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Helen sees the September breezes bend the elm trees
(the perches where the egrets, then the grebes, perch
themselves); there, the petrels, then the tercel, nest.
Helen lets the geese peck seedlet kernels (except when
ferrets pester the mews). The kestrels screech. The
wrens peep: *tweet, tweet*. The terns keen: *cheep, cheep*.
The peewee peetweets tweedle: *tweedledee, tweedledec*.
The creeks wend between beech trees, then end where
freshets feed the meres (there, the speckled perch teem;
there, the freckled newts rest). The leverets, then the
shrews, chew the nettles. The dew bedews the ferns.

CHAPTER I

for Dick Higgins

Writing is inhibiting. Sighing, I sit, scribbling in ink
this pidgin script. I sing with nihilistic witticism,
disciplining signs with trifling gimmicks – impish
hijinks which highlight stick sigils. Isn't it glib?
Isn't it chic? I fit childish insights within rigid limits,
writing shtick which might instill priggish misgiv-
ings in critics blind with hindsight. I dismiss nit-
picking criticism which flirts with philistinism. I
bitch; I kibitz – griping whilst criticizing dimwits,
sniping whilst indicting nitwits, dismissing simplis-
tic thinking, in which philippic wit is still illicit.

CHAPTER O

for Yoko Ono

Loops on bold fonts now form lots of words for books. Books form cocoons of comfort – tombs to hold bookworms. Profs from Oxford show frosh who do post-docs how to gloss works of Wordsworth. Dons who work for proctors or provosts do not fob off school to work on crosswords, nor do dons go off to dorm rooms to loll on cots. Dons go crosstown to look for bookshops known to stock lots of top-notch goods: cookbooks, workbooks – room on room of how-to books for jocks (how to jog, how to box), books on pro sports: golf or polo. Old colophons on schoolbooks from schoolrooms sport two sorts of logo: oblong whorls, rococo scrolls – both on worn morocco.

Duluth dump trucks lurch, pull U-turns. Such trucks dump much undug turf: *clunk, clunk – thud*. Scum plus crud plugs up ducts; thus Ubu must flush such sulcus ruts. Sump pumps pump: *chuff, chuff*. Such pumps suck up mush plus muck – dung lumps (plus clumps), turd hunks (plus chunks): grugru grubs plus fungus slugs mulch up humus pulp. Ubu unplugs flux. Ubu scrubs up curbs; thus Ubu must brush up sulfur dust plus lugnut rust: *scuff, scuff*. Ubu burns unburnt mundungus. Ubu lugs stuff; Ubu tugs stuff. Ubu puts up fulcrums. Ubu puts up mud huts, but mugwumps shun such glum suburb slums: *tut, tut*.

THE ARK

GET DOS AHI

DOS KOI

DOS EEL

DOS COW AND CUB

BEE AND BOA

YAK AND LEO

DOE AND DOG

DOS APE ANT ASP AUK

DOS BAT RAT CAT CUR AND MOG

EWE AND GNU

GAD FLY AND MAY FLY

RAM NAG AND PET PIG

FAT HOG PUG AND PUP

THE LAM KID AND THE FOX KIT

THE ELK ROC AND YAK

THE SEA SOW AND TAU RUS

(ARF BAA BAY BZZ COO GRR

KAW MEW MOO YIP WAG PAW)

AND GET

ONE NOA

AND HIS EMS ARA

ONE HAM

AND NEL ATA MUK

ONE SHM

AND HIS BAE

ONE JAP ETH

AND ADA TAN ESE

ALL THE DNA AND RNA

GET THE HAY

FOR THE POO PIT

GET THE AFT WET

DRY THE BOW OAR

ROW THE PEN

YAY! SEE THE TOR?

ARA RAT.

NASSER HUSSAIN