

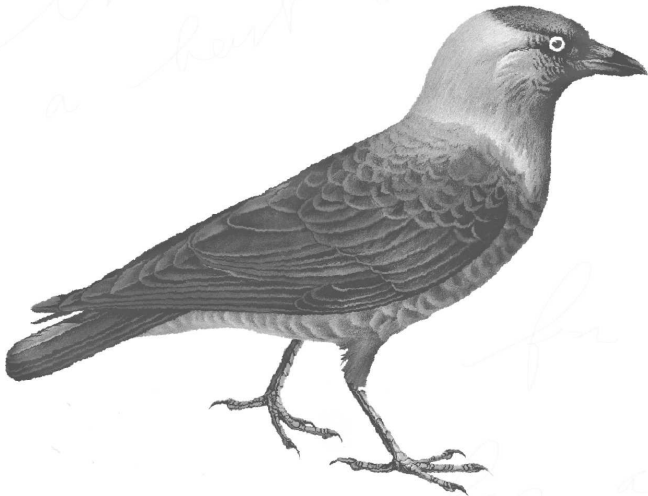
AFTERMATH



AFTERMATH

A COLLECTION OF POETRY AND PROSE

AFTERMATH



Tom Melsen

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for you

Force the eyes to be open
Seek for kindness in the heart
Raise a gently voice
And be tender with yourself
When times are hard

Aftermath

It is empty and it stares at me. Soft black ribbon, seamlessly, on an empty white sheet. So this is the beginning. This is where I will start. I can only hope that the black ink will be valiant and full of cold hard truth. With a heavy sigh i press the first sligh of metal.

I
start
typing

All evening and ~~and through~~ ^{most of the night} the night I am pounding out poems. I am reliving days and rewriting some parts. Words were pushed ^{back} back in a drawer. Somewhat lost in the dark. I feel somehow, like the marching soldier my grandfather ~~was~~ ^{was}. CLACK CLACK CLACK. BAM BAM BAM. the rhythm of the typewriter. The rhythm of the poem.

Words are clattering away ~~like bullets firing from a gun.~~ like bullets firing from a gun. Forgetting time, day or night or night or day. A war on my mind. Some thought evil and some thoughts kind. Some words fall, get up and run away. ~~Some words rot and finally die.~~ Some words are brave enough to stay. And so it goes AND SO IT GOES.

After a while the black ink ~~starts~~ ^{starts} to fade. My ammunition almost gone. I sigh, ~~I have given up.~~ I sigh while emptiness departs. Oh white sheet, my battleground. Now drop the gun and see what ive done

I Have Given All

"the rhythm of the poem"