

**Metropolis 1-15 (parts) [1991-1997]**

**Robert Fitterman**

## 2

wal  
led elm  
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vy mere  
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re rail  
ing car

damom bul  
k butch  
er tucks  
in cream  
sweat  
er ora

nge an

d gre

en sea

food sig

n garden

soot

### 3

*n memoriam*

for Stefan, 1955-1993

*have*

Mired  
the lack cloak of  
marrow im-  
mobile rewards guarded  
ride home lingers  
had been recoils another  
lures.

Endure riches ex  
delirium's version  
less  
turns no stone  
in smells chemical  
miracle in absence's  
buried in  
also summary.

Rural dreams lapse  
bell of a truck  
passes crowded  
unattainables.  
The mist in  
attend  
precision shelved more  
room wars none  
made round gone or  
ruled out.

The marker  
plane  
bulb of  
removal.  
Will prelude  
undone a hand  
when must  
knew plural  
tune piped in the run to  
singular.

*maybe ten years*

Sanctuary's closet  
salt and cut  
wound downtime  
acidic & supple  
circle of steel  
shins ousted symbol of.  
Estimated  
a by-then reasoning  
travels in the scale.

A jacket  
missing change  
season's  
confidante.  
Union to ex-  
cluding range  
of conformities un-  
solvable fixtures.

Makers of life-  
time friends in  
surrect the libel  
era scorned (is)  
hushed tempo.  
Helmet  
of self the bedside  
of knowing and having  
done.

*when we get home*

Darkness Falls All Right.  
Indiscriminate Ledge  
That waking dealt. With  
The weight of Lay arms  
A thus stranger. Aperture  
At wherewithal.  
Hunger, insight.  
Disbelief at a noun.  
A card demanded.

The open-mouthed  
Lungs Full in Heresy's  
fantasy Utterance at a.  
Runway of.

Unthinkable sense to stay  
In

*those* people. A thorough.  
After traffic when we  
Daunting nod of recognize  
A face from paper. Written  
Off Somewhere is  
Not anywhere. Turns well  
Or wretched in the hands of.



# 4

*for rod smith*

a may

vague &

various

to

be

left

a red

pear

compost

tray

of

disbelief

let's

rambles

from here

shimmy

sequin

of desper-

ado

the hole

gown

clean

to cook

and never

dice

e-versa

expertise

small ice

corset

extension

skyward

defies

stucco

a slow

boat to

Remedy

Hedon

wins

an -ism

backfire

inherited

treasure

a murky

vulnerable

in purples

love

too

hones

murderers

fish

for tins

miracle

of net

profit

remember

Mid-

town

profiterol

platitud-

inal

gale

of blue

tourists

seeing

instinct

at work

beast

of copy

repeat:

asterisk

of

afterlife

seeing

is

deceiving

salty

escape

artist

strict

bliss of

sublease

surprise

in

stirrups

a cherry-

filled

cherub

Chanukah

lights

the Heights

thrice

it's a

song

a deluxe

dial-in

intercom

let's

exception

mascara

and *that*

makes you

special?

giver of

lurid

riches

those two

constant

distractions:

the bowler

sums

it up

bubbles

innocently  
under Earth

Eighth Street  
yields  
singular

two-  
piece  
yellowtail

longish  
for  
winter

soar  
wherenone  
before

air-  
tight  
dresser



dried

pine

days

super-

innuendo

glow

a carousel

programmed

for fear

friends

came

here

and told

me

otherwise

# 8

## SKYLINE IN 8 BUILDINGS: A Libretto

### WOOLWORTH BUILDING:

At  
dawn (circa, peppermint)

pie  
in the pre-

### WORLD TRADE CENTER:

imagine	your
self a	twin late
at night	whistled
down by	the janitor
or maitre'	de
lights on	a last
second	transaction
passe	staircase
of a science	& tech
nology museum	the plaza swells

### WOOLWORTH:

automated server  
ornamental commerce

Opie, as emperor,

### CHRYSLER BUILDING:

electric	
cloud club	
revolving	
	motorcar display

### WORLD:

another stem	plucked from
the cherry	tomato metal
bowl of ice	butter cubes
you a bus boy	dreams a small
ferris wheel a	sad indigenous
tree scratches	floor one

EMPIRE STATE BUILDING:

a skinny  
before-mass  
martini  
olive cufflink  
beside a blue-  
print snapshot  
premonition  
the heart  
of parables,  
engines,  
snowflakes,  
a center  
versus  
where you  
are drawn  
the utopia

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL BUILDING/a.k.a.CITIES SERVICE  
BUILDING:

Ask not, etc.

but what  
your country  
did to you.

Seen only  
from somewhere

else a shanghai  
miniature

RCA BUILDING/ROCKEFELLER CENTER:

64 diving  
rockettes  
descending  
On ice  
Sinatra's  
descending  
64 rockettes  
on ice

WORLD:

the House Salad  
makes itself  
jumps into

practically  
iceberg lettuce  
the chilled

bowls as the  
gets down  
by the raw

trumpet player  
on a solo  
bar

WOOLWORTH:

white chocolate  
gargoyles

spirals aplenty . . .

WORLD:

in a gusty

wind

WOOLWORTH:

Let's slide up  
to the tower  
and have a look

at my clean ledger

CHRYSLER:

saturation accommodate

WORLD:

helicopter  
landing on  
deck to an over  
of applause  
escorted to

makes a moonlight  
the observation  
zealous round  
a tux is  
its table

RCA:

on ice  
Rivera's  
mural's

descending  
rockettes  
likeness

to Lenin's  
64 diving  
rockettes

Sinatra's

CHRYSLER:

les great metal  
gleam of wheels  
blueprint splendors  
miseries manages  
hanging tea  
planets arcade

discs radiator caps  
renown botanist  
& miseries & auto-  
congestion plants  
gardens ardent

FLATIRON:

Open up  
your heart  
and see it  
the other way.

What makes  
a hat felt?

EMPIRE:

wrong  
looking down  
spandrels  
makes us more  
nervous a game  
plan ascends

FLATIRON:

Buster  
Keaton  
on a swing

draped slabs  
a loopy attitude

to flitch plates

EMPIRE:

fire  
always on  
the mind

METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE BUILDING:

it's a cakewalk  
then a crown in  
u.s. dollars trans-  
lates impatience

EMPIRE:

Let f=  
a world  
of savings  
1/3 frontload  
increases

METROPOLITAN LIFE:

trip discordant--you bet

AMERICAN:

in the lobby  
torches a busby  
turned fez

ancient capital  
amid box tops  
the freakish  
final stage

cut-ins, parking  
the dead and  
live load  
legacies

EMPIRE:

sudden openings  
halo of school  
zoning lightning  
safety bribes  
solicited a less  
modern wind  
bracing system

FLATIRON:

despite  
additional  
clauses and

buckling concerns

a catalan thin  
shell sidewalk  
vault resembles  
a less modern  
variation  
of the multiplex

RCA:

Lenin  
descending  
rockettes  
Rivera's  
64 diving  
Sinatra

on ice

AMERICAN:

invigilates  
the web lung,

FLATIRON:

back-calculated  
vertical loads

toy store  
reel-to-reel

WORLD:

alone on  
crossing Jersey

the turnpike  
a couple . . .

FLATIRON:

not when the Q-  
deck showcases  
beyond a whirling  
expectorate

EMPIRE:

sunbeams  
miscellaneous  
detailing meant

for offices

WORLD:

. . . of waste  
the top floor  
swings like

dumps while  
fruit baskets  
a private jet

CHRYSLER:

a void and

charcoal



# 9

Aside from its said  
coverage hem reporter's  
dream fel thy folde  
Maryland Lab'rer's  
hands spinning like birds  
wil cured publicity  
wring from a wild mid-  
westerner, midweek forgotten  
in words I cannot utter...  
Getting back to germs  
mazeful hed, realm, isle  
less this Southern man  
o weep! downside envy with  
hevi herte, acid-tongued,  
assembled, brimming o'er  
greveth me ful sore rare--  
very rare, stolen rum and  
lash a small churchyard in  
every cry imprisoned soared  
dapper traded a shade  
sinners having high time,  
Hillcrest sulde his enmys  
a choice barbecued pork.

Ye saw that which no eyes can  
see: a fade, Medea, a didactic  
duet maligned ambiance that  
verdant crest the inns aglow  
a wayward and unwanted Shine--  
a toxic goo lookt deadly (dull amid  
chumps, lab cost, CIA cata-  
bove all in the Marriott, monitors  
promise of my Mediterranean  
Catholic calling thy Navy  
small when their pensions  
are stopt that way they could  
escape, sip ouzo, been won...  
Grace becomes gyd and governour  
over a dreadful season of mists!  
to keip the gouse in sicker stait  
the city quiet: helicopters, rocket  
attacks, worshipers, you angel with  
your intuitions the first gentle  
uphill slope rising arabesque  
bombing amethyst control towers  
all estatis when silence is so  
windowful disarranged Avon sympathy  
pains saw even worse made non abode  
core market his scents in a dense

grove ye jovial convoy subsidiary  
fully clothed from shore to shore.

Carla's brown eyes flutter open--  
dirk appearance of astronomie  
Spring has officially ended  
in a twist part salesmanship  
part one consuming flame mazes  
overgone evoking memories of nancy  
tj frowns at a beady-eyed pink  
bunny... these mooks think the way  
to my heart is through plush toys  
the benison of heaven... I toweled  
off turned over and fell asleep  
in the Roosevelt Room warm fuzzies  
any frenzy as rayon to fools among  
the tendir odouris reid and quhyt  
a distant magpie shells left wes  
and gladness gentleness guns the gun  
I cannot tell you the feeling of  
national pride stagecoach.

Tumbling chapelle an underwriter  
the whole dell mission sunk  
the lobsterfest a cathartic  
lay-away amaze my mind with  
doubt a guide in late August  
barreling past farm stands  
speed-blurred melons as I haf  
herde telle, wasn't it mobbed?  
the lowest trees have tops whose  
num'rous cannot devour the pow'rful  
rul'd and twice echoes of calvary  
pledge falters on remote hid  
malyce rigor idola of years...  
Well, it was late in the Woody  
Saloon euphemistic U-5 forms  
our anxious debts re-known  
poison in herber weather and dreams  
it belongs bets the farm, learn'd  
nought more luscious sacred 'neath  
an underdog guru worried already as  
the eve comes slippin' up the valley.

Scans in every direction  
so you don't have to...  
what father brought back

a Japanese type-26 revolver  
seer, baker, self-described  
happy homemaker p.s. the feds  
fed the brain-sick shepherd  
prince has new sorrows circles  
of proof the dollar sign-if-I-were  
a sum 'tis a pest n' tenderest...  
dabble your toes in the mirror-  
bright water...it 'gan to rain  
delayed foods, army brothels,  
skilled horsemen, a private remorse,  
thow free of all things ugly:  
this is the piece should lethal  
violence apology settled with  
bright things in my arms we're  
all just like you: huge dens.

*tube of truth...*  
*stranger to my base*

Big ocean, an act, a foot-  
ball field, Alaska, the  
bottom of the sea, near  
twins dissolved. Questioning  
the oui the crystalline ball-  
room styled, parted, supped  
on all but Luther's beer  
scorecard from her arched  
brow--the, elements, parlayed,...  
separating honey from wax  
the loyalists just after  
the barbershop, chutney, a pricey  
mood quartet that purplish cave  
lined in supply remedies aimed  
at a tiny class of doddering  
house flies the worm taught the lesson  
on how the bar corrected him: real  
tears for mimic miseries.

Did wiser nature turn  
on the rinser's dilemma  
a womb thy urn lay trampled on  
admire then, after, banker,  
that T-bar blue that Superfund  
assume me dead, said his client,  
lovingly holding back, not a hoss  
is feelin' sporty... this new match  
can't be a happy one, call in  
the last cool gleam of elitist

speaking, rifles, all the breathing  
collapsed by some sheety lake...  
in a world that values only what  
is young and green the sigh that  
reason flows...I felt...materialized  
a hometown bad omen a senior  
at a large midwestern talisman  
this nature once wrong('d)...  
a sorry story crew goes off about  
identity and smothering and having  
never lived (where churches grow

*lost between channels . . .*

More troubling are stems  
to restore emblematic dove-  
tails, localities saddened  
all thy green with a capital  
billboard parading round  
a basketball player who could  
symbolize... let me begin with  
a confession, faint, panting for  
a better life less airy, embroidery,  
the simple grass an acceptance  
of sensory overload flutter of  
goodwill the golden streets were  
wide and straight... I've a sort  
of dim and hazy remembrance:  
large factory towns, a paperback  
on the center, so many people  
have turned away to fulfill  
unmeaning gloom... not to roam,  
to nourish woe, disrepair--  
begin with a fake issue:  
birthright, local reluctance  
to lump the largest bud a bitter  
taste, sweet smiling village...

CODA:

For openers,  
tiny auto, festive  
square dance, drag  
me away from that  
Victrola sure you  
have ambitions, Zin-  
findel, a thin Weehawken

cutting away the county,  
sift the evidence, this  
fundamentally wrong  
approaches his best  
bay inhabitant fake  
what you don't steal  
sudden evacuation spill-  
ways little studied world  
change, maybe, but what  
are you like to work with?  
Dear exile to the northern  
zone the canon's opening  
roar treasure gnaws  
how ungenerous this  
lang servys another  
depot on a billow they  
both obey what gladness  
so stirs ancient crags  
who can translate thy  
spirit (not a question)  
to romp the impeded boat  
where rowers where reapers  
reapering early a really great  
season of normal needs  
wasn't wuth ha'f a dime...

*THE STATE OF THINGS CALLED RECENT*

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In the world, which has thus been formed,  
the key to stoicism is *fate*. The general  
character of the lines, the position of  
curves in the neighbourhood, in a world  
where everything is in a state of becoming.  
Those on the pendulum--though expressed in  
obscure and mystical language. One grass-  
hopper jumped on another grasshopper's back.  
The value of nerve (*verve*). The plurality  
of worlds.

***The  
Mission  
Of Art***

Angle--the three orders of preference.  
And Reversion ever dragging Evolution in  
the mud. Parabola and hyperbole--the 5  
reasons for drinking: Love of outdoor life;  
A mechanical bent; Joy in work; Opportunity  
for growth and service; Ideal home life;  
Wholesome moral surroundings.

***Doctrine  
Of  
Limits***

There are certain birds which show a  
preference for the society. Both these  
fundamental lines contain several errors  
of allocations. Device for eliciting these  
numbers. Peacocks are peacocks everywhere.  
Among others, in his native place. The spirit  
of art lifts the artisan from the plane of  
an animal labouring. *Moral Sunshine*.

***New  
Attempts  
at  
Synthesis***

- b. Mental  
Manual
- c. Settled  
Roving
- d. Indoor  
Outdoor
- e. Small Scope  
Large Scope
- f. Adaptable  
Self-Centered
- g. Deliberate  
Impulsive
- h. Music Sense
- I. Concentration  
Diffusion
- j. Rapid Mental Coordination  
Slow Mental Coordination

***The  
Meaning  
of it  
All***

- 32. If you could attend a world's fair what would you especially want to see?
- 39. What books have you read that you were not required to read?

# 11

## Do You Know What The Key Is To Telling A Good Joke Timing

did you hear

the one about

the guy who

one night saw

everyone he ever

knew at

a bar after

the movies on

Spring Street

around

11:30 ?



Living Under The Letter **F**

F is the fan whence I  
peeped so demurely

To Flora:

to faun 's  
to flaunt

don't  
torment

me--forty  
readers agree--

with your  
letters.

Fame says:  
any knees'll

suffice.

foregone

e.(f) g.

for of

or on

one

re: forgo

on gone

e.g. for one

gone

Life  
long

fishcakes

the fiiirstt testt  
le majj(yy)oorr est inn

secondd timme  
finessee makes iissllland ssense

ffifth is  
the forresst mmine iss annnon

how dee  
an onniion an gooose shaped amulet(inna)

F is for the many ways:

everything in this house was  
probably invented  
by Franklin

financial family matters figure  
in mars fiery a flaw  
in the ointment

Is that a jellyfish under your  
frock or are you just  
flappy to see me?

Phoenician  
trick  
futhorc

the first,  
*frank's*  
*casket*

facts  
simile  
fylfot

fraught  
symbol  
for fumble

back  
alphabet  
palette

of final  
departure  
thongs

fff

f

ffff-g

llffffff

fiff

(ff ee

f) ffggg f f f

fff

tunnel awry  
r re verse  
chrome dry

can goals  
blurb back  
millicent may

let's entangle  
estuary in  
excess clocked

in missing  
a room an abs  
olutely blue truck

. . . dotted along the path of feeble