

Crab

Upon close inspection, the crab
seems a lowly creature
clawing and pinching

Scurrying across the sea floor
searching for bits of
jewelry to pawn.

Ask me: Do I envy the crab?

Yes I do.
Would that I had
such delicious hands.

—————//

Muck

Whose muck is this? Who put it here?
Why? Why does this muck have to be here?
Couldn't you put it somewhere else?
Can't you find another place?

This place is mine.
No, I don't have any extra space.
Especially not for muck.

When will this muck be gone?
How long do I have to wait?
I hope not long.
I am already tired of waiting
and it has hardly been any time at all.

I long to be muckless.
I want this muck out of my life.
And when it is gone,
everything will be perfect.

I cannot wait for everything
to be perfect.
Imagine how much nicer
things will be!

No muck pile, smelling and

stinking near my stuff.
No muck blocking my view
of what presently lies beneath it.

When the muck is gone,
I will reclaim the space it has taken from me
and use it for the best things.
Things like, um...

I, um...
Ahem.
Well, certainly I will, uh...
Oh.

I miss muck
—————//

Gerilex

A News approaches a Mind.

Hello, Mind. Today, explosion. Also, fire!
Related: Hunger, death.

Stock market, pornography,
The Government.
Crisis, meltdown, recovery? meltdown.

Special birthdays: Celebrities 1 and 7.
Deaths: The Best People. Nostalgia, who cares.

Calories, flora, 8-minute abdominal greatness.
Celery? Dairy farms, go outside more.
Alert: Ticks, hot weather, sun screen, cancer.
Tutorial: How to picnic 11 ways.

Panic.

Lifestyle: Babies, parenthood, cages,
neck pillows, eco-sneakers.

Developing: Catastrophe. Impotence? Gerilex.

News, please stop.

I don't want to know.
I am full, I am vibrating.

I want quiet, I want peace,
I believe in nature, I believe in science,
I miss the dinosaurs. Where did they go?

Mind, we are one.
I am you; I am everywhere
and everything.

Would you like to buy a bottle of Gerilex?
It will soothe you.
I have already sent it
because I know what you want.

Mind got the Gerilex in the mail and took three.

Later, News and Mind
started a production company.
They are working on
Dinosaurs 2: Return of the Dinos.
_____//

Turtles

A turtle approaches a beach ball.

Mommy? Is that you?
You are a circle, like me,
but I do not see your hands.

Can I go swimming with my friends?
Do you want to come with me?

Turtle and Ball swam to Cancún,
where they now own a French bistro.
_____//

Fun

Fun is everywhere.

The beach, the town, artisanal cheeses.
Craft beverages, craft crafts, Kraft cheeses.

The zoo, the aquarium, the jail.

Trees, bushes, snakes.

Monstrosities, minutiae, minor inconveniences.

Major leagues, Major Generals, major scales.

Fridays, Friday's(™), fried eggs.

Modernity, modalities, mugwort(?).

Are you having fun?

No. I am allergic to artisanal cheese,
and the rest is boring.

Have you tried the Internet?

It has boobs, violence, guns.

Drugs, boobs, news.

Fails, opinions, shoes.

Videos, boobs, and videos of boobs.

This is great. You had me at boobs.

Which time?

All the time.

—————//

Calculator

A calculator can tell you everything.

One plus four, thirty-nine plus thirty-nine,
one hundred plus anything.

It can tell you the time:

Just subtract All Of History
from Right Now.

It can calculate your age:

Mom minus Dad, plus siblings,
minus cousins.

It knows the day you'll die:

Happiness, minus Student Loans,
plus Exercise, minus Mayonnaise,
plus Piety.

Calculators are made out of numbers,
especially zeros, ones, and sevens.
If you get three sevens in a row,
you win a hundred dollars.

If you want to spell BOOBS on a calculator, you can!
For instructions, contact the manufacturer,
or ask a third grader from 1994.

Everything on a calculator is real.
You can't put fake things into a calculator,
unless you're a fake person,
in which case you probably have a fake calculator, too.

Don't take your calculator into the swimming pool,
unless you want to measure
how wet a calculator has to be
before it stops working.

The calculator was invented
by Andréas Calculatordici of Italy in 1103 A.D.
He wanted to know how many stars there were,
and he couldn't keep track on his fingers.

Alas, his calculator didn't work very well,
and so he did the only other thing he could think of:
He sewed 78 extra fingers onto his hands.

And that is why the piano has 88 keys.
—————//

Needs

Oh, a pageant!
I am the prettiest.
Look at how fast I am pretty: 1, 2, 3.

My hair is just the right size,
and my teeth are squares.
I am winning!

Where did you get your neck decoration?
I need it — give it to me please.
I do not care that it was your grandmother's.

I need it, and you do not deserve it anyway.
Give it!

Yes.
Now I have the decoration.
I am the prettiest!

Where did you find those pants?
They are shinier than mine.
Give me your pants.
I know that you will be cold,
but I need them for my contest.
Give them to me — I need them!

I love these pants so much.
Are you shivering?
There is heat near the earth's core.
Would you like to borrow a shovel?

Why are you talking to her
and not me?
I am the prettiest!
Give me your friends.
I need them for my life.

Where are you going?
Come back!
Look at my hair and pants!

I need you!
_____//

Modernity

Monogamy:
Just you and me.

Polygamy:
You(s) and me.

Consensual Non-Monogamy:
You and me, plus I get more,
and so do you.
But...it would be sweet if you didn't.

But please, go right ahead.
Just not at our apartment.
And no sexting.
And no Saturdays.

Bisensual Triligamy:
Two of us agree to have the same three partners.

Trilateral Unogamy:
Only threesomes, **but** by yourself.

Monastic Transnogamy:
Meditate while experiencing identity transition.
Repeat once every 24 hours.

Premeditated Prenogamy:
Before sex, make a plan
to think about having sex.

Postnogamous Multology:
After sex, we disagree
about how many people we are.

Predictogamous Inevitology:
You stay over a lot.
Could you do the dishes once in a while?
Who paid for dinner last night?
Did you borrow my phone charger?
_____//

Hollow Bones

The world crumbles beneath my feet.
Where yesterday there was earth,
today there is a hole.
Can it be filled?

I have tried filling it with hard work,
but the hole is deep,
and I need help.

I have tried filling it with love,
but it turns out that
gravity is stronger than love.

We could fill the hole with garbage,
but that solution stinks.
How about water? Nope.
It's hot out, and the water
has run dry.

But holes are not empty —
they're full of air.
So if we learned to fly,
we could live in them.
But don't you need hollow bones for that?

Get me the bone hollower.
_____//

Zero Minus Time

Pain is everywhere, and
drugs are most places
because pain plus drugs
equals zero minus time

And then you're here still
stuck in right now
which itches in places
you can't find

Maybe you reach for
your favorite balm
also a drug
with a clean label and
small font

Telling you that
this is safe
tested on humans
who did not suffer

Whose itches have been
numbed down to
zero
minus time
_____//

Bill

I forgot your name again
so I named you Bill
in my head
because I think
your name starts with B

I do remember
where we met
It was that place
with cheap margaritas
and you were with someone
kind of hot

Her name was Lisa
from Lisbon
33 years old, who
once lived in Brooklyn
like me

She called you Fred
which reminds me
your name is not Bill, and
does not start with B

Next time I'll remember
Lisa lived in Brooklyn
which starts with B
like your name
—————//

My dog

My dog
sits on her ass
in a sunny patch
of my backyard

I wonder,
How do I get a
life like that?

I want that feeling
that's like

this is the best moment
at 10am on Tuesday

So warm
what's that noise?
it's fine

I'll figure it out later because
time doesn't matter
to this dog's ass
_____//

Search

I hungrily type out
an endless stream of questions
into a white rectangle
with blue trim

submitting them to God Knows Who
pushing the idea of a button
a green rectangle
raised and beveled

which tells me to Go
that it's Ok
to Search
that I can Cancel
any time I want

I anxiously await
the Ten Best Matches
curated and ordered by no one

Hoping my suspicions will be
confirmed by others
who searched before me

so that I can stop soliciting
advice from rectangles
and ask myself
what I'm searching for
_____//

Feelings

How do you feel
about this photo of
your friend's wedding?

A pixelated icon
of a tiny gloved hand,
upping its little round thumb
toward the top of my screen.

That's the best way
to describe how I feel.

_____//

Ideas

Mix up your ideas and
feed them to me
one by one:

Equality for
organic chickens

Restrict access to
hamburger advertisements

Clothing optional is
not available at this time

Stop collecting my
hopes and dreams
and selling them to
my mom

Demand action on
fantasy novel cover art

It's causing the youth
to question
your bullshit notions
of what should be real, and
what should remain
a fantasy

_____//

My house

Garbage.

My house is full of garbage

My lamps? garbage.

Tea set? garbage.

Stamp collection? Gar. Bage.

So I threw it all
down the stairs.

Plop plop,
it went.

But now
my house feels cold
and empty.

So I bought
new stuff.

First, a lamp
so that I could see
how nice my stuff looks.