Apologia



ALSO BY CRAIG WATSON

A Third Instance (Instance Press, 2014)

(with Rosa Alcalá & Elisabeth Whitehead

Sleepwalking with Orpheus (Shearsman Books, 2011)

Secret Histories (Burning Deck, 2007)

True News (Instance Press, 2002)

Free Will (Roof Press, 2000)

Reason (Zasterle Press, 1998)

Picture of the Picture of the Image in the Glass (Q

After Calculus (Burning Deck, 1988)

Discipline (Burning Deck, 1987)

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The Asks (Sun and Moon Press, 1982)

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EDGEMENTS

Parts of these poems previously appeared in Pallaksch, Pallaksch.

For Patti



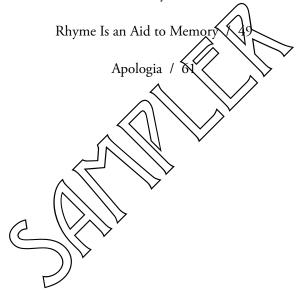


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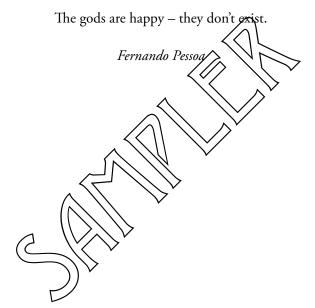
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No Rehearsal





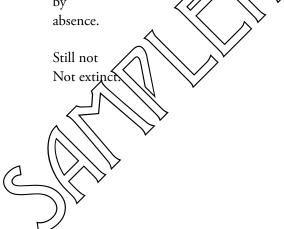
Options for a Day Book

Almost illegible; No inventory.

Feral, then amateur.

Here's the metrics:
Father x, son y.

Clemency redacted by absence.

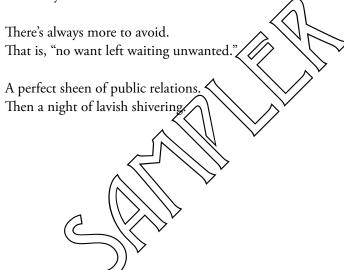


Options for Confession

What conditions make autobiography necessary? Everyone's invited to debilitate.

Happiness embraces futility. Ignorance celebrates excess.

Or are we stuck with the old-joke-turned-wisdom that everyone has but one lie?



Options for Certainty

I didn't start with all these words. They are symptoms not currencies.

Self-consciousness is the first exclusion. Make no sudden moves.

Is this life the sediment of memory or the memory of sentiment?

"Tenacious," you called it,
"compassion's cruelty will never his tify

Now spell me while I make excused Yes, I'll pay the damages.

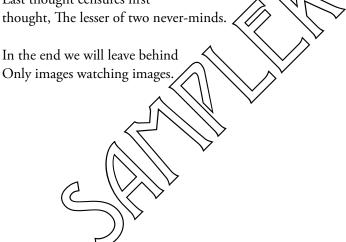
Options for Forecasting Weather

At last, the impossible age. Let's make an example of perfection.

We create order because there's no other choice.

Repetition likes what it sees. It's the same as passing for precise.

Last thought censures first



Options for Diplomacy

Don't listen to Mr. Lucky. When rhetoric disappears, it's all business.

Authority pantomimes liberation, that astonishment of lies to which the hands consent.

It's very simple: benevolent repression, indecipherable doctrine, triumphal indifference.

Retain, recite, Repent, redact.

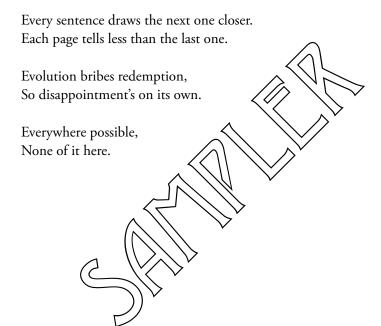
It's like the old mirror-in-a-mirror trick:

There are so many ways to a polish curiosity

Options for Amnesia

There's a scene in your imagination and another scene around that.

Better to think of the life not lived than a monopoly of replicas.



Options for the Present

This one goes out to victims of the Trojan War; Thanks for your sacrifice.

The jails are full, people are rich, Money replaces speech.

