

Written between 2004 and 2005, the poems collected in this volume reflect a time of transition between life as an English teacher in Japan and a return to California to attend graduate school. Original, spontaneous, and filled with humor and pathos, these pieces follow Damon Shulenberg's idiosyncratic journey toward making writing his life's work. Living in Japan for four years and filled with "starry elation," Shulenberg stayed well outside the literary fray. A continent removed from semi-apocalyptic post 9-11 currents, he avoided the knee-jerk hipster irony that infected so many. Speaking with the Dakota Freie Presse, Shulenberg notes that his poems seek to recreate the immediacy and timelessness found in authors such as Shakespeare, Kerouac, Twain, Hemingway, and Charlie "Yardbird" Parker. He seeks solace in the crowded pulses of humanity burrowing deep beneath the earth in space-constrained Tokyo. He enjoys the chicken warmth of a falafel in Roppongi and follows a wide pathway to felt pockets. As he puts it, "In expression's unbridled reality, timeless residue comforts idlers, existence from rind to marrow." Too many to mention, he respects the ways of those who pass along this holy written scrawl—to wit, the fools. Shulenberg writes: I have oft recurring dreams of the freedom of ships and the sea, there's no one to hassle, or know where you are a speck on the coast somewhere. He continues: rain drenched blue, this world we all inhabit chasing specials and tire treads, breathing the same air as a thousand others, a thousand lives bright and tasted, forgotten. He further professes: Now my waking hours are populated by the dead and strange skeletons in suits hovering and pressing firm and steadying themselves on rattling trains, I no longer wonder to see faces in dreams at once innocent and wraith-like, a deep jutting of souls. He speaks of odysseys of the soul: All rise and greet the sun, humble destroyer who doesn't much intrude on our lives, filaments we are of a great wave a surging, let the coffee calm our nerves, let the red and green LED blink on and off intermittently, lost in a sea of neckties, rasping coughs, panty-hose seams. And he confesses: Looking at the moon, bright back-lit by the sun thinking how many aeons that shining star-light has travelled and how someday sooner than the last last time I had this chill, wondrous thought I won't be here to see it. A quixotic writer, Damon Shulenberg has remained in the literary underbrush, driven by a purpose not tied to the imperatives of academic circles or the commercial marketplace. He describes his life's work as being to create a subtle and imaginative landscape that is at once intensely personal and has universal qualities. The author's highly anticipated works include the mystery-thriller Arisugawa Park, also set in Japan.

The Complete Works of John L Motley, Sealed with Blood: War, Sacrifice, and Memory in Revolutionary America (Early American Studies), Traits Alive!: Famous Creature Similes Expanded, The Actors Art: Conversations with Contemporary American Stage Performers, Journal Of Travels In India, Gesammelte Werke (v. 6) (German Edition), The philosophical theory of the state, Stupid Laws of California: Funny Laws in CA From the Past and Present, The Plague of Kaiserdom,

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