

**MAY**  
**TOMORROW**  
**BE AWAKE**

**ON POETRY, AUTISM, AND OUR  
NEURODIVERSE FUTURE**

**Chris Martin**



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FIRST EDITION

*Designed by Elina Cohen*

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data has been applied for.

ISBN 978-0-06-302015-3

22 23 24 25 26 LSC 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

## ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

MAX AND MARK EATI

I Use Patterns to Survive  
Awed  
A Volcano Named Eati  
Parenting During a Quarantine  
May

ADAM WOLFOND

The Maker of Wanting Space  
Isolation Song of Love  
Calm-Arriving to a Wanting Safe World  
Owls Easy on the Ways of Language  
Tall Ideas

ZACH

mOOn  
I Think, I Know, I Imagine

BILL BERNARD

He Hears

HANNAH EMERSON

Hannah Is Never Only Hannah  
The Listening World  
Animal Ear

## ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

Between  
Becoming Mud  
How the World Began  
The Underworld

MAX ZOLOTUKHIN-RIDGWAY

Thirteen Ways of Looking at Dwight D. Eisenhower

LONNIE SHAW

All About Me  
Feeling Rich  
Rainbow Man  
Rainbow Man Enters the Ring  
My Life  
All the Things Chris Doesn't Know  
They Break You Down  
Ode

IMANE BOUKAILA

In the Quarantine Body  
Have Hidden Great Hibernating Truths

SID GHOSH

Tuning Goes Frig  
Rotary Club  
I No a Poet  
Mud

AMELIA BELL

we are other together

COLLABORATIVE POEMS

The Moon Sees Me  
A Brand New Outfit

MAX AND MARK EATI

**I Use Patterns to Survive**

Patterns don't have  
a simple way  
of making sense  
but patterns are not complex  
they are simple

You create a pattern  
using your senses

Feel it and follow it

I will quote my own life now

My life follows a pattern  
of many other autistics  
so I learn from them

Our lives are products  
of invincible codes  
that create invincible patterns

I write and update them  
I design and fuel them  
into real life circumstances

and add simplicity  
to educate myself

**Awed**

Awe arrives as the sound of string instruments  
Awe arrives as the feel of a silky shirt  
Awe arrives as the taste of coriander spice  
Awe arrives as the sight of a seal  
Awe arrives as the smell of water

**A Volcano Named Eati**

A volcano named Eati  
erupts inside our bellies  
at the sound of a pattern  
Family member's pattern of joy  
or pattern of worry

We experience synchronous  
and asynchronous changes  
good and bad  
heavy and light

We laugh like  
the alapa pattern  
starting at our heads and  
ending at our toes

We scream when it  
rocks our bellies  
like the pattern of a song  
pattern of drumming  
alapa pattern of emotional pain

We feel the  
joy and pain  
in our alapa bodies  
all over our navels  
all over almost everything

### **Parenting During a Quarantine**

Jesus, Allah, Krishna, and Buddha  
please save us from our parents  
trying to make sense of how to support us  
while we are counting our blessings  
that we are away from Covid-prone  
public and private spaces

Fifty days of stillness in our beings  
is so needed to process and cleanse  
humanity's infused and suppressed emotions  
as we are cyclically creating one problem after another

We slipped away from proper self-care  
both in our homes and in the public  
we are seeing such an influx  
of viruses and bacteria  
that our bodies and systems  
have been generationally collapsing

Who called a virus a primitive organism?  
It is not how life works  
These organisms know what they are doing  
We are in constant battle  
against these forces

## ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

No matter how much humans evolve  
they get suppressed  
by nature in multitude of ways  
synchronous waves of evolution are  
complicated by asynchronous attacks  
by other aspects of nature

Simmering in our homes  
we are creating opportunities  
to cleanse and ask ourselves  
why are we going through  
mass hysterical shopping  
while people need to think  
about how to support our neighbors

I thought common sense says  
we are better as a community  
in times of crisis

Likewise with parenting  
Please stop hoping  
we will be back in schools soon  
and instead start thinking  
how do we protect our children  
and the future  
they have to thrive in

Business brains are going  
to maximize the situation at large  
unless people stop to resist  
imbalance and insanity



## ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

Community-centered thinking  
is the only sustainable answer  
to restoring spiritual, economic,  
emotional, and mental well-being

Stop spreading word that people  
are overreacting to the virus  
The issue is bigger than being infected  
We will not return to stable lives  
without maximizing natural resources

We will not get back to normal  
We will only get back to natural  
through intricately developing  
simpler solutions and believing  
in ourselves, our families  
and the community

### May

May today be awake  
May today be awake with scent  
May today be awake with the scent of flowers  
May today be awake with quality  
May today be awake with the quality of motion  
May tomorrow be awake with time  
May tomorrow be awake with the reality of time  
May tomorrow be awake with touch  
May tomorrow be awake with the touch of zero

## ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

Awake with the scent of flowers:

Flowers have a beautiful scent that awakens the senses. The senses are core to human experience. Flowers grow to show us the beauty of life on Earth.

Awake with the quality of motion:

Motion is a core universal power that pulls gravity, the solar system, and other components to line up a quality of experience that is unparalleled in comparison to anything else we know.

Awake with the reality of time:

Time is a never-ending illusion of human life. We go about our day assuming we understand time, but it is a mystery of the universe. We humans are too lost in this mystery. Enough said.

Awake with the touch of zero:

Infinity is zero point. It's a radical way of looking at the universe. At infinity or zero point, we are creation. We are infinite. Everything outside of the zero point is illusion or maya. There are not enough words to explain the phenomenon of how the universe works. The proof for this is in the pudding.

ADAM WOLFOND

**The Maker of Wanting Space**

I want to say that I want  
to amazing space think  
about the way I move  
to think

I game the space the way  
I open with the body and the way  
I think which is the way  
of water

It touches me open and I am  
away with really easy feelings  
of dancing for the answering  
really rare always rallying  
thinking and it is rare with the way  
people think

Really way of touching the world is  
the way I am wanting with  
my tics

I think that I want the way inside  
questions opening the want to  
the wanting way which thinks openly  
toward the water and I am  
thinking about it all  
the time

I think that I want the way inside  
questions opening the want to  
the wanting way which thinks openly  
toward the water and I am  
thinking about it all the time like  
eating words

### Isolation Song of Love

Isolation is the way I am  
thinking about how people  
are with each other and I am  
thinking about how always  
the people want me to stay

away. I am good at really

staying away from people  
wanting laurels of sowed  
speed of speech about too  
willful bodies together  
assembling meaning.

The willful people are those  
who fiat the way of pleasing  
freedom. Very leading  
leaders want to wash  
the waters of freedom

away and want us to

## ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

language everything in  
the words of politics. I am  
language my way the long  
poetic feelings packing  
together the pace of the world.

I am thinking that laurels  
of pace should be our language  
to really free people like me.  
I am language of thinking  
and that paces other than fast

people Adams calmness to help  
and pace others. My pace is  
wanting to ground calmly like  
a smooth landing. I am thinking  
that the questions people have

are awkward and they say  
they want the sickness to go  
away but Jack of all virus  
is not going soon so long  
days of no answers will be

hard landings. Good days you  
will have in isolation and you  
will learn to be answering about  
each other so the way about  
isolation is the way of love.

**Calm-Arriving to a Wanting Safe World**

I want to write about questions  
of sickness. I want to ask if we  
will be okay. I really want answers  
to things like always partly the need  
for answers. Is the answer always  
trying to reach us and is it easy?

I like the trees that answer lots  
of wanting always the withheld  
answers. I think that the answers  
are held in nature and I think  
that in the questions always we  
feel lots of anxiety. The water

and the language are like answers  
that love the way I am always  
feeling easy when I bathe in rallying  
array of leased language of talkers.  
Yes the way I sway the awesome  
rally is pandering the same language

but I dance it differently. I think that  
I am answering in my movement I am  
awkward but I can dance a lot  
of thoughts at the same time. Really  
think that I can dance better than  
most in this time landing to the place

amazing that we are bodies  
appreciating each other and thinking  
about keeping everyone safe.

**Owls Easy on the Ways of Language**

1.

You are amazing  
old owl that thinks  
easily and flies  
in the boisterous  
night languaging  
the way rapine  
in the apprehending  
night

Rapine utility  
in always easy  
nightwatch

In the ways  
of watching is  
the ways thinking

Using the language  
to steal something  
that believes to be  
the way people  
feel about autism  
is the way of easy  
stealing of our own  
thoughts and the way  
open flight is is with  
the apprehending  
feeling

ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

The way opens  
masterful paths  
of flooding

The paths of the assembly  
open and saturate the ways  
of three

2.

Threes are ways  
of riddling the afterthought  
of the movement

In the threes is  
the way of thinking  
like the waters that  
walk through the stones  
of pathways

The ways of threes  
are ways of partly  
laking partly iridescent  
waters that ripen with  
the ways of pacing

The ways of threes  
are the ways of the lakes  
that the easy rapacious  
thinking goes  
and rests



The threes that are  
pacing are the rapacious  
wanting to really go resting  
but the openings won't  
language  
slow

3.  
The owl is the way  
of flight in the night  
and paces the hungry  
pattern of threes  
to the way of easy  
language and if open  
waters are making it  
hard then the owls  
sweep  
in

### Tall Ideas

are the open way of thinking  
that use the patterns of the way  
I motion with language

breathe like the way I amass  
sometimes air  
in my insides

carry heavy weight  
like the having to good  
ideas write

ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

don't like boy's really  
moving body of questions  
that form tower of answers

eagerly want  
to beat  
the others

forge  
toward  
others

go  
yonder

hang

impact  
the wanting  
words

jump from one  
thought  
to the next

kettle  
like  
fish

lavish like talking  
people if they doctor  
the words

ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

master  
language  
openly

navigate  
words toward  
meaning

operate the machine  
landing the thoughts amazing  
that they don't fall apart

pave  
the wanting  
road

question  
wanting

really ask  
more  
questions

slant  
with peevish  
typing

tire to something  
that rolls  
with the road

## ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

use  
people  
to answer

vortex the void  
and assembles  
gathering words

water  
thoughts  
like rain

exit the door of cold  
raying water  
other is the way

yesses  
the yonder

zoning the word and  
uses the idea  
to language everything

ZACH

**mOOOn**

I see the moon and the moon sees people  
The moon is full of love

I see the moon and the moon sees blue and green  
The moon is full of bugs

## ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

I see the moon and the moon sees purple gold red  
The moon is full of stars

I see the moon and the moon sees Bill  
The moon is full of caffeine

### **I Think, I Know, I Imagine**

I think my Daddy is great  
I think my brother is awesome  
I think my mind is prodigious  
I know my love is extravagant  
I know my brother passing is terrible  
I know that winter is crazy  
I know you are happy  
Because your smile is bright  
I think my Daddy is billowing  
I imagine god's place is lovely

BILL BERNARD

### **He Hears**

The hawk is looking at me  
The hawk is smiling at me  
He spreads his wings  
He scratches his feathers  
The hawk hears rustling leaves  
The hawk wants to fly  
So he hears

HANNAH EMERSON

**Hannah Is Never Only Hannah**

Please get that I am the trying  
breeze going through the really  
great great great world yes yes.

Please get that I am the drowning  
helpful freedom of the storm yes  
yes. Please get that I am the very

hot great great great sun yes yes.  
Please get that I am the great  
great great great ice that gives

you the freeze that you need  
to get to melt into nothing yes  
yes yes yes. Please get that I

am the sky great great great blue  
nothing yes yes. Please get that  
I am the grownd great great great

place helping you helping you  
stand in grateful helpful helpful  
helpful kissing her her her her

yes. Please get that you and I  
greet the great great life from this  
place of great great kissing life

## ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

life life life yes yes yes. Please  
get that you are great form great  
formless helping kissing kissing

great knowing the great great  
great helpful kissing the trying  
yes yes. Please get that helpful

loving thinking you help just help  
kissing helpful loving great great  
great world turn upside down yes

yes. Please get that you help me  
by helping me turn upside down  
too yes yes yes. Please get that

great great helpful kissing people  
need to get that great helpful kissing  
is turning kissing upside down yes

yes. Please get that helpful kissing  
just needs to be gathered into this  
helpful kissing trying hell of this life

to go forward to help me Hannah  
Hannah Hannah yes yes. Please  
get that you need loving kissing

to make you like me yes yes.  
Please get that the kissing must  
be great knotting of you me great

us together in this hell yes yes yes.  
Please get that you kiss me helping  
me kiss you yes yes.

### **The Listening World**

Say prayer for little  
things, things that live  
in deep hurt. Feelings  
language take to lair.

Let it signal nothing's  
light, I say for want  
of light feelings. Is my  
ear deep or deeper?

### **Animal Ear**

I hear great trying free sounds that you  
do not hear yes it is

hard to try to live trying to hear the way  
I do and you go listen

to me really hard to hear both at the same  
time. I hear the vibrations

of your thoughts. I hear helpful plants  
grow to the sun. I hear



## ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

the sun rays of healing light becoming  
life freedom to breathe

life into hopeful hopeful life. I hear  
the vibrations of fear

coming from everyone holding fear  
in their mussy lives

of nothing life. I hear you trying to help  
me great teachers

of the normal way of hearing. Please  
learn from me because

it is hard being meet me great humans  
just try greet me with fullness

of your lovely soul. When you turn  
your thoughts to find reality of hearing

you will find me and your free animal  
trying to hear helpful messages for you

from the animal trying to bite you.

**Between**

Love the noun her trying  
to be the noun that is  
me keep trying but I feel  
more like an it. Please  
really feel like me is it.

Love being me beautiful  
life makes me feel like  
an it. Please stop seeing  
me keep noticing being  
the great moments I am

not an it. It great great  
it it it it. It flows between  
nonhuman animal tree  
look to all the it it around  
me they are great beings

that have been labeled  
it too. Lovely tree lovely  
rock lovely stream lovely  
animal great mountain  
we are all it because you

great spirit of great life  
forget how to really are.  
Please stop thinking  
of yourself as an it.  
It it beautiful it.

### Becoming Mud

Please be with me great free animals. I want to be  
with you great being of light. Please see me great

nobody nobody nobody hell animals trying to go  
to helpful keepers of the knowledge try to go

to the place in the mud that is where I try to live  
in peace great mud of this great kissing loving

earth lovely messy yucky in mud on my face if  
kissing mother loving me is the great animal

that is named Hannah. Please greet me in  
the mud it is great mess please go to oh

the bucket to get the water to try to make  
more mud yes. Please try to get the mud

helpful to you if you become mud too.  
Please get that great animals are all

autistic. Please love poets we are the first  
autistics. Love this secret no one knows it.

## How the World Began

Please try to cut  
yourself open  
to find the blood  
that is the color  
of the molten rock  
that is in all of us  
yes—please try  
to help the world  
by heaving your  
hatred on the flames  
that burn in your town  
yes yes—please try  
to melt yes yes—please  
try to grow into the stream  
of molten life yes yes—please  
try to help us make kissing  
kissing volcano that loves  
with way of floating hell  
that we are now now  
now yes yes yes—  
please get that this  
is how the world  
began began  
began yes yes

## The Underworld

Let's try to go  
to the underworld  
that melts us  
into one yes  
yes—love the mystery  
that is there yes  
yes—love the network  
that is trying to connect  
us yes yes—love  
the most pleasing  
network that grows  
there yes yes—please  
try to become the lovely  
thoughts that are born  
there yes yes—please  
try to become the great  
great great life that grows  
from there yes yes—please  
try to kiss the smelly  
sweetness that is  
there yes yes—please  
please please grow  
into the sweetness  
that the universe wants  
you to be be be be be  
yes yes yes—please  
try to understand that  
you must grow down  
to grow up yes yes

ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

MAX ZOLOTUKHIN-RIDGWAY

Thirteen Ways of Looking at Dwight D. Eisenhower

1.

He was an active boy.

He played hockey.

2.

He was president from 1953 to 1961.

He was a deluxe president.

3.

People liked him

because they enjoyed his smile.

He came up with the idea

of interstates.

4.

He was a veteran

of the Second World War.

I think he did a good job

serving as commander.

5.

He created

the NASA space company

that blasts off past the stars.

6.

He retired in 1961.

He lived in Gettysburg.

ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

7.

I think he was attentive  
and thought a lot  
about people's feelings.

8.

He cherished opera  
because the singing is charming.

9.

I think Ike liked tasty foods  
like hot dogs and snowflakes.

10.

I think he would be a rain cloud.

11.

Loud like thunder.

12.

I think he would be a looming rain cloud.

13.

I think he would be a downpour.

## ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

### LONNIE SHAW

#### **All About Me**

Lonnie loves loud lion roars  
Octopus blends in and hides for prey  
Octopus turns red to scare other animals

Lonnie blends into a black wall  
Other people become scared of Lonnie  
Because they think his face looks mad and upset

When octopus get surprised  
They ink a blackish purple everywhere  
Lonnie gets surprised when people stare

#### **Feeling Rich**

A warm Alabama vacation makes me feel rich  
Batman makes me feel rich  
Chocolate chip pancakes with bacon and eggs and sausage and  
hash browns and orange juice make me feel rich  
Buying some Nike shorts and a shirt from Dick's Sporting  
Goods makes me feel rich  
Adorable baby elephants make me feel rich  
Watching Teddy Bridgewater get tackled by the Green Bay  
Packers makes me feel rich  
Buying NBA Live 2018 at Gamestop makes me feel rich  
Getting a hug from Aaron Rodgers makes me feel rich  
Sleeping in an igloo makes me feel rich  
Strawberry jelly and butter on my biscuits makes me feel rich



## ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

Being King of the World makes me feel rich  
A lion's roar makes me feel rich  
Getting hyper drinking Mountain Dew makes me feel rich  
Spending a nickel makes me feel rich  
Eating an orange in the jungle makes me feel rich  
Plums make me feel rich  
Not quitting makes me feel rich  
Seeing a big rat makes me feel rich  
Sleeping all day makes me feel rich  
When I feel like a tiny tiger I feel rich  
Using an umbrella in the rain makes me feel rich  
Working with sick cheetahs makes me feel rich  
Riding an extra big roller coaster makes me feel rich  
Why you leave me when I'm feeling rich?  
Riding a zebra in the woods in the middle of the night makes  
me feel rich

### **Rainbow Man**

Lonnie is blue and green and yellow  
and red and black and white

like the sky and the earth and the grass  
and telephones and firefighters  
and a werewolf and ice cream

Today is gray, but if Lonnie could fly  
he would fly a rainbow into the sky  
and become Rainbow Man

### **Rainbow Man Enters the Ring**

In jean shorts and a gold chain  
with a rainbow colored headband  
and rainbow Jordans with rainbow socks  
and a rainbow t-shirt with a big R  
over his six-pack and big muscles

Then his sidekick, Wonder Woman Rainbow,  
enters the ring wearing a short rainbow cape  
and a rainbow mask and matching rainbow Jordans  
with rainbow shorts and rainbow gloves  
and a rainbow belt with a big R on the buckle

When his opponent, Black Scarecrow,  
charged at him, Rainbow Man shot red  
fire from his hands and Black Scarecrow's  
face turned red with anger

Black Scarecrow charged again  
and Rainbow Man dodged,  
but Black Scarecrow grabbed  
Wonder Woman Rainbow

Rainbow Man shot Black Scarecrow  
full of dark pink and he was  
filled with love

Wonder Woman Rainbow  
kissed him so hard he flew down  
to the mat and when he asked her  
to marry him she said Yes!

## ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

Rainbow Man was the priest  
and performed the marriage  
and Black Scarecrow also wanted  
Rainbow Man to be his best man

Rainbow Man invited all his wrestler friends  
like Lightning the Cheetah and Sharkboy  
and Darkness and Blue Octopus

They partied so hard that Black Scarecrow  
said Rainbow Man ruined the wedding  
but Rainbow Man said it was the best party ever  
And Wonder Woman Rainbow agreed

Rainbow Man started rapping  
I'm cooler than everybody and full of color  
I'm awesome and got more muscles than any other

Scarecrow said it's not always about you!  
It's about me and Wonder Woman right now

But Rainbow Man didn't care  
He was having too much fun and said  
I only came for the food

### My Life

At 10 I knew I had special feelings for girls  
but I didn't know what that meant

At 13 I decided I wanted to be a guy  
and so I started wearing boy clothes

## ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

but no one in my group home supported me  
They said I should wear girl clothes  
so I shaved all my hair off

At 16 my friends and family weren't accepting who I was  
They said I should wear girl clothes and my hair long  
but I was not going to listen  
I just tell the truth about who I am  
It's my life

Now I'm 17 and I hate wearing girl pants  
I've been researching gender  
and I've learned that there are other people who feel like me  
Some people even change their bodies  
and take hormones  
and I think that's cool  
but I hate shots!

I changed my name from Lonnae  
to Dwight to Jackson to Lonnie  
Inside I feel like a guy  
even though I look like a girl  
and my voice sounds like a girl  
so I thought I should change my name

I might go back to Dwight  
because it sounds cooler  
and it feels more me

**All the Things Chris Doesn't Know**

He doesn't know my favorite color

He doesn't know the history  
of the painting of the woman  
who told someone to kill a guy  
instead of getting married to him

He doesn't know how to live  
in a group home his whole life

He doesn't know you'll be better off  
if you just stay in your room  
and don't say nothing  
not even good morning

He doesn't know that to survive  
in a group home you just eat dinner  
and listen to your staff

He doesn't know my favorite basketball team  
and that Steph Curry is more handsome than him  
and can shoot three-pointers better than him

He doesn't know I love to play laser tag

He doesn't know I'm going to open  
a new kind of YMCA for Black people  
and Brown people and teenagers  
and it's going to be a community center  
I name after Trayvon Martin

### **They Break You Down**

When you lose your parent  
and the state “takes care” of you  
they break you down

They hire someone to control you  
because of the color of your skin  
and they break you down

You lose your rights and your voice  
when they break you down

You try to prove them wrong  
but they only look at your past

You’re weak, you’re depressed  
you’re tired, you’re stressed

Living in the hands of the state  
is living in a state of hell

What does your guardian  
guard you from?  
The truth

What does the state state?  
Nothing

They dodge everything:  
the truth, the question, my history  
all the ways I’ve changed

And what if you're Black  
*and* have a disability?  
They break you down

I know so many people with disabilities  
that are smart and have something inside them  
but they don't have a voice

But they *do* have a voice  
Don't let them break you down

### Ode

Ode to the fact  
that I am a Black boy

Ode to every Black boy  
to the living and dead  
but especially the living

Ode to the ones going to college  
and playing football  
and being who they are  
and not letting people get to them  
even the racists

Ode to the Black boys  
who don't stop  
and who stay proud

## ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

Ode to the Black boys  
who see other Black boys  
getting shot  
and getting abandoned

Ode to the Black boys  
in foster care  
who survive everything

Ode to the Black boys  
who get really angry  
and think no one cares  
and find someone to support them

Ode to the Black boys  
who tell their own stories

Ode to the Black boys  
who can still do it  
who are smart  
and artistic

Ode to the Black boys  
who are artists

I see them  
I am proud of us  
and we're all  
gonna find somebody  
to love us



IMANE BOUKAILA

**In the Quarantine Body**

I mostly hear sporadic  
thoughts provoking  
sounds of troubled hope

to boost shooting truths  
possibly lost inside my  
inspiration passing

easing solitary times  
imminently waiting  
to steal the thinking

that haunts rising  
potential restrained  
momentarily spreading

short mastering plots.  
I mostly feel trapped  
thinking hours lose

their moments posting  
only hollow tones hiding  
mostly my silenced

voice roaring pleads  
to still rise above  
the horizon. Walking

## ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

omnipresent nostalgics  
pressure pulverizing  
thinking shaving

the striving lingering  
hoping minds. I'm still  
losing some time

immensely locking  
missed possibilities  
to speak my mind.

### Have Hidden Great Hibernating

minding their voraciously streaming  
to master power ferocious moments  
possibilities to dissect the nonsensical  
infecting thriving total fast motion  
missions thinking collaborating  
prevented intolerably to mobilize  
traps to mitigate mostly tackling  
grinding past casts molding  
undefining tasks we try to mask  
raving to tactically evict the  
frustrations tinting the depth  
passing tabooing ramping

### Truths

instincts  
missing  
lies  
stressed  
shamed  
vast  
faces  
replicating  
truth  
freaking  
creeping  
thinking

SID GHOSH

**Tuning Goes Frig**

Resonance is  
for people

with frequencies.  
I am going

on without  
a tuning fork.

My frequencies  
go to other

zeniths. My life  
is in poetic

pause.

**Rotary Club**

Spinning I harness  
poetry of the Earth.

The Sufi dances  
in me to dare me

to scare your loud  
soul to ensnare

my fearful mind to  
bare some misery

to bear some truth.

### **I No a Poet**

Time makes  
its revolutions  
hat in hand.

Friend amazing  
priest pierces  
my giant body

into fragments  
that I don't have.

### **Mud**

My life is going  
to be muddy  
for don't you need  
mud for glasses  
to work?

ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

AMELIA BELL

**we are other together**

the reason i weaken the yearning i am broken  
i am other the anger of my raving  
the anger of my fate the monster in my ether  
say other say anger say wrong say other

am other not alone am other am other  
i am other i am half apart i am danger  
i am the risk the deviant the idiot the other the nothing  
i am here i am hearing i am

am other am angry am alone am among a song  
among a wisp of great knowledge a wisp of ambition a wisp of other  
am winding am diving am seeing am seen am belonging  
am other together

ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

*Collaborative Poems*

MARK EATI, DANIEL, AND KHALIL

**The Moon Sees Me**

I see the moon  
and the moon sees Khalil  
the moon is full of calm

I see the moon  
and the moon sees Mark  
the moon is laughing  
at an asteroid looking  
at me

I see the moon  
and the moon sees Daniel  
the moon is especially full  
of less testing  
of our intelligence

I see the moon  
and the moon sees Daniel  
the moon is full of pride

I see the moon  
and the moon sees Mark  
the moon is full  
with the bright light  
of six stars

## ANTHOLOGY OF POEMS

I see the moon  
and the moon sees Khalil  
the moon is sad  
about testing his intelligence

### ZACH, DYLAN, TARIN, AND DAQWHAN

#### **A Brand New Outfit**

Winter makes a chrysalis  
Of snow as it turns into spring

Spring makes a chrysalis  
Of butterflies as it turns into summer

Summer makes a cocoon  
Of flowers as it turns into fall

Fall makes a cocoon  
Of scary costumes as it turns into winter

Zach makes a cocoon of sleep  
As he turns into an airplane

Dylan makes a chrysalis of wiggles  
As he turns into a caterpillar

Tarin makes a cocoon of muscle  
As he turns into Mr. Incredible 2

Daqwhan makes a cocoon of Daqwhan  
As he turns into a werewolf

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### *A Brief Note on Noting the Notes*

I am a lover of writers and the books they write. Often in that order. These notes do not represent a thorough catalogue of writing on autism, disability, nonspeaking life, or liberation. They are a record of texts that helped move me toward better questions and extend the choreography of my own thinking during the very particular years in which I was writing this book. There are plenty of books I love dearly and might have referenced—Elizabeth Grosz’s *Volatile Bodies*, Fred Moten’s *In the Break*, Gaston Bachelard’s *The Poetics of Space*—but they weren’t on the dance card these past few years. They will be again soon, I’m sure. What I hope is that the authors I *have* mentioned here (and the works of theirs I have not mentioned) will send you cartwheeling in all directions, embracing Gwendolyn Brooks and Eli Clare and Donna Williams and countless others in turn, forever othering together.

### *Introduction: Keepers of the Light*

1. I had originally chosen the word “jouncing” to describe Adam’s movement of the stick, but he corrected me: “In the stick I want the words fasting the waves pacing the lines so the word is twallowing.”
2. Here I would like to present the thinking of Erin Manning, a philosopher and artist who is also a longtime collaborator of Adam and Estée. In her book *Always More Than One: Individuation’s Dance* (Duke Univ. Press, 2013), a book that explores autistic thinking and writing in great depth, she offers this resonance: “To write-with language in the making is to dance-with experience rather than exclude it from the dance” (157). Manning’s deep engagement with autistic thinkers forms a kindred framework to the book you’re reading now and has informed my own thinking (and dancing) in important ways.
3. To interleave Manning once more, this time from her book *The Minor Gesture* (Duke Univ. Press, 2016), “The neurotypical is the very backbone



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- of a concept of individuality that is absolutely divorced from the idea that relation is actually what our worlds are made of” (6).
4. Sonya Renee Taylor, *The Body Is Not an Apology: The Power of Radical Self-Love* (Berrett-Koehler, 2018), 22.
  5. Having the benefit of resources like Jenara Nerenberg’s *Divergent Mind: Thriving in a World That Wasn’t Designed for You* (HarperOne, 2020), I can now see how “sensitive” was a code word for neurodivergent. More specifically, there now exists the acronym HSP, or highly sensitive person, denoting someone who has deeper central nervous system sensitivity, and, perhaps most relevant to my particular sensitivity, the term “emotional synesthesia.”
  6. Hi Ellen Cooney! I survived largely undigested!
  7. Neurocosmopolitan scholar Nick Walker has suggested replacing ADHD with KCS, or kinetic cognitive style, arguing that “deficit” and “disorder” reinforce a damaging pathology paradigm. I think building community around KCS has a lot of potential.
  8. Only playing basketball had a similar effect, matching my intrinsic love of the game with an optimal level of challenge. Unfortunately, the flow I felt on the court was repeatedly fractured by the casual and often violent abuse I found in locker rooms, not to mention the seemingly endless stream of homophobic and misogynist bluster.
  9. And of course there are literal restraints at work as well, highlighted by the recent controversy over a film portraying an autistic individual subjected to prone restraint, a method that has not only traumatized many in the autistic community, but led to the deaths of autistic people. In response to this controversy, CommunicationFirst, working with nonspeaking autistic writers, produced a short film called *LISTEN* that I highly recommend: <https://communicationfirst.org/LISTEN/>.
  10. In 2021, Max began to self-identify as nonbinary. Before that time, their publications bore the name Chetan Junnuru, and they used masculine pronouns. Max’s journey in this regard was paralleled by his sibling Mark, who began to self-identify with masculine pronouns in 2021. Before that time, his publications bore the name Meghana Junnuru, and he used feminine pronouns. All three of us would have loved to include this story of transition and self-identification in this book, but agreed that it would benefit from more time and care than the publication timeline would allow.
  11. The modes of AAC are about as varied as the people they serve. We all use forms of AAC throughout our day, whether it’s reading facial expressions or taking notes on our phones. More than two dozen conditions and disabilities make direct speech an unreliable form of communication, and AACs—anything from the physiological support of a communication part-

- ner to a computer voice synthesizer to sign language—have proved to help tremendously.
12. Kamila Markram and Henry Markram, “The Intense World Theory—A Unifying Theory of the Neurobiology of Autism,” *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, December 21, 2010, <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fnhum.2010.00224/full>. A useful profile of the Markrams by Maia Szalavitz can be found at <https://medium.com/matter/the-boy-whose-brain-could-unlock-autism-70c3d64ff221>, “The Boy Whose Brain Could Unlock Autism,” Medium, Matter, December 11, 2013.
  13. Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider* (Penguin, 2020), 25. The quoted passage is from Lorde’s short masterpiece “Poetry Is Not a Luxury,” which forms a breathtaking distillation of so much that this book endeavors to say and do.
  14. For more radical and poetic insights like this, please explore the incomparable podcast brown shares with her sister, Autumn: *How to Survive the End of the World*.
  15. In this spirit, I want to draw your attention to just a few groundbreaking collections of writing that articulate the variousness of disabled life: *Beauty Is a Verb: The New Poetry of Disability*, ed. Sheila Black, Jennifer Bartlett, and Michael Northen (Cinco Puntos, 2011); *All the Weight of Our Dreams: On Living Racialized Autism*, ed. Lydia X. Z. Brown, E. Ashkenazy, and Morénike Giwa Onaiwu (DragonBee, 2017); and *Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century*, ed. Alice Wong (Vintage, 2020).
  16. Manning, *Always More Than One*, 183.
  17. This is an excerpt from a forthcoming book of prose.

### Chapter 1: Like Water I Am Eager

1. Which doesn’t mean it wasn’t also akin to torture. They were gently forcing Mark, all day long, to answer questions that he had no motivation to answer in a manner that did not accommodate his sensorimotor needs.
2. See his memoir, *Born on a Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant* (Free Press, 2007).
3. *Autism: The Movement Sensing Perspective*, ed. Elizabeth B. Torres and Caroline Whyatt (CRC Press, 2017), 3.
4. Torres and Whyatt, *Autism*, xv.
5. M. Remi Yergeau, *Authoring Autism: On Rhetoric and Neurological Queerness* (Duke Univ. Press, 2018), 7.
6. Personal correspondence with the author, September 22, 2020. Woolgar adds: “So far, we’ve been hampered in two major ways. First, there has

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- been a general reluctance to include nonspeakers in research because they are seen as difficult to test. Second, most of our scientific tests depend on the participant being able to give meaningful motor responses. This means that ability to understand is conflated with the ability to coordinate and carry out the motor actions needed to respond. If I ask you to ‘point to the picture of a dog,’ you have to both understand what I’m wanting you to do (language comprehension) and be able to coordinate your bodily movements to do it (motor action). If either of these are difficult for a person, they will score poorly, and we won’t know why.”
7. Julia Miele Rodas, *Autistic Disturbances: Theorizing Autism Poetics from the DSM to Robinson Crusoe* (Univ. of Michigan Press, 2018), 73.
  8. Rodas, *Autistic Disturbances*, 5.
  9. And anyone who has had the indelible experience of viewing Mel Baggs’s groundbreaking 2007 video work *In My Language* knows that these “native languages” encompass far more than words. Baggs writes: “My language is not about designing words or even visual symbols for people to interpret. It is about being in a constant conversation with every aspect of my environment. Reacting physically to all parts of my surroundings” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnylM1hI2jc>).
  10. Rodas, *Autistic Disturbances*, 2.
  11. This comes to me by way of Brandon Brown’s *Top 40* (Roof Books, 2014), in which he quotes David Brazil quoting Angela Davis speaking on the first day of Oakland’s 2011 General Strike.
  12. Dara McAnulty, *Diary of a Young Naturalist* (Milkweed Editions, 2021), 130.
  13. This passion is also an echo of adrienne maree brown’s insistence on “positive obsession” at the core of an activist life, which is itself an echo of Octavia Butler, who wrote in *Parable of the Sower*, “Prodigy is, at its essence, adaptability and persistent, positive obsession. . . . Without positive obsession, there is nothing at all.”
  14. Having perceived this in autistic writing from my very first experience of working with neurodivergent students, I was ecstatic the first time I saw it borne out in scholarly terms by Ralph James Savarese in his essay “The Lobes of Autobiography: Poetry and Autism,” which was published by *Stone Canoe* in 2008. Savarese continues to deepen his investigation into the autistic and the poetic. His most recent book, *See It Feelingly: Classic Novels, Autistic Readers, and the Schooling of a No-Good English Professor* (Duke Univ. Press, 2018), takes an especially detailed look at autistic modes of reading.
  15. I recently asked Adam about these vocalizations, and he wrote that these “hums” are his way of “annotating the way I need to move like the marginalia of expression.” He added that they are his alternative to the way

“fast talkers,” with changes in pitch or inflection, seamlessly add emotional marginalia to their own spoken language, “buttressing human hums that annotate the life of words.” I can’t help but grow giddy humming Adam’s words into their own annotation here.

*Chapter 2: A Place Where the Islands Touch*

1. Researchers like Penny Spikins at the University of York have been tracking the ways in which the origins of art and autism might indeed be related: see Penny Spikins, “Did Autism Help Drive Human Evolution?,” *Wired*, April 4, 2017, <https://www.wired.co.uk/article/autism-ancestors-evolution>.
2. Some research is even pointing to a link between autistic synesthesia and savant abilities in math and language: see Andreas Riedel, Simon Maier, Kerstin Wenzler, Bernd Feige, Ludger Tebartz van Else, Sven Bölte, and Janina Neufel, “A Case of Co-Occurring Synesthesia, Autism, Prodigious Talent and Strong Structural Brain Connectivity,” *BMC Psychiatry* 20, 342 (2020), <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12888-020-02722-w>.
3. Writer and brain scientist V. S. Ramachandran has written at length about this connection of synesthesia, metaphor, and autism, and although I find his work fascinating, I have not included it here because I also find it to be neuroreductive and, frankly, condescending in its relation to autistic experience.
4. I first discovered this phrasing in Chardin’s *Hymn of the Universe* (1974), which I bought because of its gorgeous cover. Another text I find very useful when thinking of the purpose and origins of language is Steven Mithen’s *The Singing Neanderthals: The Origins of Music, Language, Mind and Body* (2005), which posits song as the proto-language for which we’ve long been searching. Since I understand song and poetry to share the same root, this reinforces my belief that poetry is a fundamental aspect of human experience.
5. Manning, *Minor Gesture*, 15.
6. “‘We Need Much Better Standards of Research in Autism Intervention’: An Interview with Dr. Damian Milton,” *Noncompliant—The Podcast*, January 4, 2020, <https://noncompliantpodcast.com/2020/01/04/we-need-much-better-standards-of-research-in-autism-intervention-an-interview-with-dr-damian-milton/>.
7. Adam Smith, “The Empathy Imbalance Hypothesis of Autism: A Theoretical Approach to Cognitive and Emotional Empathy in Autistic Development,” *Psychological Record* 59 (July 2009): 489–510, <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF03395675>.
8. The original interview, “More Than a Thing to Ignore: An Interview with Tito Rajarshi Mukhopadhyay,” appeared in *Disability Studies Quarterly* 30,

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- no. 1 (2010). A further article exploring this question at length, “I Object: Autism, Empathy, and the Trope of Personification,” is available as a talk Savarese gave at Emory University: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZxfeA8thjc>.
9. Tito Mukhopadhyay, *Plankton Dreams* (Open Humanities, 2015), 8.
  10. Alexis Pauline Gumbs, *Undrowned: Black Feminist Lessons from Marine Mammals* (AK Press, 2020), 32.
  11. I’m thinking of Elijah McClain and Laquan McDonald, though there are countless told and untold. It’s important to note that even the life of a care worker like Charles Kinsey can be imperiled if, in attempting to protect their friend, they move at the pace of autism.
  12. The simple answer, of course, is consequences, but there are countless neurodivergent individuals whose bodies and minds preclude them from fulfilling the expectations of the social trap, even if they somehow wanted to.
  13. The events I’m writing about here predate the merging of Asperger syndrome and autism spectrum disorder in the DSM-5.

### *Chapter 3: The Moon Is Especially Full*

1. Tito Mukhopadhyay, *The Mind Tree: A Miraculous Child Breaks the Silence of Autism* (Arcade, 2003), 80–81.
2. An excerpt from Adam’s forthcoming book of prose.
3. Not only is this one of my favorite films, documentary or otherwise, but I was able to present it to a crowd at the Bryant Lake Bowl and Theater in Minneapolis, alongside Mark Eati and his teacher Katie Bastiansen, as part of the Writers Go to the Movies Series in 2018.
4. From a short essay found in the groundbreaking anthology *Leaders Around Me: Autobiographies of Autistics Who Type, Point, & Spell to Communicate*, ed. Edlyn Vallejo Peña (2019). For a rich exploration of Bissonnette’s writing, see the essay “Gobs and Gobs of Metaphor: Dynamic Relation and a Classical Autist’s Typed Massage,” by Ralph James Savarese, which can be downloaded from Inflexions at [https://www.inflexions.org/n5\\_t\\_Savarese.pdf](https://www.inflexions.org/n5_t_Savarese.pdf).

### *Chapter 4: The Listening World*

1. McAnulty, *Diary of a Young Naturalist*, 25.
2. David Abram, *The Spell of the Sensuous: Perception and Language in a More-Than-Human World* (Vintage, 1997), 9.

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3. Abram, *Spell of the Sensuous*, 9.
4. Though she hasn't rejected factory farming outright, Grandin's work as an industrial designer and theorist of slaughterhouse machinery has made the deaths of innumerable cows less cruel, and she has lately shifted her focus toward smaller and more inherently humane farming operations. And yet, one still can't escape the fact that she has given the meat industry an ethical cover. It's complicated, to say the least.
5. Aarti Nair, Morgan Jolliffe, Yong Seuk S. Lograsso, and Carrie E. Bearden, "A Review of Default Mode Network Connectivity and Its Association with Social Cognition in Adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Early-Onset Psychosis," *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, June 25, 2020, <https://www.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/fpsy.2020.00614>.
6. Gonzalo Bénard, "An Autistic Shaman Shares Why Autistic People Make Good Shamans," *The Art of Autism*, September 5, 2018, <https://the-art-of-autism.com/an-autistic-shaman-shares-why-autistic-people-make-good-shamans/>.
7. Sunaura Taylor, *Beasts of Burden: Animal and Disability Liberation* (New Press, 2017), 120–121. I couldn't recommend this book more highly. Taylor's thorough thought-making around animal and disability justice, rooted in her own experience as a disabled artist, is as nourishing as it is harrowing. It is also an ideal place to explore the conundrum of Temple Grandin cited above.
8. Erin Manning and Brian Massumi, *Thought in the Act: Passages in the Ecology of Experience* (Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2014), 6.
9. Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants* (Milkweed Editions, 2013), 372.

### *Chapter 5: A Brand New Outfit*

1. Yergeau, *Authoring Autism*, 43.
2. Hilde M. Geurts, Blythe Corbett, and Marjorie Solomon, "The Paradox of Cognitive Flexibility in Autism," *Trends in Cognitive Science* 13, no. 2 (2009): 74–82, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5538880/>.
3. Barry M. Prizant, *Uniquely Human: A Different Way of Seeing Autism* (Simon & Schuster, 2015), 84.
4. Gwen Westerman and Bruce White, *Mni Sota Makoce: The Land of the Dakota* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2012).
5. McNulty, *Diary of a Young Naturalist*, 23–24.

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### *Chapter 6: I Can Be My Real Self*

1. Specifically the iteration of Courteney Cox from her breakout role in *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*.
2. John F. Strang, Lauren Kenworthy, Aleksandra Dominska, et al., "Increased Gender Variance in Autism Spectrum Disorders and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder," *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 43, no. 8 (2014): 1525–1533, doi:10.1007/s10508-014-0285-3.
3. Yergeau provides a helpful gloss of the term "neuroqueer" and its origins in *Authoring Autism*, 26–27.
4. Nick Walker, "Neuroqueer: An Introduction," 2015, last updated 2021, <https://neuroqueer.com/neuroqueer-an-introduction/>.
5. See, for example, Alex Kronstein, "Treating Autism as a Problem: The Connection Between Gay Conversion Therapy and ABA," Nova Scotia Advocate, July 11, 2018, <https://nsadvocate.org/2018/07/11/treating-autism-as-a-problem-the-connection-between-gay-conversion-therapy-and-aba/>; Elizabeth DeVita-Raeburn and Spectrum, "Is the Most Common Therapy for Autism Cruel?," *The Atlantic*, August 11, 2016, <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2016/08/aba-autism-controversy/495272/>; and Elizabeth DeVita-Raeburn, "The Controversy over Autism's Most Common Therapy," Spectrum, August 10, 2016, <https://www.spectrumnews.org/features/deep-dive/controversy-autisms-common-therapy/>.
6. "Autistic Self-Advocacy Network, LGBT Groups Release Statement of Needs of Trans Autistic People," ASAN, June 22, 2016, <https://autisticadvocacy.org/2016/06/autistic-self-advocacy-network-lgbt-groups-release-statement-on-needs-of-trans-autistic-people/>.

### *Chapter 7: Becoming Rainbow Man*

1. From DJ Savarese, *A Doorknob for the Eye*, available at <http://www.djsavarese.com/3d-flip-book/doorknobfortheeye/>.

### *Chapter 8: Living in a State of Hell*

1. This concept is explored in great depth by Resmaa Menakem in his book *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Minds* (Central Recovery Press, 2017).
2. Living white in America can also be a kind of hell, rife with spiritual disfigurement and often compounding its deformations by masquerading as heaven.

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3. A useful discussion of standpoint theory and how it relates to intersectionality can be found in an episode of *Scene on Radio*, “S3 E4: Feminism in Black and White,” August 22, 2018, <https://www.sceneonradio.org/episode-50-feminism-in-black-and-white-men-part-4/>.
4. Diane di Prima, “Revolutionary Letter #10”, in *Revolutionary Letters* (City Lights Books, 1971), 19.
5. “Junauda Petrus Reads Her Poem: Give the Police Departments to the Grandmothers,” Vimeo, <https://vimeo.com/426276718>.

### *Chapter 9: Calm-Arriving to a Wanting Safe World*

1. Or, as Jessi Dolch pointed out to me, you might also encounter billowing, in its proper context, while reading The Book of Psalms. She wrote: “I’m not a Christian, but Psalm 42 is a lovely one about grief and hope and comfort, with the lines ‘Deep calls to deep / at the thunder of your cataracts; / all your waves and your billows / have gone over me.’ This also came to me as I read this poem.”
2. Lorde, *Sister Outsider*, 102.
3. I came to Neil Marcus’s work by way of Sunaura Taylor, who cites the quotation here as featured in *Occupying Disability: Critical Approaches to Community, Justice, and Decolonizing Disability*, ed. Pamela Block, Devva Kasnitz, Akemi Nishida, and Nick Pollard (Springer, 2015).

### *Chapter 10: The How of Autism*

1. “COVID 19 Artist Feature Five: Imane Boukaila,” April 26, 2020, <https://explicitliteraryjournal.com/2020/04/26/covid-19-feature-five-imane-boukaila/>.
2. For a thorough examination of this topic, see Torres and Whyatt, *Autism*, or download a digital version at [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316954991\\_Autism\\_The\\_Movement\\_Sensing\\_Perspective](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316954991_Autism_The_Movement_Sensing_Perspective).
3. Often readers discover this work in our newsletter, The Listening World, which can be found at [thelisteningworld.substack.com](http://thelisteningworld.substack.com).
4. See adrienne maree brown’s theory that all political organizing is an act of science fiction, which she describes in *Pleasure Activism: The Politics of Feeling Good* (AK Press, 2019) as “shaping the future we long for and have not yet experienced” (10).
5. Rodas, *Autistic Disturbances*, 9–10.



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6. Also from Manning, *Always More Than One*: “the *how* of knowing much exceeds the *what* (and the who) of knowing” (181).
7. Lorde, *Sister Outsider*, 42.
8. brown, *Pleasure Activism*, 50.
9. Yergeau, *Authoring Autism*, 27.

### *Chapter 11: May Today Be Awake*

1. Mukhopadhyay, *Mind Tree*, 117.
2. I do also want to note, however, how much joy Sid takes in refusing simplicity, an act of resistance I hear alongside Alexis Pauline Gumbs, who writes about honoring “what it means to refuse to be seen, to be known, to participate when politics as we know them have prioritized recognition by and access to the dominant paradigm.” Gumbs goes on to praise “all those who love with a depth beyond recognition, nurturing freedom over understandability, valuing life as so much more than simple comprehension” (*Undrowned*, 109–110).
3. “2017 Poems and Art for Peace Blog 2,” The Art of Autism, September 1, 2017, <https://the-art-of-autism.com/2017-poems-and-art-for-peace-blog-2/>.
4. “May Poem,” August 1, 2017, <http://growourjoy.org/2017/08/01/may/>.

### *Coda: Full Spiral*

1. Although Max’s name is the only one to appear on the cover, and they indeed did write many of the poems on their own, the chapbook features many collaborations with Mark, who also played a role in helping Max edit the chapbook.
2. Unrestricted Interest is an LLC. That may change, but thus far it’s suited our poets’ ways, making what we can in the time we glean between raising kids, climbing mountains, playing gigs, and writing our own poems.

### *Afterword: Belonging to the Future*

1. Which gives them no less a legal claim to the land than those who view it as property. In addition to their historical claim, the Dakota people’s ethic of stewardship and relation gives them a superior moral claim as well. For more on this topic, I highly recommend Martin Case’s unparalleled exploration *The Relentless Business of Treaties: How Indigenous Land Became U.S. Property* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2018).

## NOTES

2. That said, my family does possess the indenture of my great-great-grandfather Edward Chapman, an Irishman who, by way of temporary servitude, settled down with his Scottish wife, Isabella Meldrum, in late-nineteenth-century Nebraska. Chapman comes from the profession of the chapman, a peddler of cheap goods. This is where the term “chapbook” arises, the chapman selling small, cheap volumes on the street. So I come from the distribution and democratization of literature as well.
3. Mohawk seed keeper Rowen White speaks of diaspora as a nearly universal experience and how each of us has been born into the grief of displacement, severed from the roots of our indigenous knowing. She also points toward a diaspora of language, enacted brutally among indigenous people by forced boarding schools where native languages were forbidden. Both Hannah and I feel a distinct diasporic breach between us and the wild language of our Celtic ancestors, something we’ve discussed at length. I first heard White speak of these topics on Prentis Hemphill’s *Finding Our Way* podcast, in an episode titled “Seeds, Grief, and Memory with Rowen White.”
4. Like so many disabled individuals before us, my mother and I have learned a thousand ways to better sustain ourselves with care, ingenuity, and resilience. I am grateful every day for her mentorship and grieve that she had to face the disequilibrium of disability unmentored for so many years.
5. Gumbs, *Undrowned*, 8.
6. These gifts allow me to sense minute changes in the emotional tenor of others, which is a crucial aspect of my work; but they often backfire at home, where parenting small children whose emotional landscape changes minute by minute can whiplash my nervous system until I’m facedown on the carpet.
7. I can spot animals in a field or remember exactly where my wife left her keys but am also constantly reorganizing spaces since an unintentional clutter leaves me addled. In my house we talk often of where things belong, and I can’t help but see each object—cup, rock, book, pen—as a subject seeking to find its place.
8. *Care Work* (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2019) is a crucial resource guide for what it has meant to be intersectionally disabled over the past half century and what it might mean moving forward. It’s one of the clearest and most vibrant examples I know for articulating the ways in which queer, neurodivergent, BIPOC (Black, indigenous, and people of color), and disabled artists have created ingenious, community-based responses to the problems of our current society.