

Buson  
orders  
leggings

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Dink Press Chapbook # 2

**Other Books by Christopher Mulrooney**

Grimaldi (FowlPox Press)

Toy Balloons (Another New Calligraphy)

Rimbaud (Finishing Line Press)

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# thief

*The lack of love 'twixt part and whole.*

Lanier

jimmy the lock  
and let us have love  
as the bees do the same flower  
tonight as many do times  
tables in their heads  
the night before an exam

## mastodon

the creature explained  
his position lustily  
or perhaps rather the opposite  
and ceased to be  
in any recognizable way  
oh he has cognates  
on the Continent  
be in no doubt  
sure he has now



tutu

what is it tulle  
something else fancy  
and pancake makeup  
and madeup eyes  
like a peacock's fantail  
or the prow of a ship  
in Egyptian grandeur  
carrying the dead  
or the living great

portative

I in the Renaissance garden  
with my squeezebox  
playing the very old tunes  
nearly the oldest

escort

the busy passport visa'd  
ten times a day lapsed  
never in a million years  
renewed always renewed  
with fresh leaves  
for the stamping

queen

the Zambesi tribe acknowledges no other  
and that other cannot say she acknowledges  
any gift of friendship or bribery  
to appease her better nature no darling  
you cannot come crawling on six legs to her  
dragging your abdomen but keep your mandibles up  
and take it like an ant make uncle proud

## Buson

on the temple bell  
as one ceased from flight resting  
the wee butterfly

for that is one who  
pardon me Billy Collins  
rests on tradition

as long as the bell  
is not struck by the hammer  
very picturesque



orders





## sour grapes

will the tomatoes go blend  
or spew into the pot raw juices  
of a kind which always indicates  
rabbit ears and a velour bedcover  
somewhere in the backside of beyond

## cinema

the tom flowers into song on the fence  
in a cartoon serenading the sleepless  
and acquires a collection of footwear  
Lubitsch has him opening a shop  
in the finest taste the latest thing high fashion

## piano nobile

the upper storey dominating the room  
for the city is a room some on beanbags  
the sofa chairs contrarious loveseat  
floor closets sideboard to the rafters  
or idly sentimentalizing the vacant breeze

## a fantastical comment

the skyscrapers go after as somebody says  
a fashion can you believe it what for  
does somebody say why not cat faces  
instead of our own it would make a change  
all right but must our human faces draw  
lots to see which first goes feline here?

## cinema (bis)

bark on the trees as the dog's leg is lifted  
for free passage of urine on a frosty morning  
that is the tough uplifted downcoming on the impervious trees  
standing firm in all kinds of weathers  
clear as a bell a shower of leaves fruit in season

particularly being

bridges to cross why mak'st thou beings  
bridges to cross it is said than translate  
for myself says Emerson I would soonest  
swim the River Charles when at my right  
hand I find it is a bridge hair streaming wet  
to walk across dryshod a living miracle

## magnanimity

the vague soldiers in the roundabout stations  
serve to push the enemy back if he advances  
that is the frontier opposition it is there because  
he needs that receives how you figure well  
look at the birds Jesus says up yonder see  
who cares for them if not Mother Machree  
why for sure it is great God Almighty and no other  
therefore look you now eating leeks and sausage  
that you regard not the foe but the founder of the feast

## plant

I shouldn't think to utter strange sentences  
says the judge in the murder case like these modern poets  
you don't know whether your man is hanged or hung or fried  
or done up in a tempura batter and served with soy sauce  
savory pickles and a mound of pickled ginger



## the wit of the year

he would have it year in or out  
on his ear his head chin ass knees feet  
the way things should things being equal  
alas things stood against him everywhere  
rising up and spitting towards him  
this he observed was by way of a mistake  
and had no bearing on him generally

# folklore

in the general run of things what the people believes  
is of the utmost importance says the Fellow  
i.e. what it will swallow whole and entire  
as indicating a willful suspension of the other  
this being what is called a cast or frame of mind

## tense mood inflection

fortunately most of these things come under the rubric  
most if not all of these things come under the rubric  
in fact nearly all of these things come under the rubric  
I should say all of these things come under the rubric  
without any doubt all of these things come under the rubric  
that says it doesn't matter an Apollonian fig  
what anyone says or does to the contrary  
not a Lilliputian Brobdingnagian curse

leggings



## alarm

the bell goes on off what you call it tocsin  
rhyme it scribbler somehow or other on moccasin  
what is the nextly help made us fear greatly?  
fear made us help nextly what is the greatly  
somehow or other scribbler it rhyme on moccasin  
what you call it the bell goes on off tocsin

## poke in the eye

the mob TV network installs a Jerseyite  
voluble if not witty to sit in the chair and gab at the camera  
bolstered by a willing crowd of admirers look here  
is the argument of the day in passing Capone  
took a bad rap for something you might do not pay his taxes  
am I right people he was not homicidal vicious no

## treatment

*The old H.P.*

this is the infliction that parts you amain  
that is the remedy they drive you upwards  
downwards sideways and in between you must suffer  
all the arguments aimed at you that is the complaint  
department you take it all in and deliver the goods



## Russian dancer

Babcock went down to this embassy dinner said  
fine folk this Russkiness sure don't mean rough victuals  
that's what he said frontiersmanlike if not statesmanlike  
they reared up on him Moscow types you know this strain  
you are man of the people people we like we is having  
    revolution  
give up the people all this like this being fat cats fatted for the  
    stake  
and kidney pudding and right here this Babcock interjects  
steak and kidney pud they serve it in London  
and starts to tell the same story back to the Russians  
so what did he do when he reached the present day  
as it were and the hour the present moment when he tells  
    himself  
telling them off when life and art coincide at this juncture

he takes a gulp like vodka was water on a big fire  
and suddenly just like the movies in comes the entertainment  
a comic ballet you know balalaikas squeezebox something to  
cheer you up

## transpiration

it became generally known the way dew generally falls  
at dewpoint there was nothing known before a lot of  
    jammed signals  
yammering and ignorant reflexes a lot of hoity-toity  
Burlingame woolgathering and the windy spaces of empty  
    heads  
like a cannibal offering down through the generations to  
    this

paschal

the lamb is brought poor dumb beast  
how's that bleats  
in a mild sort of way  
nothing that may have happened in the kingdom  
could have been foretold from such a leg of mutton  
as that bleating and kicking was suckled on a ewe's teat

tun

a wine vat pours out upon the ground its vintage never  
only the scrub and finish of its making and upkeep  
thrown off in the course of time to fit such circumstances  
as shall obtain when the harvest comes in and the grapes  
are pressed  
the vintage laid down gradually in the cool high dark

## principals

it is in the understudies never to supply the public wants  
but only to prefer security before the random drop curtain  
exploit  
of a randy buccaneer ogling the thronging multitude here  
boys  
it seems to say and girls the certain cynosure of it all  
wagging it for you Wynken and Blynken and Nod in bed

## doubloons

if I have found that treasure trove on the bottom of the sea  
it is with leaden feet and an airhose to the surface  
and a bathysphere for my head the creatures float me curiously  
glances that regard me as diner or feast or selfsame competition  
to handfuls of Spanish gold wire baskets descend

## brigade

owing to the incidence of crime at the blood bank  
heavy steel doors have to be installed at once  
the workmen are measuring and hammering and nailing  
the Transylvanian outsource group that runs it  
gave a very good TV interview via its spokesman  
an aristocrat with a rather charming accent



handle

uptake flakeout workbench makework  
in a season of matronly activities she  
has received fulsome accolades one bends down  
to kiss her rump at every opportunity  
I give quarters out of un it too she says  
not without a sense of humor is our social lioness

## Borscht Belt

you are having me having bowl soup  
is frightened task of one half hour half price time  
Okh for a plop of sour cream what would I not give  
to go in the midst of it like an NKVD man  
all at sea surrounded by red sharks I said nothing  
is borscht talking just a bowl of borscht

# leggings

as you march into file and rank  
you forget you are a military man  
facing the horizon at any angle you please day or night  
in all weathers with an eye for an enemy who might be  
    there or not  
and you on watch for him calm cool and collected  
as the man in the Amazon jungle hammocked inertly  
under the high trees singing and crying out variously

## porch

we had to screen out the impertinent flies  
otherwise the deck of a steamer is much the same  
these warm nights and oh I've dropped my lighter  
there it is in the moonlight  
bright as can be