

Third Street, Tucson

The light is white today and the oranges are glistening with rain water. Orange trees were brought here by the Spaniards, along with the Jesuit missions. Today the birds are quieter than usual. Maybe when they sing a lot, it's because they are thirsty. The Santa Cruz used to flow year round, but then ranchers gold miners farmers population suburban water drain sprawl On Third Street, a young man comes out of a seven-bedroom house to smoke on the porch. I pass under a big sparse tree with low branches, so old and just standing there, one of the tallest trees in the neighborhood. It appears deciduous, but in fact it's a low pine, an Aleppo, an ancient tree from the Mediterranean. The estimated appraisal value is well over \$20,000. Brought to Tucson as seedlings by a gas station as a gimmick 70 years ago too much too little water flows from the Colorado River to the Gulf of California and Tucson gardens overflow downpour perennial springs irrigation tree-lined rivulet monsoon riverbed barren run dry Stein says that the work of man is not in harmony with the landscape, it opposes it and it is just that that is the basis of cubism. Peddling along, I look down at my blue socks, one higher than the other. No city money for street repair this year, but instead an incredible pattern of intersecting cracks and potholes.

Blue Beard Cafe

My dad sent me an email saying I wasn't particularly mistreated, that he had spent the same amount of money on each of us. The Caspian Sea region in Iran has potentially the world's largest oil reserves. He beat me, yeah, but not unnecessarily. When he found out he shouldn't do that, well he just said, he had never beat me over anything I didn't deserve. He would accuse me of something and if I admitted, I got half a beating. There were nuclear projects in Iran, somewhere. Well it was good thing to do anyhow, wasn't it? Now he's on a poor little old me thing. He threw the pressure cooker at my mom's head once and broke the pane window. Little Joey was sitting on the floor, watching. The history and residue of eons past. So old and just sitting there surge gush disperse dissolve scatter And he doesn't think anything of it . . . Excuse me Miss, could you bring me more coffee? Yeah, this is fine. . . . My first memory was shutting a door and hiding. You had those stripes, too, didn't you? I had them all over my back. You were shot, too? Yeah? And then they kept you hour after hour and picked it out themselves. I know. Black sludge is drifting over the U.S. shores. Greed Stupidity Collateral damage Quiet Low Along I read something and then I realized that's why I can't have a relationship with anyone. I had to cry surge spilt trickle rush forward But to tell you the truth, no matter what, I'm a happy little surge spilt trickle rush forward

Nonstop Las Vegas

A woman tries on a pink veil and a guy in the back has his computer open to a porno site, a naked man with an erect penis. Some other folks in back are playing poker. Everyone is chattering up above the thunderstorm I order a cup of tea cloudburst down below betrayal bayou abundance five thousand dolphins, drum fish, jelly fish, northern gamut, man o'war, sea turtles, dragon flies and the laughing gulls are the hardest hit. It costs \$15,000 to clean the oil from one pelican and return it to its environment. The order of pelecyaniformes, ancient symbol of heavy rain hurricane down below darkness Then the lights dim and I fall asleep and dream I'm walking past a dark body of choppy water, wandering out to the outer edge of a peninsula, the tiny band between us, shaped like a long finger with water thrown wildly about. When the sun comes out the slicks of brown and green oil start to boil sentient beings sold down the water way sway that baby sway In Nigeria, thousands of corroding pipelines 600 plus million barrels Spilt Brutal Shock Throat Money Shut up Suddenly from around the corner a female lion charges toward me. I stand absolutely still, stare her down until she disappears, then I open one of my eyelids, just to make sure