

# ROCK PILES AND CATHEDRALS

Poems by  
Robert H. Deluty



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In  
memory of my mother,  
Elise Deluty

In  
honor of my new granddaughter,  
Claire Elise Bauer



Other books by Robert H. Deluty

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# Rock Piles and Cathedrals



*A rock pile ceases to be a rock pile the moment  
a single man contemplates it, bearing within him  
the image of a cathedral.*

Antoine de Saint-Exupery



on her deathbed  
the old lady whispering  
*Stand up straight*

feeling righteous  
for choosing the cheese croissant  
over the doughnut

a Texas Baptist  
assuming Ben LaVigne  
is Jewish

a Maine Lutheran  
assuming Jack Osherow  
is Irish

midnight . . . a young girl  
begging the spooky shadow  
to leave her room

the vegan tourist  
in Minnesota enters  
the *Spam Museum*

a teen claiming  
his favorite animal  
is pepperoni

*How's school? . . .*  
the first grader replying  
*I hate its guts*

a Catholic boy  
hoping someday to meet  
the Holy Ghost

*Your favorite vice? . . .*  
her husband responding  
*The Craftsman 6-inch*

Reno, mid-summer . . .  
attempting to chill out  
watching *Fargo*

Duluth, mid-winter . . .  
attempting to warm up  
watching *Khartoum*

wondering why  
there's a mammoth rubber duck  
on his *Corvette's* roof

running back  
into the burning building  
for his lucky cap

her spouse wishing  
ATMs dispensed coins  
for candy machines

a rabbi hoping  
the British royal baby  
is named Yitzhak

a rocker hoping  
the British royal baby  
is named Prince

watching *Rambo III*,  
a nine year-old exclaiming  
*Best movie ever!*

the admiral,  
in Annapolis for lunch,  
ordering a sub

the bigot claiming  
he's not anti-Semitic,  
just anti-Jewish

a boy asserting  
his favorite vegetables  
are home fries

a girl noting  
her favorite fruits  
are berry *Skittles*

the teen driver  
doing eighty to get home  
three minutes sooner

exam day . . . a boy  
watching it snow, screaming  
*Stick to the ground!*

inexplicably,  
two vegans christening  
their baby, Hunter

her child describing  
the Louvre's *Venus de Milo*  
as *unarmed*

the policeman's son  
sitting in the squad car  
in handcuffs, weeping

claiming he likes  
the concept, but not the taste,  
of cauliflower

sole passing student  
feeling overwhelmed by  
survivor guilt

post in-law visit . . .  
observing his Mom and Dad  
counting the knives, forks

trying to impress  
his Gentile girlfriend, Ben Weiss  
orders shrimp and grits

trying to impress  
her Jewish boyfriend, Gail Burke  
holds the mayo

a prof writing  
he supports his grad student  
*holeheartedly*

the zookeeper  
getting dizzy observing  
two zebras tussling

*I need roses . . .*  
the old florist questioning  
*How angry is she?*

teaching his nephew  
the fine points of sledding  
down a staircase

Brandon Smith IV  
telling children his last name  
is not *Ivey*

for the thousandth time  
their Mom responding *Don't ask*  
to *How are you?*

Ruth and Jason Lark,  
huge *Sopranos* fans, naming  
their daughter, Meadow

Bill and Pam Susege,  
avid *Mod Squad* fans, naming  
their son, Linc

their sixteen year-old  
stenciling her phone number  
on a new T-shirt

the Bostonian  
describing the Grand Canyon  
as *tedious*

the New Yorker  
noting the Himalayas  
were *disappointing*

Christmas eve . . .  
a would-be thief getting stuck  
in their chimney

a med student  
wondering whether Bill Gates  
adopts adults

wine expert's daughter  
swirling in a small tumbler  
pink lemonade

wine expert's son  
sniffing the glass of *Red Bull*,  
judging it *Robust*

British musicians  
referring to the new prince  
as Boy George

morbidly obese,  
describing herself  
as *curvy*

hearing the grad  
shouting *I'm free!*, a child  
responds *I'm four*

Shirley Temple curls  
cascading down the shoulders  
of the tattooed teen

grad student's kitchen . . .  
a square folding card table,  
two old bean bag chairs

the elder learning  
her granddaughter was named  
Porn Star of the Year

three Bronx Zoo chimps,  
during the tour guide's spiel,  
yawning audibly

the wild-eyed man  
offering his subway seat  
to an old lady

NBA rookie  
giggling uncontrollably  
at his first paycheck

new fifth grade teacher  
moaning softly while staring  
at her first paycheck

D.C. teenager  
suddenly giving birth  
in L'Enfant Plaza

the hearse driver  
for the dead racer getting  
a speeding ticket

her child asking  
whether any creatures lay  
unbreakable eggs

leaving out the  $x$ ,  
a South African mistypes  
*Welterweight Boer*

leaving out the  $x$ ,  
a Star Wars fan mistypes  
*The Sith Sense*

Gramps confusing  
Brzezinski, Lewinsky,  
and Yastrzemski

observing her son  
place a hunk of lasagna  
between two burgers

observing her spouse  
place a thick slice of ham  
between two *Pop-Tarts*

their accountant  
handing out business cards  
for local bars

telling colleagues  
his baby looks prettier  
in photographs

Grandma describing  
her children's lack of caring  
to a *Kohl's* stock boy

Grandpa describing  
his latest genital rash  
to a *Sears* cashier

eight-year-old tyrant  
noting his parents hate  
confrontation

out of milk,  
her son pouring grapefruit juice  
on his cereal

out of milk,  
her spouse putting cream cheese  
in his coffee

after the bombing,  
the legless man on morphine  
noting *I'm good*

New Orleans Jew  
placing three matzo balls  
in her shrimp gumbo

Newark Baptist  
spreading *Velveeta*  
on his beef knish

a young attorney  
advertising on the side  
of a garbage truck

Detroit fisherman  
catching a high-top sneaker  
with a foot inside

the bodybuilder  
refusing to wear a shirt  
if it's not skintight

*Describe your wife . . .*  
her husband responding  
*The usual*

Christmas morning . . .  
a child loving most the gift  
of an hourglass

a poor woman  
telling her five children  
to take smaller bites

on his birthday  
the historian receiving  
a Nixon-shaped spud

the bantamweight  
naming his boxer puppies  
Tyson and Dempsey

ex-POW  
fighting back tears watching  
*The Great Escape*

ex-POW  
fighting back rage watching  
*Hogan's Heroes*

a young girl staring  
at her father as he lies  
about his job

a young boy glaring  
at his mother as she lies  
about her health

at *Walgreens*  
Uncle Zeb curses seeing  
an eyebrow waxing

rainy afternoon . . .  
a child attempting to teach  
an old cat to fetch

on Yom Kippur  
Irv Schwartz confessing to God  
*I'm not your best work*

*Ford* dealership . . .

the obese man requesting

a muscle car

*Chevy* dealership . . .

the old woman requesting

*Something sexy*

a toddler

at his Aunt Ginger's wedding

in top hat and tails

the colonel

insisting his child's fiancé

grow a mustache

centenarian

on her deathbed, whispering

*So much still to do*

bases loaded . . .  
a minor leaguer attempts  
to steal second

an eighth grader  
confusing *minstrel*  
with *menstrual*

irked blueblood noting  
two of the world's best golfers  
are Boo and Bubba

his wife  
wearing blush and lipstick  
on the *StairMaster*

her husband  
wearing a jock strap strolling  
on the treadmill

blocked poet hoping  
that the family reunion  
ignites some sparks

a Baton Rouge priest  
pacing the floor fretfully . . .  
Saints' preseason game

deceased man's home . . .  
his stepsons discovering  
six thousand stirrers

holding the cracked vase,  
their twelve year-old admitting  
*Mistakes were made*

Auschwitz survivor  
beaming while rocking to sleep  
her great-great-grandson

Pro-Am golf tourney . . .  
Webb Simpson hoping to pair  
with Mitt Romney

tanned, toned couple  
staring at their stout teen  
in a bikini

asking the hooker  
whether she will accept  
city bus tokens

still reeling  
from his wife's sepsis, learning  
their teen is pregnant

*Go sit by the dog . . .*  
their two year-old assuming  
*by means on*

baseball purist  
hurling her McGwire jersey  
into the dumpster

baseball purist  
placing his Bonds-signed bat  
atop the firewood

red cap and whiskers  
on the six-pack of soda:  
*Fanta Claus*

high hat and beard  
on the red, white, and blue tuber:  
*Uncle Yam*

an orphan girl  
cuddling next to the mother  
she chalked on the street

with aged Mom, Dad  
living with her, relearning  
how to parent brats

a law professor  
deeming perfectionism  
his great rescuer

a law student  
deeming perfectionism  
her worst tormentor

in a hospice bed,  
uttering with his last breath  
*Yankees suck*

the palsied boy  
noting he was named Fred  
after Astaire

## One Morning in Academe

The sophomore and  
His anxious, litigious parents  
Are informed by  
The judicial review board that  
The *abandoned* laptop computer  
He *discovered* in the library and  
Then gave to his girlfriend was,  
According to a surveillance camera,  
Lost less than twenty seconds  
Before he found it



*You must learn to heed your senses. Humans use but a tiny percentage of theirs, They barely look, they rarely listen, they never smell, and they think that they can only experience feelings through their skin. But they talk, oh, do they talk.*

Michael Scott

*Lose your mind and come to your senses.*

Frederick Perls



bringing her toddler  
to work . . . six profs singing  
*The wheels on the bus . . .*

buying tight pumps  
so as not to aggravate  
the shoe salesman

South Bronx alley . . .  
two rats scurrying under  
the *Enquirer*

his wife battling  
postpartum depression  
after their pup's birth

Jewish wedding . . .  
a Lutheran exclaiming  
*Molotov!*

intending to write

*My long-standing friend,*

leaving out the *r*

intending to write

*Four fluffy, black rabbits,*

leaving out the *t*

intending to write

*Most deadly organisms,*

leaving out the *ni*

a little girl

asking the pet shop owner

what snakes dream of

a little boy

asking the pet shop owner

for his fiercest mouse

## Low Finance

The elder

Enlightening

His ten-year-old

Great-grandson

That a six-figure salary

Most certainly

Does **not** include

The two figures

To the right of

The decimal point

late June . . . the poor Mom  
of three school-aged sons longing  
for free lunches

*Godfather* fan Katz  
opting to name his firstborn  
Santino

*Godfather* fan Katz  
choosing against naming  
his second, Fredo

pondering  
how to treat her psychotic,  
euphoric patient

*How are your kids?* . . .  
Uncle Norman answering  
*Below average*

depressed patient  
claiming *Jersey Shore* beats  
*Prozac* by a mile

the judge contorting  
through a nightmare of a world  
ruled by crack addicts

the scholar squirming  
through a nightmare of a world  
led by faith healers

the soldier struggling  
through a nightmare of a world  
governed by Quakers

the vet writhing  
through a nightmare of a world  
run by Chihuahuas

post-wedding . . .  
the bride's father regretting  
his toast's dirty jokes

post-wedding . . .  
the groom's mother ruing  
her toast's in-law barbs

at the mall, telling  
her screaming child she'll belt him  
in the minivan

gold-medal swimmer  
confiding she's terrified  
of waterfalls

Great-Gramps' face  
suggesting to strangers  
an old saddle

## Begorra

Every year

On the seventeenth of March

Isaac Zsigmond Oberlander,

An elderly Jew born and

Raised in Hungary,

Dresses in green,

Adopts a brogue, and

Signs his last name with

An apostrophe and

A capital *B*

Aunt Syl apprising  
her nieces why she fears  
left-handers

Aunt Suz informing  
her nephews why she loathes  
vegetarians

thrilled scientists  
tracing Norway's freakish waves  
to Japan's earthquake

*Why'd you shoot him? . . .*  
two Georgia teens replying  
*We was bored*

3:00 a.m. . . .  
completing the homework  
of the class bully

during his act  
the young sword swallower  
starting to hiccup

Rockville twins painting  
their houses 'Skins burgundy,  
Ravens purple

buying at auction  
a molar of John Lennon,  
hoping to clone him

two scholars  
fighting over the merits  
of *Twix* vs. *Mounds*

seventh grade teacher  
asking her students to rhyme  
*wolf, else, bulb, film, gulf*

on the boss' desk  
seeing two baby photos  
of himself

their son inquiring  
how long Methuselah  
was a child

her boyfriend's home . . .  
spotting Tolstoy novels stacked  
in the bathtub

comedy writers  
christening their newborn  
Stefunny

the old prof grading  
his student's essay exam  
*A scorching hot mess*

the homeless addict  
recalling beauty pageants  
she won as a child

a Sphinx cat  
hissing at the Rottweiler  
tattooed on Dad's arm

post-stroke,  
Aunt Maureen calling herself  
*Super Slo-Mo*

a thirty year-old  
ditching all pix of herself  
pre contact lenses

vice admiral,  
now retired, refusing  
to wear shoes

after ten months  
coming up with a title  
for her first book

after nineteen years  
finishing Chapter One  
of her first book

*Nature's perfect food? . . .*  
the renowned nutritionist  
replying *Snickers*

post pep talk . . .  
the fullback telling the coach  
his speech was deranged

Great-Grandma claiming  
she would have ruled the world  
if she'd had big boobs

her Turkish uncle  
regarding instant coffee  
as laughable

his Cajun aunt  
regarding instant grits  
as sacrilege

a wine merchant  
calling disgruntled buyers  
*the gripevine*

tanning salon . . .  
his wife noting she prefers  
*crispy to pasty*

the hangman whispers  
*Bless you* to the condemned man  
who sneezed

terrifying Dad  
by putting a fake horse head  
under the covers

terrifying Mom  
by placing a fake shark fin  
in the toilet

their youngest grandson  
stating *My name is Neville,*  
*it rhymes with devil*

five days pre-wedding . . .  
learning that her fiancé  
hates Sikhs, Quakers

the celeb wishing  
she did not have the title  
*Most Airbrushed Star*

the interviewee  
confusing good eye contact  
with glaring

clarifying why  
they've not canned the inept temp:  
*His jokes are killer*

ninth-grade dropout  
adds Brown to his collection  
of Ivy League tees

a Bible student  
assuming Glocca Morra  
burned with Sodom

death certificate . . .  
the old coroner wanting  
to write *Broken heart*

expressing concern  
his child wants to attend  
*Sid's School of Judo*

expressing concern  
her teen wants to enroll in  
*Fast Fred's Drivers Ed*

obsessive woman  
hugging, kissing her young son  
for being tidy

a smoker naming  
each cig in his pack after  
a type of cancer

Rose Weisman aglow  
hearing the Chinese waitress  
say *Shanah Tovah*

seeing nothing wrong  
with one man, one apartment,  
seven Great Danes

in Minnesota  
spotting a vending machine  
selling live bait

in Minnesota  
approaching the state fair stand,  
*Big Fat Bacon*

in Minnesota  
reading about teens stealing  
frozen gopher feet

Sister Agnes  
admitting she was born  
Dixie LaRue

*Superman* quiz . . .  
a contestant confusing  
*Jor-El* and *Purell*

Finnish extrovert  
staring at strangers' shoes  
rather than his own

deeply regretting  
defending her thesis on  
Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

realizing in Butte  
her turn signal has been on  
since Spokane

the grandchildren  
of the sad old man noting  
his cheeks are salty

looking at the hair  
on the man's back, wondering  
*Bear or gorilla?*

Bel Air Jews learning  
their Israeli uncles, aunts  
are buying gas masks

career counselor  
questioning his young colleague  
*Crush some dreams today?*

the pacifist  
feeling ill-at-ease dating  
a man named Goering

still patronizing  
the diner with awful food . . .  
kind, old waitresses

backyard football game . . .  
their five-year-old grandson  
dressed as Spiderman

three profs debating  
which first name is most macho:  
Brock, Spike, Vlad or Rip

three teens agreeing  
the most badass moniker  
is Axl Jett Steele

waiting for his wife  
to give birth before asking  
for a divorce

office manager  
chiding the new employee:  
*You're too polite*

ruing watching  
the stark anti-smoking ad  
over pancakes

her son feeling irked  
his college ID number  
has two letters

eccentric dean  
thinking his colleagues find him  
adorable

creepy professor  
thinking his students find him  
warm and sensitive

asked how he's doing,  
the old teacher responding  
*Bitter . . . and you?*

learning at his wake  
the world-renowned chemist  
taught ballroom dancing

illiterate man,  
now ninety, hoping to read  
Shakespeare in heaven

career criminal,  
now ninety, hoping to meet  
Capone in hell

middle manager  
wishing someone would call him  
*memorable*

in Provo, Utah  
an agnostic Democrat  
biting her tongue

Grandpa  
blaming all his meanness  
on Nam and Grandma

Nurse Gautier begging  
colleagues to nickname her  
anything but *Gout*

their dog sleeping  
on the hardwood floor beside  
her plush new bed

asking the doctor  
whether there's a remedy  
for post-navel drip

first class . . . the prof  
arrives sporting a monocle,  
carrying a whip



*All we have to believe is our senses: the tools we use  
to perceive the world, our sight, our touch, our memory.  
If they lie to us, then nothing can be trusted.*

Neil Gaiman

*And when I gaze at a televised picture of the moon,  
I want to detect, from a distance of 239,000 miles,  
the aroma of fresh mozzarella.*

Tom Robbins



the chef daydreaming  
of pummeling whoever  
invented *Cheez Whiz*

Granddad describing  
the scent of Irish whiskey  
as *my fragrance*

flyweight Rey Cruz  
refusing a title match  
on Rosh Hashanah

six-week-old boy  
attempting to suck  
the old cat's ear

Uncle Nick swearing  
his nickname is short for  
Nickelodeon

in the hospice  
Gramps fretting about heaven:  
*I hate harps*

mid-performance . . .  
the contortionist prompting  
awe and revulsion

high school teacher  
reading a student's e-mail:  
*Whats psychology?*

after twelve years,  
learning his best friend's accent  
is not real

a third grader  
choosing to dot each letter  
except *i*

teaching his sons  
to distrust anyone  
who plays keno

teaching his sons  
to despise anyone  
who plays polo

post-flood . . .  
a Gulf Coast street swarming  
with looters, lizards

early fall . . . spotting  
a dead wasp lying beside  
the *Marlboro* box

for no good reason,  
young Irwin Goldfarb asking  
to be called *Hoss*

in church  
a boy imploring God  
to explain girls

drummer Ed Penny  
introducing his first-born  
Tim

four star restaurant . . .  
Granddad glaring at two teens  
wearing hoodies

four star restaurant . . .  
table of twelve requesting  
separate checks

on the bumper  
of his in-laws' old truck:

*Dole/Kemp '96*

an agnostic  
worrying his beard makes him  
look rabbinic

Great-Gran wondering  
when she was last called  
*pretty*

Great-Gramps pondering  
whether he was ever called  
*charming*

anti-communist  
feeling queasy rooting for  
Cincinnati's Reds

warning students  
not to sleep in his class:  
*I'll steal your stuff*

fearing she'll offend  
her dentist if she requests  
more Novocain

fearing she'll anger  
her doctor if she asks for  
clarification

Dad suggesting  
their inept band be named  
*The Beatless*

mid-vow . . . the priest  
scolding two photographers  
for nearing the bride

French 101 class . . .  
an offended teen learning  
*retard* means *delay*

a child asks her folks,  
Bea and Jay, why they have  
letters, not names

informing Grandpa  
finger-snapping's way cooler  
than clapping

Mom responding  
to Uncle Carl's *May I smoke?*  
with *Are you on fire?*

for his last class  
the old professor bringing  
a pink hula hoop

cursing *Spell Check*  
for not catching, correcting  
*whole groin oats*

querying  
her great nephew what is meant  
by *shovel the funk*

questioning  
his great aunt if you could have  
one *heebie-jeebie*

sacked quarterback,  
lying motionless, missing  
the game-winning catch

punching her husband  
for saying *These are the folks*  
*about whom I care*

the sixty year-old  
ruing showing his grandsons  
how to do cartwheels

Aunt Grace referring  
to her new son-in-law as  
*the malignant dwarf*

mid-visit . . .  
her dentist confiding  
he hates tongues

Richard Merchant  
begging friends to call him  
Rich, not Dick

first minute . . . asking  
his date to lower the pitch  
of her laugh

urging the grandkids  
to avoid folks who call  
their Moms, *Mother*

an *A* student  
wishing her exam's proctor  
would stop snoring

a *D* student  
wishing his exam's proctor  
would keep snoring

Karen Leopold  
feeling peculiar dating  
a man named Loeb

his mother-in-law  
purchasing cashmere sweaters  
for their five month-old

an elder weeps  
touching the neck tattoo  
of her grandson

Mr. Marcellus  
telling pupils it's pronounced

*Merciless*

a three year-old  
stopping Mom and Pop's fight  
by flinging custard

college lecturer  
brooding that his undergrads  
drive much nicer cars

a man on the street  
re-ignites with his *Zippo*  
the Olympic flame

a linguist carping  
that *The Late, Late Show*  
airs in the morning

the gym teacher  
pointing out that a *squat thrust*  
is not obscene

the wrestling coach  
explicating the nature  
of a *high crotch*

a teen spackling  
the kitchen wall holes after  
her Mom's last tantrum

mixed marriage . . .  
a Dad presenting his kids  
Chris and Sean Cohen

mixed marriage . . .  
a Mom presenting her kids  
Zev and Pinchas Hwang

the dying man  
hoping he doesn't come back  
as a mosquito

Psych of Humor class . . .  
seventeen students sitting  
stone-faced, unamused

rollercoaster peak . . .  
wide-eyed daughter giggling,  
closed-eyed Dad praying

Halloween party . . .  
his wife, nine months pregnant,  
dressed as Tinker Bell

Halloween party . . .  
Gramps, pushing a walker,  
dressed as The Flash

a poor Welsh girl  
wanting to buy a binkie  
for the baby prince

handed a squeak toy,  
their toddler and pug puppy  
learning to share

nervous prostitute  
despising her given name,  
Hortense

summer afternoon . . .  
an Irish wolfhound walking  
their three-year-old son

*Capture my good side . . .*  
her photographer feeling  
bewildered, hopeless

pondering why  
their prof said *Good morning*  
at 6:00 p.m.

Harlem street corner . . .  
homeless man begs for money  
from a blind elder

Uncle Leonard  
losing the ten dollar bet  
that it's *Morris Code*

Intro Psych final . . .  
a traumatized student  
dissociating

married six months,  
her husband bragging to friends  
he's had no affairs

at Fenway, his date  
queries whether the home team  
must wear red sox

at Fenway, his date  
inquires if any pitcher  
is a switch-thrower

at Fenway, his date  
questions who make more money:  
catchers or umpires

pompous French vintner  
claiming Napa winemakers  
produce *deadly Zins*

her dachshund,  
his Doberman expressing  
opposing views

Halloween night. . .  
on the couch, Gramps as a spud,  
the grandkids as chips

Aunt Flo insisting  
it's better to be polite  
than accurate

Aunt Gert insisting  
it's better to be feared  
than well-liked

born on V-J Day,  
their Granddad explaining why  
he was named Victor

post-mastectomy . . .  
the tattoo artist turning  
scars into flowers

her Persian cat  
evincing terror watching  
corn pop

paranoid lawyer  
claiming no podiatrist  
can be trusted

their fifteen year-old  
noting his best attributes  
are all dangerous

Uncle Irwin  
loving company as long  
as it's silent

Holocaust Museum . . .  
a nun weeping in the room  
filled with shoes

first day of school . . .  
the new prof asking his wife  
if he owns a tie

pregnant woman  
decking the burly stranger  
patting her belly

Yale biochemist  
bragging to friends he's working  
on the perfect tan

a vegan,  
driving on a country road,  
hitting a skunk

the linguistics prof  
loving that *Elvis, lives*  
are anagrams

the dieter  
feeling virtuous eating  
no-carb pork rinds

her boyfriend's garden . . .  
three toilets and one bathtub  
serving as planters

Joint Chiefs meeting . . .  
Admiral Winnefeld humming  
the *Popeye* theme song

Mom asking the vet  
to rank order dog breeds  
by sense of humor

Dad asking the vet  
to rank order cat breeds  
by self-centeredness

after the crash . . .  
elderly spouses die,  
holding hands

Al and Nancy Hedd,  
marathon runners, naming  
their newborn Miles A.

opting to ignore  
the freshman who addressed him  
as *Hey, Dude!*

their black Lab  
halting the baby's crying  
by chasing its tail

explaining  
to his student it's not  
*egotesticle*

the new patient  
insisting that only  
his analyst talk

her seven month-old  
and pet mastiff slobbering  
on the same toy duck

their son assuming  
there are at least three typos  
in *Geoffrey*

married thirty years,  
still not permitting her  
to borrow his comb

bipolar woman  
introducing her twins  
Joy and Dolores

first date . . .

sporting a mauve sweatshirt

stating *Mr. Right*

discovering

in Great-Granddad's attic

twelve Victrola cranks

their niece responding

to *How's your pet hamster?*

with *Life-altering*

organ donor's Mom

feeling her daughter's heartbeat

in a stranger's chest

the old plumber

pointing out he's the child

in *Morris & Son*



## Author's Note

Dr. Robert H. Deluty is the Associate Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He has been a psychology professor at UMBC since 1980, and was named Presidential Teaching Professor in 2002. He and his wife, Barbara (a clinical psychologist), live in Ellicott City, Maryland and have two children, Laura and David, and two granddaughters, Ava and Claire. Dr. Deluty's poems and essays have been published in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Pegasus Review*, *Modern Haiku*, *Voices: The Art and Science of Psychotherapy*, *Psychiatric Times*, *Jewish Currents*, *the Journal of Poetry Therapy*, *Welcome Home*, *Muse of Fire*, *Maryland Family Magazine*, *Gastronomica: The Journal of Food and Culture*, *The Faculty Voice*, and many other newspapers, journals, and anthologies. *Rock Piles and Cathedrals* is his forty-fourth book.

