

ROOM STUDIES

Brennan Burnside

DINK PRESS CHAPBOOK # 4

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Meditation

Blue room, no walls, no floor, white
shoe hanging from grey thread, small
yellow ottoman at center of room,
white shoe falls on ottoman, ottoman
becomes blue, room becomes yellow.

Andy Kaufman's Bomb Shelter

Four lead walls 10'X10' painted in red and white
candy cane pattern, linoleum ceiling with escape hatch
in center bolted-in, marble floor with mosaic of peace
symbol, three-legged brass table, glass vase of black
daliahas, crack in bottom, dripping water, window in
center of east wall with trompe l'oeil of West Hollywood,
sunset, north wall brown Philco Seventeener III television
set on a 1'X3'X3' platform of 180 red air bricks, Howdy
Dowdy 4/1/52 episode repeating at 22" ad infinitum,
glass
of milk on top of television set, 2'X2'X2' wooden crate of
chocolate chip cookies in north west corner of shelter,
vase breaks, low shuttering thump from above.

Kurt Cobain's Larder

Four cedar wood walls, north wall, casement window 5' from floor,

one window swung-in, three 3" ceramic gnomes on window sill,

respectively red green and blue, afternoon light, chartreuse at 3pm,

quarry tile flooring newly refurbished, west wall 7'X14', nine 10' long

2X4s attached to wall with cement nails, south wall 7'X5', three 3' long

2X4s attached with cement nails, lowest 2X4 1' from floor, west wall 7'X14',

white General Electric chest freezer 22"X37"X33.25", plastic container of

angel food cake, top slightly molded, 6"X1' garden plot in middle of floor,

bordered by 1" thick cedar wood blocks, three zinnias growing in single line,

respectively yellow orange and pink, copy of Williams Burroughs' Naked Lunch

ripped into small pieces and scattered over soil, page three nailed to floor 6" from

north wall, "I can feel the heat closing in, feel them out their making their moves,

setting up their devil doll stool pigeons" and "Young, good looking, crew cut, Ivy

League, advertising exec type fruit holds the door back for
me" underlined in red

Sharpie, 20# bag of Royal Basmati Rice on floor under
window, torn open on top

of 2" pile of rice.

Kurt Vonnegut's Sun Room

Semi-circular white wall 10'X20', pane-less window 4' from floor and 2' from ceiling, window covered by linen cloth, 1 pm on Sunday, back wall 10'X18' of bamboo weave core panels, cork flooring, hollowed out 2'X2'X4' red Holy Bible bird feeder on carbonized tre gai sanded bamboo pole in center of room, mobius strip crucifix hanging by white string of yarn 1' from ceiling, 7'X3' doorway, jade beads in place of door, white and black men's Oxford New Balance shoes sideways on floor stuffed with smoldering Pall Malls.

Sanctuary #2

Kingsize bed 40'X20', eggshell bedsheets,
faded cerulean wool comforter, tower of
four wooden chairs, eight stucco walls 28
feet high, white plaster ceiling, skylight,
three o'clock winter sun, blue satin curtain,
brown New King James Version Bible, Letters
of John ripped out, Schubert's Messiah on
black Walkman, headphones with no foam,
foot-high stainless steel stool, square of
pink lace.

Amy Winehouse's Panic Room

Circular room, soft gray carpeted walls, bamboo flooring, 2' X 1'

copper console table, platinum coated, twenty-seven candle

brass menorah in center on royal purple chenille runner, 3" x 5"

framed black-and-white photograph of Frank Sinatra, pastel yellow

evolution door in south section of room, sleeping mat of dried

coco grass in front of door, twenty-seven evenly-spaced recycled

beeswax candles along wall encircling the room, respectively red

blue and green, 2" x 2" X 2" leather book, ש"ס embossed in gold on

cover under console table, rosemary incense seeping through floor.

Billy Corgan's Den

Four-paneled white door, Persian rug
ripped down the middle, knocking sound,
wood floor recently waxed, print of van Gogh's
The Potato Eaters, kitchenette in right-hand
corner (white table, orange mug, small spill of
coffee), knocking sound (metallic tea kettle, steam),
faded blue futon, small wooden coffee table, Nine
Stories by J.D. Salinger, Mason jar full of pumpkin
Pulp, pounding sound, (whistle, stove top, four burners,
oven door open), small plastic grandfather clock, 11:34
pm, unpaneled blue door closed, blood creeping from
under the crack.

Salinger's Bed Room

Four sky blue walls 20'X10' 5'X10' 20'X10'
5'X10', window, wooden blinds closed,
forest green cot, white pillow with down
feathers, no pillowcase, glass aquarium
15'X8'X3', seven yellow bananafish, plastic
Buddha on bottom, Journey to the End of the Night
by Ferdinand Celine under white children's Bible
with illustrations, 4'33" by John Cage on small
black cassette player paused at 4'32", white four-panel
door, no doorknob, swinging dreamcatcher with two
jade stones.

Sanctuary #1

Roundhouse, twenty-four wooden beams
in pinwheel, no windows, tower of fourteen
black plastic chairs, metal café table, white
candle half-way down, red hardcover Santa
Biblia, no doors, maple flooring, crystal champagne
glass of Pabst Blue Ribbon, Handel's Messiah on
iPod mini.

World Trade Center Broom Closet, 9:03 am, 9/11/2001

100-watt bulb bolted into north wall 6' from floor, 6" metal chain dangling, four split pea green walls,

north wall 10'X10', 1979 Playboy calendar, green thumbtack, April ripped out, west wall 10'X2',

panel-less hollow core door with loose brass doorknob, east wall 10'X2', four shelves, bottom shelf red

TruValue bucket with dried spots of white paint, faded blue rag hanging over the side, next shelf three

cups filled with concrete nails, next shelf Hoover vacuum cleaner, top shelf black metal toolbox with

broken latch containing tape measure Phillips screwdriver and walkie-talkie speaking static, south wall

10'X10', single bed 8'X4' with white bedsheets unmade, small table between foot of bed and west wall,

beeswax candle, brass candle holder, small orange New Testament Bible stuffed in muddy Carhartt

size-12 men's boot on bed.

L-Train, 9:03 am, 9/11/2001

Beige rectangular walls 8'X40', rumbling sound under dirty mustard yellow flooring, single clank every 3", six sliding glass doors, seven 2'X4' spaces of dark glass, flash of yellow light, seven pale brown poles, black cotton child's glove, LED marquee, red letters, "Now Arriving at Williamsburg", car trembles, flash of yellow light, no rumbling, doors open, darkness, flood lights, sound of footsteps, doors close, rumbling sound under flooring, single clank every 3", flash of yellow light, Starbucks coffee cup under last seat in back of the car, top off, low thumping sound continuing for 5", coffee cup spills, flash of yellow light.

**Sandy Hook Elementary School Meeting Room, 9:42 am,
12/14/2012**

Burnt sienna and grey berber carpet, east and west peach walls 25'X15', north and south burgundy walls 10'X15', eight

chairs with beige cushions overturned, 1'X6" white plastic table with black metal legs, overturned, cobwebs on table legs, sixty-three small styrofoam coffee cups scattered in south east corner, shattered Kurig coffee maker, cobwebs on coffee cups and Kurig coffee maker, dark dried stain 31.4

centimeters, red pentagram painted in center of floor, stack of twenty-two Bibles in middle of pentagram, cobwebs on Bibles, four-paneled wooden door on north wall, open, heavy

footsteps on linoleum floor.

**Sandy Hook Elementary School Storage Closet, 9:35 am,
12/14/2012**

Four white plaster walls 15'X5', black and white speckled linoleum floor, 3' chicken-wire cage basket of 10 blue kickballs, overturned cage of 5 yellow kickballs 6 red kickballs and badminton racket, hollow core panel-less door with faux brass doorknob on north wall, 100-watt dim light bulb bolted into center of ceiling, seven black Penske hockey sticks in south east corner of room, crumpled

Fritos bag, doorknob turns, black scuff marks on east wall, 3' from floor, rapid knocking sound.

Philip Seymour Hoffman's bedroom

Wooden door with no panels, crash bar, locked, window, off-white plastic blinds closed, no bed
five walls 20'X20' 10'X20' 18'X20' 18'X20' 2'X20',
forty cardboard boxes, 400 green Bibles, 400 red
Bibles, 400 blue Bibles, phonograph on floor playing
"Howl" by Allen Ginsberg, cigarette smoke, fire alarm
screaming.

Mickey Rouke's Kitchen

Four brick walls, no door, swinging billiards lamp,
brown stucco ceiling, pale virid glow, small 2X2 square
wooden table, dirt floor, water pipes singing, four knives
three inches apart, butcher knife sushi knife carving knife
bread cutter, ten neatly stacked red white and blue Bibles,
three blue Bibles, four white Bibles, three red Bibles, Post
Office by Charles Bukowski.

Main Street, Augusta Georgia, 2:03 am, 5/9/1970

East side of two story house, sky blue vinyl siding,
moonlight,

open second floor window, distant backfire of a car,
drooping

red sweater sleeve on window ledge, "Old Man" by Neil
Young 1'12",

distant motorcycle buzz, screen door slam, "Old Man" by
Neil Young 2'12",

two drooping red sweater sleeves, black Holy Bible on
windowsill,

lighter click, crickets, creaking floor, moonlight, cloud
cover, "Old Man"

by Neil Young 1'02", coughing, glass breaking on asphalt
far away.

Ron Jeremy's Hotel Room

Four burnt beige walls, garlic smell, open closet door, one red t-shirt, five blue plastic clotheshangers, single bed, egg shell mattress, white bed sheet, blue comforter folded 45° degrees, white panel-less bathroom door closed, brass knob,

2'X2" red hardcover Heilige Bibel, faded burgundy rug, window

4'X4" , off-white blinds, closed, 3'X5" television with rabbit ears,

Debbie Does Dallas paused at 6'12", toilet flushing, lights off.

Sanctuary #3

Black rubber floor, single spotlight from left side, five-foot-tall wooden chair, maroon cushions and arm rests, tower of eight smooth granite stones, cello playing B flat continuously, two-foot quartz coffee table, burning buttermilk candle six inches wide

World Trade Center Study Room, 9:02 am, 9/11/2001

Four 14'X20' sandy beige papered walls, 8'X 6'X2' bookshelf on east side, top shelf vinyl records of bird sounds, second shelf seven pink quartz crystals, third shelf thirteen Earth Wind and Fire cassettes, bottom shelf eight two-pound photography books of Ndebele tribal customs and two neon green Bibles, smell of leather, north side 1920s-vintage desk freshly waxed, four narrow legs, brass study lamp, green tinted shade, open bottle of Johnny Walker Green Label scotch, small crack in bottom of glass, growing puddle, 5"X10" window covered by thin maroon curtain, red and black Oriental rug, south side eight-paneled cherry wood door, marble doorknob, brown and black retro alarm clock radio, 9:02 am, screaming behind east wall, quartz crystals explode.

World Trade Center Breakroom, 9:00 am, 9/11/2001

Rectangular white room, two 10'X4' walls, two 10'X12' walls, 1953 Philco V Handle refrigerator, off-white, no freezer, door open, three shelves, top shelf bottle of water half-empty, middle shelf empty, bottom shelf empty, lime colored linoleum floor, stovetop, three burners, small oven, one rack, 21" Sanford farmhouse kitchen sink, off-white, paint peeling on inside, three cabinets, off-white, metal handles, brown leather Holy Bible, iPhone, neon green casing, 9:01 am, thin stream of water running from faucet, sound of footsteps in the next room.

World Trade Center Bathroom, 9:02 am, 9/11/2001

Four mother-of-pearl tiled walls 10'X15',
gray faux-marble linoleum floor, two
mirrors 6' apart, two round countertop
sinks, motion-activated faucets, two
thick 9' high white plastic stalls 2'
apart, weight-sensitive toilets,
single wooden door, crash
bar, florescent light
fixture 6"X20', one
bulb burns out,
sound of
thunder.

Jim Jones' Champagne Room

Dirty white vinyl couch 3'X10' center of room, 5'X15' red duct tape around couch, four 20'X20' plexi-glass walls with colored lights flashing in two-second intervals, north red, south blue, west white, east green, ruby chandelier 2' above floor in front of couch, rubber black top flooring, no door, Funhouse pinball machine 29"x 56"x 76", ventilation shaft ceiling, metal slabs 20'X6" separated by 6" space, body of air in negative space, "Round Midnight" playing faintly, glass coffee table, one leg shattered, music echoes off plexi-glass walls, neon-green Holy Bible with electrical cord, unplugged, chandelier falls.

Acknowledgments

Early versions of "Main Street, Augusta Georgia, 2:03 am, 5/9/1970" and "Salinger's Bedroom" appeared in Lyre Lyre, May 2014

"Andy Kaufman's Bomb Shelter", "Kurt Cobain's Larder" and

"Kurt Vonnegut's Sun Room" appeared in Lost Coast Review Spring 2014

Early versions of "Sanctuary #1" and "Sanctuary #2" appeared in Ash Tree Journal, April 2014

Early versions of "World Trade Center Breakroom, 9:00 am, 9/11/2001", "World Trade Center Study Room, 9:02 am, 9/11/2001", "Philip Seymour Hoffman's bedroom" appeared in Lux, Spring 2014