

HERE

Here we find ourselves,
here with the dew.
Breaking rose petals:
here the sun rises.
Here it begins.

Here I am ignited.
Here words fall apart
and the senses go dim.
But here I see
and here I know.
The light within me grows
But the way it does not show.

Here is now and you.
Here is my image,
a negative exposed in your eyes.
Here is meeting your gaze
And knowing you.

Here is connected.
Here is all we can see.
Here is life and warmth.
Here calm may be found
and doubt has no place.
Here we are all neighbors
with castle wall between us.

Here is simple.
Here asks for nothing.
Here demands your attention.
Here sees who you are.
Here, you are whole.

Here comes the outside
from down the road.
Here the veil falls.
Here there was quiet.
There here goes.

HENRY BLAKE MORTENSEN

Henry Mortensen (born in Los Angeles, 28 January 1988) has been creating stories his whole life, and occasionally writing them down. He has pursued poetry in earnest and has been actively involved in the L.A. poetry scene since 2006. He also writes songs, short plays, and, most recently, short prose stories. He has a chapbook entitled *初め/Beginning* and a demo CD entitled *STAND LOUD*, both available at Beyond Baroque. He is also featured in the live poetry CD, *3 Fools 4 April*, available from Perceval Press (percevalpress.com), and at Beyond Baroque, and in the book and CD *The Spoken Word Revolution Redux* from Sourcebooks (sourcebooks.com). Henry graduated from Columbia University in New York City in 2010 with a B.A. in Archaeology. While at Columbia, he was a DJ at WBAR, Barnard College Radio and a frequent contributor to Columbia's alternative/satirical monthly newspaper, *The Federalist Paper* (thefed.org), including the recurring advertisements "got meth?". He is the editor of two books of poetry by Scott Wannberg from Perceval Press, *Strange Movie Full of Death* and *Tomorrow Is Another Song*.

