] *really* from? [redacted]
 [redacted] your head get [redacted]
 My wife is like you, [redacted] hot with all [redacted]
 [redacted] so I'm used to your [redacted] that black hair? [redacted]
 little bodies. [redacted]
 [redacted] There's an [redacted]
 [redacted] [insert Asian race] guy [redacted]
 [redacted] It's a shame [redacted] working in my department. [redacted]
 [redacted] you don't speak [redacted] Do you know him? [redacted]
 [redacted] your own language. [redacted]
 [redacted]



A BIRD IN THE HAND IS WORTH TWO IN THE BUSH
A BARD IN THE BAND IS WORTH OWT IN THE BASH
A BART IN THE BANT IS WORTH WOT IN THE CASH
A CART IN THE WANT IS WORTH WON IN THE WASH
A WART IN THE WAND IS WORTH NOW IN THE DASH
A FART IN THE WIND IS WORTH WOO IN THE DISH
A FAST IN THE FIND IS WORTH TOO IN THE WISH
A PAST IN THE KIND IS WORTH OTO IN THE PISH
A PART IN THE HIND IS WORTH TOT IN THE GISH
A HART IN THE MIND IS WORTH OOT IN THE GUSH
A HARD IN THE BIND IS WORTH TOW IN THE CUSH
A HAND IN THE BIRD IS WORTH TWO IN THE HUSH

Trees in Autumn

Trees in autumn look like
a display of fire

work

re-
order

element

records

On the
fourth of July.
One can find...
watching,

leaves of orange, red and gold

turn to brown (dying beautifully)

(s

low

work

ly introducing themselves,

to their new home in

the glens.

.....joy.....

A Very British Gravestone

~ a found poem made up of epitaphs suggested on Twitter

Sorry, is this place taken?
Is this the end of the queue?
No, no, after you. I'd better make a move.
This is not quite what I had in mind.

Sorry, am I in your way?
Don't mind me, just pretend I'm not here.
Keep calm and carry on.
What's the weather like out there?

Gosh, is that the time already?
Must dash. Tally ho! Pip, pip cheerio!
One more for the road?
Thank you for having me.

Right, that'll do. That's me off then.
Just popping out, need anything?
I'll get back to you when I can.
Only be a jiffy. Put the kettle on.

Oh bugger. For goodness sake.
Remember to leave out the bins.
Sorry... my fault. I ran out of tea.
I ate all that Kale for nothing.

I'd love to shake your hand but...
I'm not at home. Look behind you.
I think I forgot to lock the back door.
Be careful where you tread.

Sorry, mustn't grumble.
Please don't make a fuss
or go to too much trouble.
Things could be worse.

I'm just resting my eyes.
Rain stopped play.
Honestly, I'm fine.
Just getting my breath back.

MII

I've been thinking about the customisable characters on Nintendo Wiis
those digital doppelgangers roaming the screen in search of some tennis game
or godly hand to pluck them into being. I wonder if they're all still waiting
in that vacuous, darkened plaza to be clicked back to whatever
constitutes life for them and lately

I feel the same when I move about the house, as if everything is happening
behind a loading screen...

I wait for the walls to be injected with colour, to be put to some task
or asked a question I can answer like an algorithm that has learned the script
of all small talk.

I stand in the kitchen, breathing. I wait for life to begin.

systematic symptoms of
 The Condition
 to be
 discussed
 include the obvious side effects ie
 dancedancedance
 swallow/tears/fluctuate/rage/fathom/coincidences
 yet modern studies
 indicate less apparent traits
 such as denial of The Condition all together
 and resentment of the **other** is in some cases
 linked to socio or
 psychopathic narcissistic individuals
 who generally believe
 The Condition
 does not adversely
 demonstrate effects
 upon them//
 or that those who
 accept The Condition
 = weak(y)
 As an infallible: (x)truth
 though their
 behaviour see
 war watch fist observe hate spelt
 i-d-e-o-l-o-g-i-e-s s-u-c-h a-s a-u-s-t-e-r-i-t-y m-e-a-s-u-r-e-s
 Suggests their
 fundamentally
 the wider collective
 collective consciousness
 on the growth/evolution/development
 by the species and mind instilled
T*E*A*R*I*N*G **I*T** **A*P*A*R*T**
 internally/lyllanretni leading to
 For the whole human race
 maintain
 of Progress
 ns act
 A c h i e v e
 o p p
 o f
 s a i d
 t e
 serious & harmful consequences
 though such individuals would
 their stance in the name
 though their actio
 ually
 t h e o s i t e
 r m

beyond withered, 20th century ways
 A philosopher ↗ ↓
 ↓ → Beside her a pigeon thinks thinks thinks.
 waits waits waits, ↓
 the *speed* miseristically
 for sadness a pet in status.
 ↓ ↓
 rarely faster within poverty
 yet grief accelerates over hunger, *falcon*
 ↓ ↗
growls procreated via alienation.
 while her pigeon *coos* quiet ↗ *falcon*
 ↓ ↗
 words available brighten {*unwanted*}
 ↓ their
 in an ocean deep — luciferins.

Dark

Eternal night Sun unknown!
 Her pigeon's left wing
 ↓ an infiltrator — crack-the-whip game's
 logical level
falcon a *shiver*-through-feathers
 proof
 made entirely by proofs.