

The Sky's Larger Frame

The Sky's Larger Frame

Randall Compton

THE SKY'S LARGER FRAME

Copyright © 2019 Randall Compton. All rights reserved. Except for brief quotations in critical publications or reviews, no part of this book may be reproduced in any manner without prior written permission from the publisher. Write: Permissions, Wipf and Stock Publishers, 199 W. 8th Ave., Suite 3, Eugene, OR 97401.

Resource Publications
An Imprint of Wipf and Stock Publishers
199 W. 8th Ave., Suite 3
Eugene, OR 97401

www.wipfandstock.com

PAPERBACK ISBN: 978-1-5326-8231-5

HARDCOVER ISBN: 978-1-5326-8232-2

EBOOK ISBN: 978-1-5326-8233-9

Manufactured in the U.S.A.

MAY 30, 2019

For Mary

Believing is seeing.

Contents

Acknowledgments / xi

I. / 1

Meditation in Texas Hill Country / 3
Ambitions / 4
Looking for Fossils in the Sulphur
River / 5
Grandfathers, 1970 / 6
Felling Bois d'Arc / 7
Losing Bois d'Arc Creek / 9
Day on Little Pigeon / 11
Picnic near a Winter Wheat Field / 12
Red Oak Leaves, April Morning / 13
After Ten Years / 14
Morning Spider / 15
Google Me / 16
Hinges of Hell / 17
Stories I Tell Myself / 18
Midnight Pantoum, Galveston
Beach / 19
Dreams, Then Waking / 20
Lines for Breakfast / 21
Sun Room, October Morning / 22
Rereading Old Books / 23
Preparing for Winter / 24
Talking to Myself on My Fortieth
Birthday / 25
Interglacial / 26

II. / 27

Another Statement on Babel / 29
Monster Minds / 32
Subterranean Music / 34
Logbook / 35
The Seafarer: A Late Interpolation / 36
Hard of Hearing / 37
Morning, Noon, and Night / 38
Haunts / 39
Manuscripts in Hell / 40
Yet Another Ars Poetica / 41
Reading an Old Novel during a
Thunderstorm / 42
God the Magician / 43
Sermon Notes / 44
All My Small Designs / 45
Elijah, after Ravens / 46
Peak and Trough / 47
Lament and Reply / 48
Waiting for Amnesia / 49
Rain Walk / 51
Advice to Someone Like Me / 52
Inner Ring / 53
After an Ice Storm / 54
Lost Prerogative / 55
Viva / 56
After Twenty Years / 57

III. / 59

Berth / 61

Waking before Alarm Clock / 62

New Year's Day / 63

General Revelation / 64

God the Alchemist / 65

Church Picnic / 66

John VI, 53 ff / 67

Meditation on a Theme from
Heraclitus / 68

Homily on Sorrow and Joy / 69

Silver Anniversary / 70

Envelope / 71

Down the Guadalupe / 72

Nothing for Now / 73

Older Couple, Living in East Texas / 75

Awaiting Another Sunset / 77

Talking to a Red-tailed Hawk at
Sunset / 78

Acknowledgments

I AM GRATEFUL TO the editors of the following publications, in which some of these poems (a few with changes) first appeared:

5-2 Crime Quarterly: Sermon Notes

CCTE Studies: Logbook, Berth, Meditation on a Theme from Heraclitus, Picnic Near a Winter Wheat Field, Older Couple, Living in East Texas, Waiting for Another Sunset, Rain Walk, After an Ice Storm, Google Me, Advice to Someone Like Me, Waiting for Amnesia, Lines for Breakfast, Manuscripts in Hell

Concho River Review: Grandfathers, 1970

Furnace Review: Interglacial

Kind of a Hurricane Press (Tic Toc): Ambitions, Envelope

Lumina: Rereading Old Books, Talking to Myself on my Fortieth Birthday

Penwood Review: Church Picnic, Another Statement on Babel

St. Katherine Review: Monster Minds

Southwestern American Literature: Meditation in the Texas Hill Country, Lost Prerogative, Felling Bois D'Arc

Triggerfish Critical Review: Subterranean Music, Looking for Fossils in the Sulphur River