THE CRUCIBLE

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THE CRUCIBLE

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The Crucible thanks: our advisors, Joe Nicholson and Dr. Douglas Campbell; Matt Connor and Chris Fisher, of the Eagle Eye, for technical assistance; and Jay Zech for lending us his key.

I Smile...

The light from many homes spills softly onto the beach. Far in front of me, the waves begin their ancient race; They fall at my feet as if they could not reach The spot on which I sit, brushing sand from my face.

My friends behind enjoy small talk and beer. I ignore them; I would rather spy on Nature's power. And then I see, I catch sight of beauty so dear: Your beauty, I see, far outshines any golden tower.

You walk along the water's edge toward where I sit, And I envision you as angelic in the silver moonlight. I think I'm in love, but my words don't seem to fit; What do I say to make this turn out right?

I turn to the sea and breathe deep your perfume.
I observe your grace as you seat yourself on the sand.
My mind creates an image of you and I in my room;
I smile as you agree, and lead me by the hand...

by Stephen Zoldi

I don't kno wut that cro no But he is jest peechiz and pliwood To mi voin.

ALL MEN TS AS GOOD AS BIRDS!

bi Wilbur Gordo

P.S. If he was me Hed hav a rats ass to.

SOUTHERN CROSS

I looked at the setting sun
Bedazzled by the reflection on the ocean
I think of people I met
And the music they played
Their lives went by like this setting sun I am watching

A dazzling glare A faint change of color Then a disappearance

by Laurie Guillermin

Crash Into Silence

Life.

Like a room full of mirrors

eventually so confusing; confining.

Either you keep running into yourself

or

you never do.

by Karen Eiswert

So they were the moukeys brown and winding And green was the air as the Flutes they played, and It was lovely the Dancing whade when yellow was sturning on summer's chair. Yes summer's a chair, he summer's a chair, and butterflies float in it's sqrap.

Dam The Hallweinating Boy, I wrote this. Dam eight years old. So they were the markers brown and wheling had grean was the air as the grean was they played.

Flates they played out the was bush the was back the who was statistically no enamer's chair.

Yes summer's a check of the flat in it's sore and but to these that is it's sore.

Sam The Hollinein when the Boy Sworte this was a come of the

FAR OFF THUNDER

A Story by

Nicole Dammeyer

FAR OFF THUNDER

Although I loved him I knew he was bad. It didn't stop me from loving him you see, it just made it harder at times. There were times that I could forget he was an outlaw. When he smiled he could make everything all right. He had that kind of smile, no matter how angry I was with him all he had to do was crack that all-winning smile and I was lost.

It was when he wasn't smiling that I wondered about his bad side-- it was then that his past would show. A look of hurtfilled memories would overflow in his eyes and turn them one shade darker. It was really something amazing to watch. Or frightening. It was as if you were watching the change of a season, only instead of going in the normal cycle it went from one extreme to the other-- summer to winter. Just like that. When he smiled he looked young and carefree; you'd never believe half of the things he'd done. Not when he smiled.

He was dark and tall and very muscular. Many people who didn't know him had told me I was lucky he was mine, for he was beautiful on the outside. His eyes were blue with a ring of green that circled their mystery. His face had a few scars from battles of his younger days, when he was a newcomer. He never got scratched now; he was the best. The scars were not ugly and he wore them as though they were medals of hard-won battles. He was proud. No one could ever say he was afraid, no one could ever say he was sorry (if he was, he'd never let them know). But haunted, who could say that?

I was the one who would wake up nights with him tossing and twisting, running from some one or some thing. The only thing he feared and I didn't know what it was. The morning after he would lay beside me his head on my chest and I would wonder of those dark horses running through his eyes. How I would wonder...

It was not too often that thoughts like these filled my head, only when a familiar

phantom woke me up at night or a stranger stared at me from blue-green eyes.

But when we were together I felt so safe, nothing could get to me through him. We both knew that and so did everyone else. Warm nights we'd meet secretly and ride down lonely roads on his only companion other than me. His motorcyle. It was a beautiful thing, that bike. I could almost swear they were one when he rode down that highway. It was as if that bike and he could make love. I guess you'd have to see what I meant. But there were some that saw and understood.

He'd pull up on that beautiful steel stallion, that seemed to ripple in the moonlight, like his muscles did and I could see how I had fallen in love with him. Times like those I never

had to ask myself why

I wasn't afraid of bikes but I held on as tight as I could, maybe I was trying to get that same feeling of oneness, or maybe I was just hanging on to him because I knew it wouldn't be long before I couldn't anymore. Of course I couldn't have known but I believe deep

down inside I always knew. I had to.

I would rest my head on his shoulder and our hair would fly with the wind together and I would smell the tough, thick aroma of leather. It seemed such a familiar smell to me. We'd find somewhere to sit and he'd hold me. Once in a while he would hold me so tight I thought I might suffocate and now that I think back I believe he must have known, too. Known that it wouldn't be long. No, not long before we couldn't do that anymore—hold each other. Whenever he would move I could hear the sound of leather and it always reminded me of the sound of rain falling, soft deceptive rain. Or the first voice of thunder far-off.

Maybe it had something to do with our lives or maybe it sounds that way to you, too. It reminded me also of the cowboys you saw on TV. That sound always seemed to follow them. It followed him, too.

I used to wonder what it was that made ladies love outlaws. I tried really hard to understand, I even had a million theories on the subject. But I wasn't close. Not at all. Outlaws draw you to them. Just standing close to one, you can feel the danger. That follows them, too. It's like a thrill I used to get when I'd get really close to a wild animal. A beautiful buck or a wild horse. Well, these are the last of the wild, the Outlaws, and I felt that same thrill when I was next to him. I can't even begin to explain how I felt when I was closer.

You find yourself amazed at many times. Amazed at their gentleness, their knowledge, their values, or even their ability to care and love. I know I did. But he was wild and I knew that and he did too, it wasn't his fault. And I will always love him. No one could ever make me see different.

I feel that I have experienceed something no one could ever imagine, a love like no other. And I have something to remember him by— a child. Our little boy. He is dark and has blue eyes with a ring of green fire around them. I see those phantoms in his eyes too, and I hope he doesn't leave me as his father did.

On hot nights of summer, I sit at my window and hold my child, our child, while I stare at the highway. Thinking of an outlaw on a bike of ghostly chrome and wondering if those dark horses have finally left his eyes or if now he is being chased by one stronger than before-- the dark horse of love lost.

2 Poems

By Ed Chatterton

A GIFT

I have designated
The solitary dandelion
At the edge of the lawn
As yours.

Take care of it.

Do not pluck its petals
In reciting some silly
Schoolgirl's rhyme,
And do not decapitate it
With preconceived notions
Of acceptable surburban lawns.

Let it live its life
Whether or not it knows
I have given it to you.

Watching Eyes

I feel like an animal, A beast of prey, Lurking, watching her, Not to harm her, But to capture her soul.

I mingle and meander Like all the other predators And I mimic their ways, A thousand funny habits.

Yet I feel somehow different, A hunting animal, A hunted animal, A haunted man.

Yesterday she told me I had "Nice hazel eyes."

Kind of funny, isn't it?
A predator with nice hazel eyes.

How to keep alive and thriving at age 100 Get Rich? Deal with problems of low blood pressure

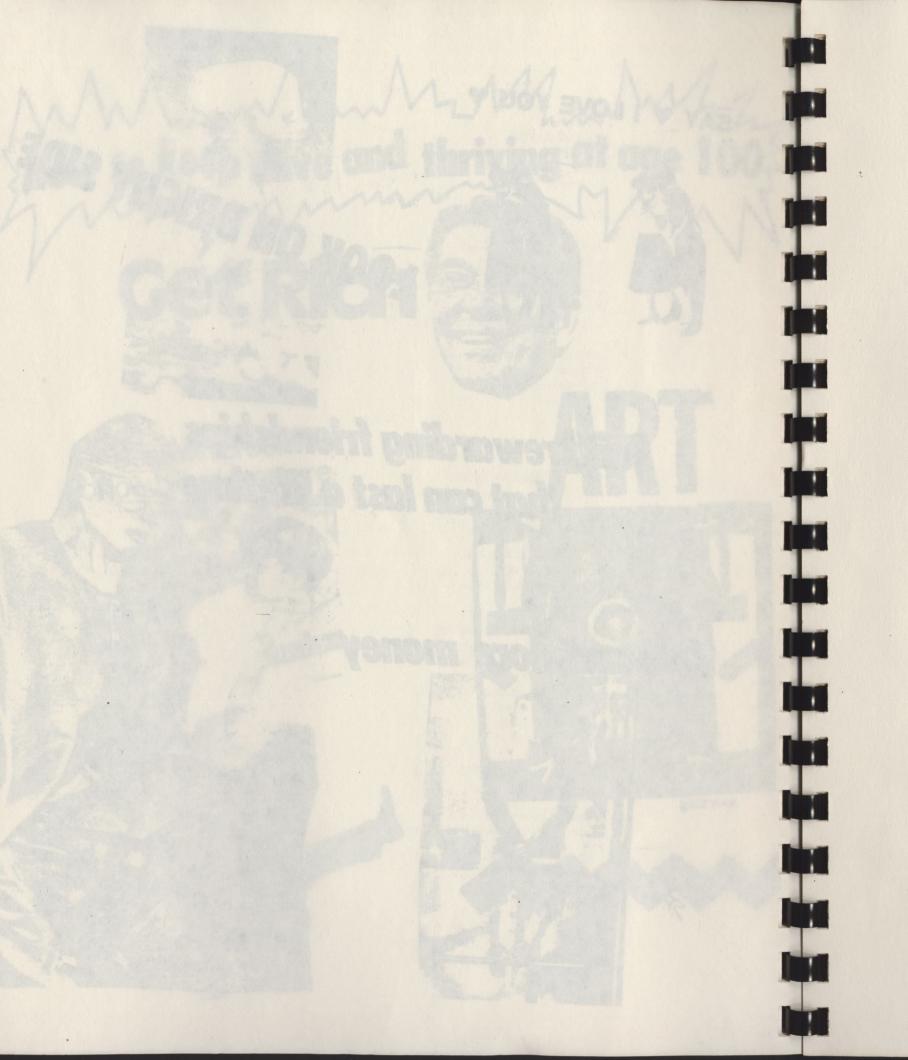












LINE NO ONE ELSE

Life never gives as enough time to share all the love that
was hold.

Never enough more to let those who be shared our lives like
studptor's clay, know we care.

I want to let vou, especially you, the sculptor who
has defined my enough being, help.

That you have shown me what trid love is.
I have resched to you with all due has meaning to me.
And you have enoughed my trembles with a kind word and a
unite.

A gesture of real love grows only where it can be fed.
You have nown that love, whose roots now its so deeply
within thy soul.

You are no me what no other man in my life will ever be.

By Molly Grill

2 Poems

LIKE NO ONE ELSE

Life never gives us enough time to share all the love that

Life never gives us enough time to share all the love that we hold,

Never enough time to let those who've shaped our lives like sculptor's clay, know we care.

I want to let you, especially you, the sculptor who has defined my entire being, know,

That you have shown me what real love is,

I have reached to you with all that has meaning to me,

And you have answered my troubles with a kind word and a smile.

A gesture of real love grows only where it can be fed.

You have sown that love, whose roots now lie so deeply within my soul.

You are to me what no other man in my life will ever be,

You are my father.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

You've awaken,
To you, this room is a stranger,
To me, a friend.
You feign sleep,
Partly for lack of anything to say,
Also to cover your embarrassment.
I,
want nothing more than to hold you
close, and tell you that I love you.
You,
start to dress, even still silent and
insecure.
My smile,
as you leave, is so full of love.
You,
just see it as a case of mistaken
identity.

3 Poems

By Bill Piper

DREAM (from the Spanish of Juan Ramon Jimenez)

Tall and tender
image of consolation,
Dawn on my seas of
sadness,
Lily of peace

Lily of peace
with the fragrances of purity,
Divine reward
for this long pain.

Like the stem of the flower of heaven,
Your height loses
itself in your beauty,
And when you turned your head toward me,
I thought I was lifted from off this earth.

And now in the chaste
dawn of your arms,
Gathered to your transparent breast,
How clear to me turn
my chains.

How happy my shattered heart for that pain, for the burning kiss

With which and with Your smiling it Composes.

THE GUITAR (from the Spanish of Federico Garcia-Lorca)

Begins the crying
Of the guitar.
The glasses of dawn
Are breaking themselves.
Begins the crying
Of the guitar.
It's useless to stop it.
It's impossible
To stop it.
Monotonous crying
Like crying of water
Like crying of
Wind over snow.
It's impossible to stop its
Crying over things
far-off.

Hot sands of the south
That plead for white camelias.
Crying arrow without aim,
Afternoon without tomorrow
And the first dead bird on the bough.
O guitar, heart,
Slashed with five sabers.

FROM THE LATIN OF CATULLUS

The girl does not love the poet.

Be strong, girl.

Catullus is firm;

He does not seek an unwilling girl.

11 Prose-poems

by Sean Fay

Privilege and Discipline

Dogs are trained with newspaper. People are trained with print. Privilege and discipline.

Clutch

The policeman smiles as he hands over your marriage papers. The furniture cracks at night. You wake up and knock a lamp over. The kids cry. You fear politeness may not always work. You wish everyone understood and played by the rules. Your wife controls your past. She is your diary of lies. You feel as if you're living in an iron lung. Straight forward doesn't work anymore. You want to know your exact place.

Some Way Out

She hovers in mid-air. Her neck is swollen and blue around the bra she used to hang herself. What a strange necklace. You'd say a bra was like a harness but you didn't want to end up with tits like the women in National Geographic. No worries now. You found a way out. SHAKE! SHAKE! ESCAPE! SHAKE! SHAKE! SHAKE!

Masochism

The nail is a plug surrounded by a halo of wrist spit red. I can pull it out with my teeth but I prefer symbolism.

Circus

I took my kid to the circus. I bought him cotton candy and we rode on the whirly cars. Later when we came home I decided to shave. I cut myself and bled to death in the porcelain sink. My kid was sad.

Dog

Dog is pet. Dog is man with 4 legs. Dog is imprint of man's desire. Dog is alienated observer-- watching, nervous yelping, pacing. Dog offers to attack. Dog is a misunderstood singer.

Gorilla Suit

"King Kong died for your sins," she joked. Putting a baby on a her back. She bent her head in supplication. The rails of the porch were lined with empty wine bottles. Night came to us. I heard a sound in her heart like desire. In my gorilla suit now I felt the noose slacken and my trembling diffuse.

Blues

Blues screech and bounce as we drive along a flat highway in North Carolina. Words written in saxophone lines. Solo horn raised high. Carolina pine break land so dull-- your music paints tears on my cheek.

Cheap Paintings

Bathed in glow the mountains look like cheap paintings. I wonder, is there a personal God in this impersonal matter? Mountains, bathed in glow that washes trees to a pure unified green.

Horse

He walks up to the cashier and carefully exposes his wound, begging "Please give me a ride you could be the best horse of all men."

Out The Door

We were tired and her veil was torn. She was no longer shrouded from the heat and couldn't imagine the possibility of survival. I felt like a relic, like an elephant swaying in the heavy midday air. We drank beer in my narrow bed. You were a prisoner when light streaked your face. This was more than an ordinary compulsion. Everything else went out the door. We sat in a position of infinite compassion. Your spine was as smooth as light on water. Your tight flushed body was skimming, wrinkling the skin of sand.

