

# On My Eventual Death

poetry by Rick Lupert



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## **Ain't Got No Press**

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Design, and Layout ~ Rick Lupert

Front Cover Photo ~ Addie Lupert  
The author just before he burst into flames.

Back cover photo ~ Addie Lupert  
The author in Magritte's back yard imitating a photograph  
of Salvador Dali in Magritte's back yard photo.

The poems from Amsterdam, Brussels, Bruges and Paris are from  
the forthcoming print collection "We Put Things In Our Mouths - The  
Poet's Experience in Amsterdam, Brussels, Bruges and Paris"

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*may your death be forever postponed  
possibly due to a clerical error*

## ***Waking up Early in the City of Tolerance***

I find six or seven AM  
has me upright listening

to the local canal ducks arguing with  
the neighborhood poodle

I can hear the fig tree  
getting taller in the garden

Speaking of taller  
a nice boy from Canada

named after a southern vegetable  
reached up the side of the building

and picked grapes growing  
on the neighbors vine

I wonder if our plants in Van Nuys  
have enough water

Hours go by and soon I'm thinking  
nine AM sounds reasonable

I will get wet from head to toe  
eat a typical Dutch Breakfast

then walk out the door to see  
What this Venice of the North

has to offer

# BRUSSELS

## ***The Pis Family***

Tonight in Brussels  
so hungry we have two dinners  
at same restaurant.

Confuses waitress who asks  
“didn’t you already eat?” we think,  
it was French so could have been anything.

Two meals later we  
drink Belgian beer next door.  
I bump head on giant wheel,

walk away to see family of  
pissing statues  
and their dog.

# BRUGES

## ***The Assult***

Man, could Magritte paint nipples.  
A slaughtered ball.

## ***Musee Des Canards***

They have a museum  
for almost everything here  
but not ducks

The ducks probably  
wouldn't stay on the pedestals  
which would lead to frustration for everyone.

## ***Entrepreneuse***

My wife wants to start a beard cleaning service  
she announces Saturday morning as she picks  
unmentionables out of mine.

*We could set it up right next to your cat service,  
she says, you know, the one in which all the cats  
in the world come to you, so you could pet them?*

Before I can respond she says  
It probably wouldn't work as she wouldn't want  
to touch anyone else's beard.

### ***It's All Relative***

I see the Baby Einstein  
series of books on  
our son's bookshelf  
and I can't wait until  
he develops the first  
baby nuclear bomb

### ***The First Frontier***

Jude explores everything with his mouth  
I march a baby-safe monkey towards his face  
and he is open wide, tongue out, ready to receive it.  
Tastes like monkey his crinkled brow tells me.  
Later I see him sucking on a giraffe's foot.  
This is the second poem I remember  
ending with the word foot.

## ***Baby Snot***

Because Jude is new to all things  
when he gets a cold, we have to use  
a special baby siphon, to suck the phlegm  
out of his nose.

Oh things I never knew existed

I wish he could just blow Addie says  
and the conversation ends right there.

## ***Back Pain***

I wake up to back and neck that hurt  
Addie says Maybe you slept wrong?

All the things I've screwed up in life  
and now I can't even sleep right

Probably tomorrow I'll wake up dead  
because I forgot how to breathe.

## ***On My Eventual Death***

I

Scientists say  
our sun will burn out  
in three billion years;

all life on earth  
that ever was,  
gone.

With this in mind  
it is my policy to not make  
long term plans or

worry too much  
about my  
legacy.

//

I read about a couple  
that had their beloved dog  
cloned.

Addie asks if I want to clone  
my beloved Tigger. I tell her  
yes;

because she would love him  
as a kitten and so he could  
be with us forever.

I tell her it costs  
one hundred eighty thousand  
dollars

and she screams  
and doesn't listen to another word  
I say.

I tell her I heard the price is  
going down, but she doesn't hear me.  
She is still screaming.

III

Knowing my family's history  
of heart failure, I ask Addie

*If I die young, and you remarry,  
which I would understand, would you  
agree to be buried next to me.*

*I hope you have a happy life with the new guy;  
but I couldn't imagine spending eternity  
under the ground without you.*

Addie is, of course, horrified  
but she agrees  
which comforts me.

IV

Jude, my son  
holds his fist in the air  
like fight the power

as the milk goes into his mouth

Ah Jude, my son,  
my little Black Panther  
you will outlive us all.

## about the author

Rick Lupert has been involved in the Los Angeles poetry community since 1990. He served for two years as a co-director of the Valley Contemporary Poets, a twenty-five year old non-profit organization which produces readings and publications out of the San Fernando Valley. His poetry has appeared in numerous magazines and literary journals, including *The Los Angeles Times*, *Chiron Review*, *Stirring*, *PoeticDiversity.org*, *Zuzu's Petals*, *Caffeine Magazine*, *Blue Satellite*



and others. He recently edited *A Poet's Haggadah: Passover through the Eyes of Poets* anthology and is the author of 11 books: *Paris: It's The Cheese*, *I Am My Own Orange County*, *Mowing Fargo*, *I'm a Jew. Are You?*, *Stolen Mummies*, *I'd Like to Bake Your Goods*, *A Man With No Teeth Serves Us Breakfast*, (*Ain't Got No Press*), *Lizard King of the Laundromat*, *Brendan Constantine is My Kind of Town* (Inevitable Press), *Feeding Holy Cats* and *Up Liberty's Skirt* (Cassowary Press). He has hosted the long running Cobalt Café reading series in Canoga Park since 1994 and is regularly featured at venues throughout Southern California.

The author's first e-book is *To Hell With Rick Lupert* (Ain't Got No Press, May, 2006) His second e-book is *The Rick Lupert Fun Club* (Ain't Got No Press, May, 2007) Both are available for free download at Poetry-SuperHighway.com

Rick created and maintains the Poetry Super Highway, a major internet resource for poets. (<http://PoetrySuperHighway.com/>)

Currently Rick works as the music teacher and graphic and web designer for Temple Ahavat Shalom in Northridge, CA and for anyone who would like to help pay his mortgage.

He lives in Van Nuys, California with his wife Addie and son Jude.

## rick's other books



### **A Man With No Teeth Serves Us Breakfast**

Ain't Got No Press  
May, 2007

### **I'd Like to Bake Your Goods**

Ain't Got No Press  
January, 2006

### **STOLEN MUMMIES**

Ain't Got No Press  
February, 2003

### **BRENDAN CONSTANTINE IS MY KIND OF TOWN**

Inevitable Press  
September, 2001

### **up liberty's skirt**

Cassowary Press  
March, 2001

### **FEEDING HOLY CATS**

Cassowary Press  
May, 2000

### **I'm a Jew, Are You?**

Cassowary Press  
May, 2000

### **MOWING FARGO**

Sacred Beverage Press  
December, 1998

### **Lizard King of the Laundromat**

The Inevitable Press  
February, 1998

### **I Am My Own Orange County**

Ain't Got No Press  
May, 1997

### **Paris: It's The Cheese**

Ain't Got No Press  
May, 1996

For more information: <http://PoetrySuperHighway.com/>

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