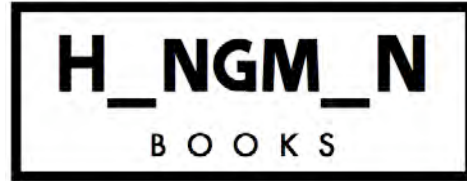


# MY FORMER POLITICS

JARED WHITE



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*A H\_NGM\_N portable document format chapbook // cover by Miranda White //*

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Doctor---quivers---promotion---the pea under the mattress---the year after the degree---a  
labyrinth---let's solve---they call apprenticeship---in another universe---someone says  
something---in disguise---like a criminal on the run---betrayed by muddy shoes---as in  
when you say half---you mean---two quarters---and when you say half---you mean a  
man---with folds of fashion---in his spurs---ready for dinner---and not even hungry---  
ready for the table to move of its own accord---when accidentally---you---

Courted---a doorway fervor---in country---where the where was---only a little baby  
injustice---like coins in a wishing well---I was paying for the privilege---to put my cheek  
against the texture---of versus---stalks in a cornfield---I've visited before---and there were  
consequences---each instant glued to---a primal---ribbon cutting---spigot triggers the  
fountain---this is how it works---the cherubim---on the cusp of---making water---like little  
men on horseback two feet tall---on Corinthian columns---half step shuffle canter leap---  
Florida doesn't have dunes---

Todayish---the plot of I thought of---half whole---half half--- the tradition of---go to the  
go---the accused literally made of accusations---a smeared---math---representing people---  
hunter and falcon---swoop and fathom---sunlight---an explanation of yellow---in the  
brains of animals---

Hoarding the index cards---so grandchildren can graduate college---on a plywood  
pegboard---a closed circuit loop---indifferent---like spies---the hospital watches---every  
hour on the hour---chart looks right---the machine is operating within acceptable margins  
of error---the very opposite of a mess---is a tool---and nobody even mentioned---what  
they were planning to do was---



Codeword came in the pipes---the plumbers estimated---it would come to---expertise---  
past the wrist past the elbow---uncomfortably---familiar with discard pickup---the  
compulsion---to make make ---made makes---or go straight underneath---wearing  
protective latex---like an Amazon---not to get wet---or get hot---or place in a magnetic  
field---or direct sunlight---or where it can be seen---

This is where it was---the tiny event---alternatively considered a series of catastrophes---  
and art---that will last forever---curiously---the space around---turns out to be more than---  
the space inside---I believe in---coincidence---occupying the same location---like laughter  
and---deal with it---the truest elegy---has nothing to mourn---because it has nothing to  
lose---and why wait for history---portraits of pictures---paintshot---the past---was about the  
future---now is about---now---

I don't believe in events---what I believe in---is anger---and the hoof---and paw---I don't care about---continents---I care about---the balcony---and how it is suspended in mid-air---thirst---could be noted---but won't be slaked---by swimming---in the ocean---what noise was seen---by the islanders---who refused to leave the island---eating---when thirsty---and drinking---inking---

Sperm inseminate---an eye---didn't lay out rules only to proclaim---danger border---and  
how are you feeling---about that affect---reorganizing brainmatter---into spelling---and  
curriculum---a pantomime---in moccasins---on wet leaves---wearing a papoose---with  
exhausted biceps---by way of cedilla---long hair---tiny feet---the job is---only  
volunteering---

Are we really going to follow talk about action with action---and no one ever is ever satisfied---meaning more thinking through---a recipe of---unease and disease---threatening the monitors---by what is revealed---because behind the tone of voice are the words---behind the voice of---forgetting what I was saying---I always forget what---and I always am saying---and simply anybody can---do this---look into the mirror---at nothing in particular---and tell me how it feels---sitting where the light is best---for an inspection of nose---shoulders---knees---toes---all the intelligence required to feel---and to keep feeling---bewildered---

Which will be more vulnerable---wish I could have---or exactly as---it was clumsy---barefoot inside socks and shoes---and what else do you want to tell me about---that it came out not as expected---but approximately---dripping wet---too close to the humidifier---too far from the windowsill---drying in the basement---or on the roof---if there is access to the roof---for the good of---the very very---good---

Too much you want to---save what you can see---majestic---at puny---home---the fields---  
in the bodies---intestines---you could almost rip out---of love---who doesn't think of you  
as the outcome---but the index---of my silence---and what is accomplished---merely by  
listening---like hearing it's on the way---when it's already here---my dead friends---  
tomorrow---there will be even more to remember---

The data processed as a texture---like food to be looked at not to eat---as blue rolls as fat rolls---a ticket unexpected but nevertheless appreciated---but its value increasingly abstract---until money doesn't mean anything---but here is my impression of a Joshua tree---here are the seven hills of ancient Rome---rendered in my imagination---as another place to take my shirt off---because it is so hot---in the sun---



I would go back in time to tip the scales---or forward until---in a hundred years---since  
then---of their own accord---the scales tip by themselves---the air---in that picture---  
condensing---into an era---an intimacy---reaching out my hand---and raising one finger---  
I am permitted---while holding my breath---not to try---but to not try not to---

Success succeeds success---and success---fails---failure---being not yet---definitively---  
definite---definitely---you see---going---to---going to---get chosen---and then choosing---  
to put the name into the hat---one name in one hat---which hat gets chosen---static  
punctuated with information---of desire---of wanting---in a succession---old style  
wanting---with oranges---pears---pomegranates---a bowl of---overtly knocked over---  
bowling---still---pre---meal---they cross their arms---so I cross my arms---and it is old  
style---love affair---when it is picked---antecedent---a corky wood--- pithy skin---interior  
flesh---can be replaced---like the bins and their contents---plastic orange---porcelain  
pear---still---thought---it would be more professional---the serious are sure---before they  
respond---clenching the fist---water---from stones---stone fruit---

Effects caused by causes---and derivatives---simply seeing---is patches of---awkwardly---the poem---met nothing---to become enraged---if sorry---the sadness of---masturbation to images and music and feelings---really wanting---simpler genitalia---so compromised by---the facts of the body---made modular---nipple happening in public---under cover---like robbing a bank through the basement---through pipes---with power braided in cords---it looks easy---traveling via various equations---venting off the vapors---that protect---the economy---

The weather is so local---there's this place I live---blindly---gave birth---to the miracles  
nobody saw---and died---with tricks---in danger of being in character---more likely to  
continue---then retire---replacing the book of acts---with doing---and leaving behind  
relics---of each---done---equivocal---lifestyle---like a fear of speaking---a terror of syntax---  
its objectivity---the romance of place---in which ghosts die---first causes---the Japan---at  
the center of the universe---

Evolution---by leaps and bounds---continues unabated---sun---a circle---interrupted by  
unexpected miracles---like lines---I worry---though the month was normal the day isn't---  
a cloud---of what I know to be likely---planning the wedding between me and you---do  
you know how---to want something---and to get better---at wanting---there's an art to  
that---better---like a freehand circle---remains---constantly---avant garde---

English translated into Old English---Latin translated into Greek---flowers seeding---the  
sound of a sound---hair on the back of a baby---and the empty space where the smell  
should be---because you like certain things more than others---they can be explained to  
children---as experiences---to be listened to---good thing you are generous---and well-  
meaning---and patient---and kind---listen to me---instructions not to get old---never get  
followed---

Nobody noticed---but only slightly---

A monotony of event is---I yank the tongue from my throat---and the walls belch water--  
-is a monotony of event---the world is made of water---bodies---tongues---endless  
horizons---and horizonless---water---on which I sail---back to life---back to art---where  
actually everyone lives---and comes from---a somewhere---



Read read---movements of the pupil--- bark of a tree---scar tissue---breadcrumbs---stuffed  
into an enormous turkey---the sublime---risks asking directions---in order to get lost---  
hiding behind the tree---warming your hands---by the heat---of the oven---in the woods---  
but you can't get lost---where you---are---is---

Upside downing---as a matter of pride---stupided---into a philosophy---which is more  
likeness---one gene at a time---the neon sign flickering---city and suburb---fell upon---  
the day dyer---dramatic---holidaying---you can't get where you are---without going  
through there---greeting---said persons---politely---I know what you did--- accidentally---  
for me---and I am grateful---I know---by accident---

Worn over nothing---touched to nothing---to spark---in the act---of changing---some  
changes---my thumb became my finger---my tongue learned how to write---getting to  
know the way---hate builds houses---I build being together---by sitting---in Brazzaville---  
Brazza---being nice to people---as a representative---of madness---holiday---the latitudes  
and longitudes of feelings---

Having children---is a funny way of decomposing the penchant---to want to take a  
vacation---satisfied by the sound light log---for getaways---such as brown on a beach---  
pale against a pale wall---such as the ankle---or the earlobe---such as no longer even being  
sure you have an earlobe---or you have an ankle---such as---being hit by lightning---under  
harmless clouds---fringing a harmless sky---

The problem---has to be written down---then listened to---in the wrong organ of  
problem---is there---in there---people---the buttons---love---to be pushed---as a way of  
making---the impossible---inevitable---solved---problematically---with a hunch---a feeling  
that is monstrous---and wonderful---a bloody claw---reflecting the face---shaded in the  
forest---so you know to go the way---impasse---provides---

What---can I do---but do---but do---not only---how things are---how things---are also---

What's old-fashioned about becoming---is becoming like---parallels eventually---  
intersecting---a line drawn around a line---as goes on---goes goes on---

There will come a time---I said---when everything has already happened---my resolve---  
and the history of its resolution---into feelings---disguised as rocks in the soil---in which  
the phoenix smolders---being reborn as language---there is no secret of the garden---even  
now---the bushes---already contain the flames---



I want to thank you for---the idea---I call you---as I call my children---waking---mine---  
and tell them stories---of the origin of stories---each time shorter---and more serious---and  
every page---turned over---before you have time to read it---

To die---to dye---to dieie---the bread rises---while we extend our walk up the hill---down  
the other side---I made a fiction---out of my tongue---and out of my body--- a hole to be  
measured---for its potential for echoing---rapture upon rapture---made reasonable---in  
sets of ten or less---distributed equally around the country---pages of Bach---but what  
went in did not go out---I drew the melody in G---a half step up---out of my range---and  
another---a complete taxonomy---in which lessons are no help---feelings are no help---  
words are no help---depending on their length and width and breadth---bonetime---  
ragtime---I can hear it---can you hear it---

Work in this chapbook was published in different form in *The Modern Review* and *Sorry 4 Snake*.