

# A SCRATCH ON THE WALL

Poems by

Robert H. Deluty



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To  
*my granddaughter,*  
*Ava*



Other books by Robert H. Deluty

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handing his girlfriend  
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# A Scratch On The Wall



*Really the writer doesn't want success. . . . He knows he has a short span of life, that the day will come when he must pass through the wall of oblivion, and he wants to leave a scratch on that wall . . . that somebody a hundred, or a thousand years later will see.*

William Faulkner



their adopted child,  
nine-months pregnant, thrilled to meet  
a birth relative

the dying elder  
begging her grandchild to stop  
saying *sorta*

a boy wondering  
if the Mexican wrestler  
naps with his mask on

the linguist  
seeking words to describe  
his child's hair color

the new parents  
introducing their triplets  
Zoë, Chloé, Moe

Aunt Clarinda  
hoping her arms' tattoos  
will conceal age spots

their daughter  
preferring *kooky*  
to *wise*

their son  
preferring *memorable*  
to *intelligent*

Yellowstone Park . . .  
three buffalo strolling  
beside her *Beetle*

informing the clerk  
she is both Dr. Birnbaum  
*and* Mrs. Levy

## Crush

The ex-smoker  
Explaining to his sons  
How cigarettes were similar  
To his high school sweetheart:  
*They were thin, smooth,  
Alluring, smelled great,  
Felt at home in my hand,  
Made me look cooler, edgier,  
Gave me a rush, and  
Were destructive as hell*

Miami Heat fan  
praying for Dirk Nowitzki  
to be deported

city of Cleveland  
praying for LeBron James  
to be deported

his new patient  
stating that honesty  
feels unnatural

Mom in the kitchen  
conducting like Bernstein  
with a rolling pin

her son taking pride  
in calming down from *enraged*  
to *furious*

renowned scientist  
requesting to be buried  
holding his reprints

renowned musician  
asking to be cremated  
drumsticks in hand

the frightened man  
wishing he could be bold  
outside his dreams

Kansas boy's bedroom . . .  
a New York subway map  
pasted on the wall

Bronx boy's bedroom . . .  
a sun-drenched cornfield  
pasted on the wall

safe deposit box . . .  
finding the high school yearbooks  
stored by their late Mom

abstaining from booze,  
her patient claims he's feeling  
fit, homicidal

the obese child  
wishing his last name  
were not Bulger

the teen with acne  
wishing her last name  
were not Whitehead

a city boy  
unable to utter *hoe*  
without smirking

fifth grade speller  
noting his hatred of words  
with silent letters

the ex-addict  
feeling guilt for shooting up  
in her dream

Uncle Mel  
claiming his nickname is short  
for Mellifluous

Aunt Fran  
claiming her nickname is short  
for Frankfurter

hunting trip . . . the don  
shooting a Roosevelt elk  
with his handgun

the prisoner  
on death row requesting  
a group hug

Granddad asserting  
mankind's greatest invention  
was deep-dish pizza

after the brawl . . .  
three groomsmen, one bridesmaid  
in the ER

faulty GPS  
leading his *Mercedes*  
into Lake Erie

the old professor  
confusing *there* and *their*,  
fearing dementia

in her nightmare  
the Olympic track star  
running in high heels

in his nightmare  
the Olympic wrestler  
wearing sequins

the old Saudi  
praying that, before she dies,  
women will drive

MIT freshmen  
sharing their recipe  
for *Skittles* vodka

tossing great photos  
of her three-month-old baby:  
*He's not smiling*

after ten years  
still unsure what his in-laws  
want to be called

after twenty years  
still unsure what her husband  
does for a living

Harvard dropout  
delighting in running  
a sno-ball stand

high school principal  
hoping to devote spring break  
to Facebook

their father  
defending prejudice:

*It saves time*

two Knick fans painting  
their bald heads to resemble  
*Spalding* basketballs

in London . . . an owl  
perching atop the statue  
of Christopher Wren

in Baltimore  
a jay avoiding the bust  
of Cal Ripken

telling her grandson  
he's a very handsome boy  
except when he laughs

the defendant  
wearing a *Speedo*, flip-flops  
to his arraignment

the three-year-old girl  
scaring her Dad by holding  
his *Visa* card

middle school coach  
clearing stating his credo:  
*No one likes losers*

maid of honor  
peppering the bridal toast  
with four-letter words

a fish merchant  
labeling two fillets  
*Sole Mates*

tattoo parlor . . .  
her son requesting a noose  
around his neck

the disfigured teen  
assuming she will marry  
a kind, blind man

asking the mother  
of the chubby four month-old  
if he likes steak, fries

post-curfew: her son  
preparing his excuses  
while doing eighty

the homeless man  
using lead pipes as crutches  
and protection

the homeless woman  
using *Jane Eyre* to inspire  
and as a pillow

inquiring  
why there's Tabasco sauce  
by the baby's crib

their great-grandfather  
boasting he was a traitor  
of Mussolini

pro bodybuilder  
dreaming of teaching art  
to kindergartners

a boy requesting  
of the restaurant's cashier  
the mints *and* the bowl

a sleepless man  
terrified of swallowing  
his new night guard

sixth grade hoopster  
rattling the opposing guard  
by screaming *Meatloaf!*

imploing her child  
to try and give normalcy  
a fair chance

asking his teacher,  
Eve Jones, if her first name  
is short for Evil

convincing his wife  
that the yellow *M&Ms*  
are least fattening

on vacation  
elders viewing each other  
as their last resorts

her teenaged son  
informing the state trooper  
*Red Bull* made him speed

post-graduation . . .  
saying *Sorry* to those profs  
for whom she wished lice

the dean planning  
to spend his sabbatical  
surfing the web

the bean-hating child  
heartbroken learning from where  
we get vanilla

urging his boys  
to be the opposite  
of himself

400-pound man  
wowing his grandkids with tales  
of gluttony

90-pound teen  
frightening her parents with tales  
of abstinence

Pittsburgh, mid-winter . . .  
not minding the cold and wind,  
despairing the gray

a girl laying out  
her fifteen pistachios  
by circumference

the grandson  
of death camp survivors  
longing for cousins

wondering why  
his blind date is nicknamed  
*Flytrap*

two third graders  
arguing who was smarter:  
Moses or Jesus

her OCD spouse  
hating the inexactness  
of *Utz, Wise, Lay's*

her OCD son  
admiring the precision  
of *Pringles*

at *Sherwin-Williams*  
a young man asking to see  
shades that arouse

Physics Nobelist  
vegging out watching  
low-budget sci-fi

their son hoping,  
when it comes to promises,  
God's memory fails

retired snake expert  
ruing he did not pursue  
ornithology

a fifteen year-old  
padding her brassiere  
with *Bounty*

a fifteen year-old  
padding his underpants  
with *Brawny*

a Conservative  
refusing to wear green:  
*Too Liberal*

three professors  
debating which vegetable  
is the least macho

her five year-old  
preferring *Monopoly*  
to *Candy Land*

her husband  
preferring *Chutes and Ladders*  
to contract bridge

a released convict  
appreciating springtime  
as never before

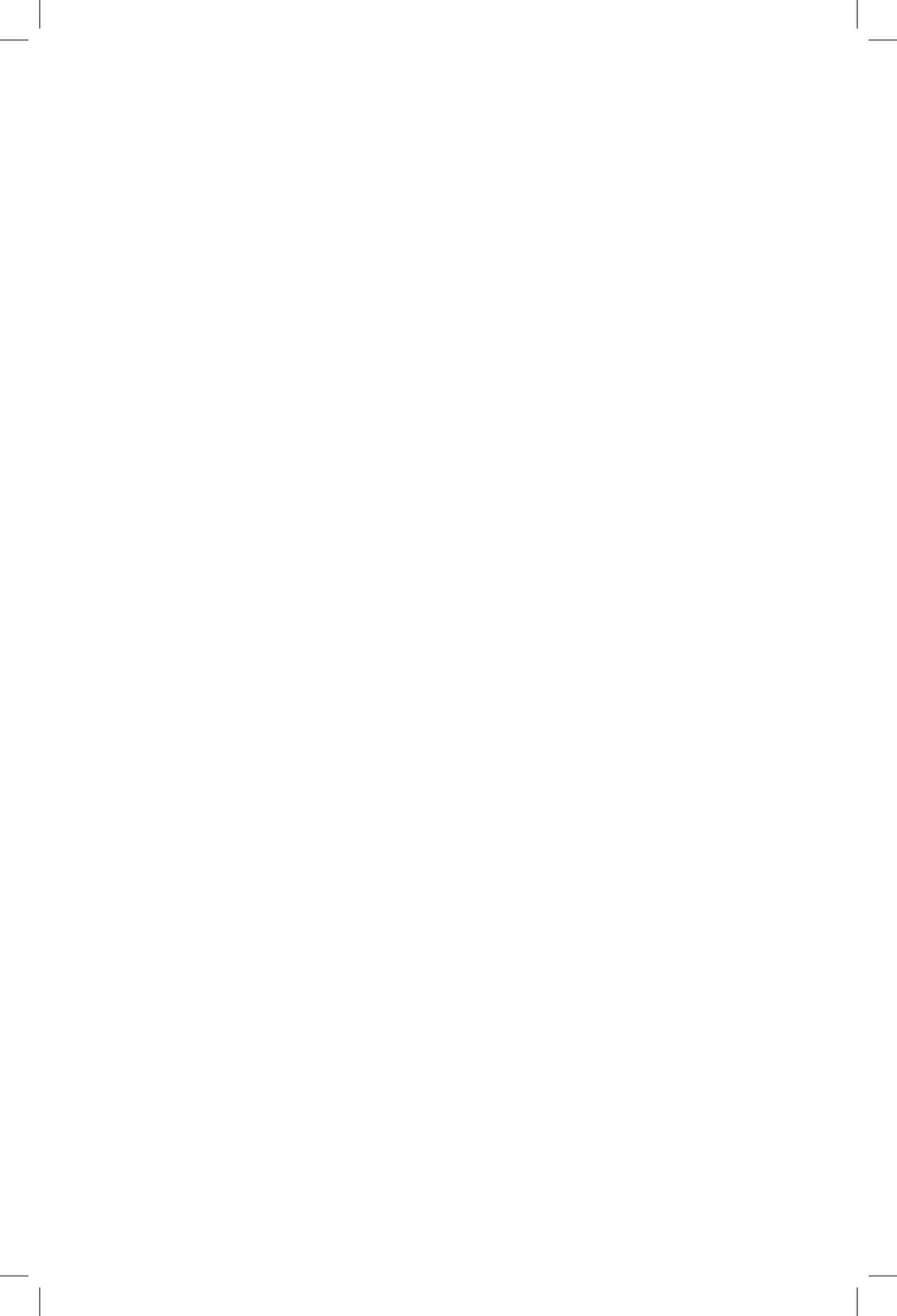
Grandpa Irv  
asserting that all dinners  
are kosher in France

her child assuming  
the man writing his name *Jon*  
cannot spell

expressing concern  
their teenagers are dressed like  
colorblind hookers

the depressed man  
wishing he could take  
an endorphin bath

their car's top down . . .  
mesmerized by the flapping  
of Dad's ponytail



*But man must light for man  
The fires no other can,  
And find in his own eye  
Where the strange crossroads lie.*

*David McCord*

*There are very few human beings who receive  
the truth, complete and staggering, by instant  
illumination. Most of them acquire it fragment  
by fragment, on a small scale, by successive  
developments, cellularly, like a laborious mosaic.*

*Anaïs Nin*



taking stock . . .  
exquisite face, stunning legs,  
hideous piercings

on Sunday, their Pop  
worshipping the trinity:  
beer, burgers, ribs

two Marines  
coming to blows over  
the best *Rambo* film

at auction  
her spouse trying to purchase  
Churchill's false teeth

at auction  
his wife trying to purchase  
Brad Pitt's used razor

their teen daughter  
refusing to wear white:

*Too misleading*

the journalist  
watching the news with his dogs,  
Huntley and Brinkley

a prof screaming  
at the Hopkins visitor,

*It's Johns!*

a prof screaming  
at the Hopkins senior,

*It's Registrar!*

fearing, in heaven,  
everyone will learn about  
her fifth grade cheating

evoking terror  
in their Great Dane by blowing  
a soap bubble

stifling *Gesundheit*  
upon hearing the word  
*cashew*

Princeton freshman  
contemplating suicide  
after his first *C*

unable to see  
how his Dad can be content  
as a cog

oceanfront café . . .  
the husband dining outside,  
his wife indoors

a first grader  
writing larger numbers  
bigger

enraged at Grandpa  
for getting killed driving drunk  
on her birthday

a Goth teen  
eyeing a mosquito land  
on his web tattoo

centenarian  
fearing the dark blue suit  
makes him look old

centenarian  
fearing the bright orange dress  
makes her look slutty

the sixteen year-old  
claiming his surgical scar  
is from a knife fight

asking the rabbi  
whether God appreciates  
modern art

English class . . .  
an eighth grader mistaking  
*cudgel* for *cuddle*

Dad's funeral . . .  
poking her spouse for staring  
at his wristwatch

Dad's funeral . . .  
jabbing her son for staring  
at a cute mourner

pondering  
his birthday candle wish  
three weeks in advance

orientation . . .  
the new students zoning out,  
their Moms taking notes

four fanatics  
debating whose hatred  
is the strongest

the Chinese man,  
his Jewish wife naming  
their son, Zev Zhu

the Chinese woman,  
her Jewish husband naming  
their son, Feng Feinberg

In L.A.

At the bar

His blind date,

Points to the television

Airing an opening-round

World Cup soccer match

Between Norway and

Equatorial Guinea,

And inquires

Which team is which?

old psychiatrist  
diagnosing his new boss  
as a total nudnik

animal shelter . . .  
the German shepherd licking  
an orphaned roe deer

Grandma claiming  
she was an agnostic  
until Pop's birth

the seventh grader  
telling classmates his birthmark  
is leprosy

her husband longing  
for dress pants that could double  
as pajamas

a tufted puffin  
posing for the camera,  
nine eels in its beak

the toddler  
expressing terror glimpsing  
Grandpa's eyebrows

their Doberman  
eyeing a Peke as he does  
his chew toys

the doctor  
using Swiss cheese to describe  
her senile Dad's brain

the doctor  
using Swiss cheese to describe  
her addict son's brain

the nutritionist  
wishing *Tootsie Roll* pops  
were high in protein

an ex-weightlifter  
using fifty-pound dumbbells  
as doorstops

the actor's rep  
claiming he's being treated  
for exhaustion

the actress's rep  
claiming she's being treated  
for dehydration

asking the mourner  
why she is so depressed:  
*It's only a dog*

Orville Wright fan  
cursing Gandhi for dying  
on the same day

a child hoping  
Armageddon does not fall  
on her birthday

on his deathbed  
dictating a letter  
to his tumors

their father  
refusing to wear red:  
*Too close to pink*

Jewish heretic  
naming his firstborn, Yasser,  
simply to provoke

Sunday School student  
asking whether the devil  
ever gets bored

Sunday School student  
inquiring whose prayers  
does God answer

high school play . . .  
blinking on his first line,  
her son starts dancing

its leash in pieces,  
a black Lab's owner using  
an old, plaid necktie

renaming  
their Chihuahua  
Napalm

linguistics student  
asking which accent makes guys  
sound sexiest

Manhattan ER . . .  
a man calming asserting  
he has plague, cowpox

Uncle Earl  
preferring *storyteller*  
to *liar*

his new in-laws  
thanking him profusely  
at the wedding

check-out line . . . fretting  
about the young man holding  
twelve *ex-lax* boxes

urging her husband  
to stop teasing their dog  
about its bowlegs

his child asking  
if anyone eats liver  
voluntarily

Gramps viewing pain  
as a welcome reminder  
he's still alive

before the mirror  
their fourteen-year-old son  
working on his strut

before the mirror  
their fifteen-year-old daughter  
working on her scowl

college sophomore  
taking an art class, praying  
for nude models

the elder  
worrying that, in heaven,  
he'll be bored to death

the elder  
worrying that, in heaven,  
she can't watch soaps

their nine year-old . . .  
instead of saying *Thank you*,  
offering a burp

with no pen, paper,  
the haiku poet ruing  
one that got away

twelfth grade actress  
losing her French accent  
by Act III

at *Wal-Mart* . . .  
mid-tantrum, a boy screaming  
his folks are aliens

at *Wal-Mart* . . .  
mid-tantrum, a Mom convinced  
her son is possessed

tourists in London  
asking if Brits celebrate  
Columbus Day

with her new spouse  
still referring to her first  
as *my husband*

Detroit, mid-winter . . .  
the homeless street person  
applying *ChapStick*

assuming  
each crazy-Mom poem  
is about herself

assuming  
none of the weird-Dad poems  
is about himself

tenth birthday . . . a girl  
deciding to speak henceforth  
with a Southern drawl

twelfth birthday . . . a boy  
deciding to speak henceforth  
like Joe Pesci

two profs debating  
is competitive eating  
a true sport

realizing  
too late his bigoted Dad  
was an idiot

explaining to Gramps  
why she named her hamster  
Fido

informing  
her child, a cancer patient,  
how awful she looks

April Fool's Day . . .  
Braves batter knocking himself  
unconscious

the dour rabbi  
attending the Wiccan wedding  
of his grandson

lifelong New Yorkers  
christening their newborn son  
Beauregard

under oath  
the defendant asserting  
*I think I don't know*

her Dad equating  
taking anti-depressants  
with cowardice

Cousin Marvin  
sporting his reindeer sweater  
on Bastille Day

a boy pondering  
how many consumed fireflies  
would cause him to glow

explaining  
to her Nana the meaning  
of *au naturel*

the eighty year-old  
still calling his big sis  
Boom-Bah

the ninety year-old  
still calling her little bro  
Mo' Seltzer

in group therapy  
the new patient admitting  
to bathroom stage fright

Shakespeare in the Park . . .  
King Lear battling an army  
of mosquitoes

Grandpa responding  
to *Smile, Jesus loves you!*  
with *Oy Gevalt*

Grandma responding  
to *Smile, Jesus loves you!*  
with *We've never met*

retiring prof  
gently informing the dean  
he's ruining the school

husband and wife,  
over sundaes at *Friendly's*,  
discussing divorce



*It is his [the poet's, the writer's] privilege to help man endure  
by lifting his heart, by reminding him of the courage and honor  
and hope and pride and compassion and pity and sacrifice  
which have been the glory of his past. The poet's voice need not  
merely be the record of man, it can be one of the props, the pillars  
to help him endure and prevail.*

*William Faulkner*



finger-painting  
a mustache on the photo  
in Dad's passport

at the bus stop  
a man eating *Trix* in milk  
out of a baggy

wedding chapel . . .  
Gramps noting far too loudly  
the bride looks pregnant

complimenting  
his wife of thirty years:  
*She's got nice ankles*

a teen's parents  
giving thanks that their child  
stinks at lying

her four year-old  
explaining why he prefers  
slaps over time-outs

tourists shrieking  
with delight upon seeing  
a *Starbucks* drive-thru

the old priest noting  
baseball's place in the bible . . .  
*In the big inning*

convincing  
her bruised younger brother  
he has gangrene

the Jewish teen  
enraged he was circumcised  
without being asked

Guido Amigone

opening in Providence

a funeral home

the sixteen year-old

describing her new boyfriend

as hot . . . and way cool

starting construction

of the *Healthy Heart Clinic*

across from *Denny's*

a blind child

mistaking the matzo

for Braille

bedtime . . . a boy prays

for all Holocaust survivors

sweet dreams

at commencement . . .

professors denied tenure

mooning the provost

calling his wife

Cleopatra: *She's the queen  
of denial*

old gourmet

terrified he's losing

his sense of smell

watching

the hurricane strip the bark

from their beloved tree

in art class

purposely mispronouncing

*fuchsia*

Scranton prostitute  
relocating her business  
to Johnstown

claiming his mutt  
is half wiener dog and half  
*something fluffy*

Grandma wondering  
at what point her hair started  
resembling Bozo's

struggling to tell  
their demented father  
he must stop driving

a Yeshiva boy  
asking if he can stand outside  
*Arby's* and sniff

Bellevue inpatient  
using the shrink's coffee mug  
to catch his drool

her boyfriend  
reacting to *I love you*  
as if stabbed

Fleming Burns III  
deciding to go with *Buck*  
rather than *Flem*

paraplegic girl  
hoping to do cartwheels  
in her twenties

quadriplegic man  
hoping to do somersaults  
in the hereafter

deciding  
to have their roofing done  
by Fiddler & Sons

post-sneeze . . .  
a stranger says *God bless you,*  
her husband does not

during the *I do's*  
each of six bridesmaids  
wishing it were she

the fifth grader  
educating his teacher:  
*Good is boring*

on Muscle Beach  
an old man showing off  
yo-yo tricks

the teenaged son  
of two shysters rebelling  
as an Eagle Scout

behind closed doors  
the Princeton president  
slurping *Froot Loops*

midnight ~ fleeing cops  
in a black *Vette* doing ninety,  
the headlights off

a boy informing  
his younger cousin why  
shame tops guilt

famed poet's grandchild  
asking him to write novels  
about vampires

informing her spouse  
a Francophile likes the French,  
not guys named Frank

Mom and Pop  
referring to their in-laws  
as *the hemorrhoids*

at *IHOP*, two thugs  
sharing their innovations  
in racketeering

Aunt Belle consenting  
to ride the roller coaster  
if drugged, blindfolded

his wife dreaming  
of three walk-in closets  
just for her shoes

a seven year-old  
placing syrupy pancakes  
inside his bagel

Grandpa regarding  
the clock in his cell phone  
as a pocket watch

offering high praise  
to her youngest child: *You're not  
a complete loser*

meeting his date's folks . . .  
each parent and sib lacking  
a full set of teeth

elderly patron  
requesting that the waitress  
call him *Darling*

asking the dean  
why she keeps in her desk drawer  
a hacksaw

Houston, mid-July . . .  
a fireman wishing he worked  
in the Yukon

while he snores  
three grandchildren studying  
the elder's nose hairs

irked at his son,  
the salutorian,  
for falling short

the retired elder  
getting vanity plates  
proclaiming CHILL

## Genius, Ignorance

The children of a  
Buchenwald survivor  
Wishing they could  
Ride in a Ford;  
Look at a Renoir, a Degas;  
Listen to Chopin, Tchaikovsky,  
Wagner, Strauss, Theodorakis; and  
Read Chaucer, Marlowe, Voltaire,  
Kant, Gogol, Dostoevsky, Dreiser,  
Pound, Eliot, Dahl, Hemingway  
Without thinking  
*Anti-Semite bastard*

after their session,  
hoping that her therapist  
got something from it

detailing  
to his grandchild the nature  
of five-and-dime stores

detailing  
to her grandchild the nature  
of automats

Thanksgiving dinner . . .  
three uncles unbuckling belts  
in unison

his pregnant wife  
expressing a craving  
for a new *Porsche*

pet shop . . . a child  
asking if tropical fish  
eat tropical fruit

his biographer  
finding the dictator's laugh  
enchanted

discussing  
should they tell their father  
Mom remarried last year

four Nobelists  
at the kitchen table  
playing pinochle

their CPA  
sporting sandals to show off  
his tattooed toes

describing  
their autistic grandson  
as *quirky*

high school junior  
claiming her boyfriend's so deep  
it's terrifying

the poodle puppy  
with an ear-shattering bark  
scaring two muggers

ruining  
his evening by saying  
*I need you*

a three-year-old girl  
misunderstanding the name  
Catskill, New York

on a *StairMaster*,  
his wife sporting a full face  
of makeup

mid-winter . . .  
depressed Finns wishing they lived  
at the Equator

little league game:  
the bored right fielder catching  
a fly . . . with wings

dropping  
Intro French upon learning  
*oui* is pronounced *we*

dropping  
Intro Psych upon learning  
no movies are shown

Granddad praying  
a stroke will kill him before  
dementia kicks in

her spouse noting  
his driving is assertive,  
not aggressive

the laughing, belching  
from their son's bedroom causing  
a pre-dawn wake-up

worried  
her deadlines with house plants  
will extend to kids

a novelist  
claiming his work is too good  
to be published

Buford, Wyoming . . .  
the new green-and-white sign  
announcing *POP 1*

the four year-old  
asking Grandma if he can  
snip off her mole

end of the meeting . . .  
eleven Board members  
sucking lollipops

the linguist's mother  
urging him to say *break wind*  
in lieu of *fart*

Jill White, longing  
for an exotic married name,  
weds Paul Brown

on a cruise . . .  
two seasick women's heads  
in recycle bins

their son inquiring  
if any faiths prohibit  
eating porcupine

Type A parents  
raising lazy, carefree slobs  
they rate Type F

praying  
that the morning newspapers  
won't mention crime, death

the addict claiming  
lying is just a symptom  
of his illness

Great-Gramps entering  
minute number twenty-nine  
eating his oatmeal

on his mortarboard  
the Brandeis grad printing  
HIRE ME

on her mortarboard  
the Swarthmore grad printing  
CAN I STAY?

a five year-old  
telling doctors she forgives  
the shark that bit her

the obese woman  
noting that her surgery  
is *barometric*

commending  
his spouse on her ability  
to look busy

commending  
her spouse on his ability  
to feign interest

two young brothers  
inquiring of their father  
if he had sex twice

the driver bragging  
about the great gas mileage  
of his new hearse

fearing  
her husband's chill, sighs, weight loss  
signify cheating

the priest convincing  
two nuns his seeing-eye dog  
has a soul

preventing murder . . .  
a girl carrying outdoors  
an ant from Dad's den

noise-sensitive teen  
demanding that her boyfriend  
chew softer food

depressed twelfth grader  
rejecting schools whose colors  
include gray or black

superstitious dean  
spurning Randolph-Macon:  
thirteen letters

the polyglot  
wishing his Irish setter  
used idioms

handing his girlfriend  
a list of seven pet names  
he can tolerate

Rorschach Card II . . .  
her ten-year-old patient  
seeing *my Mom's guts*

Hawaiian pilot  
describing the Atlantic  
as *puny*

writhing through a dream  
of his two pregnant daughters  
having stillbirths

three-legged tortoise  
trying out for the first time  
its prosthetic wheel

watching *Top Gun*,  
two Quaker teens discuss  
joining the Navy

death-row convict  
requesting for his last meal  
a fluffernutter

her brother-in-law  
carving into an oak tree  
*Bob loves Buddhism*

100-year-old man  
attending yet another  
doctor's funeral

the lonely farmer  
regarding chicken pecks  
as turn-ons

Aunt Fay's apartment . . .  
for every hardback book,  
forty tsothkes

his wife pronouncing  
*Penelope* as if it rhymed  
with *teen dope*

telling the judge  
he's not guilty of road rage,  
just idiocy

sixth grade writer  
beginning his latest poem  
with *However*

informing her child  
he is not *nearsighted*,  
just *shortsighted*

an Italian cop  
confessing his lifelong love  
of Mob movies

Saudi scholar  
choosing for his password  
*OpenSesame*

telling Mom and Dad  
she has decided to wed  
the guy stalking her

faculty meeting . . .  
the elderly professor  
bringing a pillow

an Iraq War vet,  
missing three limbs, hobbling  
to the liquor store

a fourth grader  
claiming the school spelling bee  
was fixed

twenty years later,  
still seeking a compliment  
from her thesis chair

Max Goldberg  
opening the dojo  
*Jew-Jitsu*

belittling  
his Yale colleague for *sharing*  
a Nobel Prize

post baby shower . . .  
her spouse experiencing  
PTSD

in Baton Rouge  
a dwarf praying the Saints  
destroy the Giants

obsessive umpire  
unable to stop himself  
from sweeping home

Halloween eve . . .  
getting mugged buying candy  
for trick-or-treaters

their Mom wishing  
for an expiration date  
on parenthood

the renowned scholar  
widely recognized at Yale  
for his bad toupee

Independence Day . . .  
Army captain's teen sporting  
green, black, and yellow

vegans' dining room . . .  
the schnauzer requesting  
no table scraps

on her deathbed  
the lifelong atheist  
reconsidering

Uncle Abe claiming  
Aunt Ida's silent treatment  
is no punishment



## 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, live in Ellicott City, Maryland and have two adult children, Laura and David, and a granddaughter, Ava. Dr. Deluty's poems and essays have been published in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *Modern Haiku*, *Voices: The Art and Science of Psychotherapy*, *Psychiatric Times*, *the Journal of Poetry Therapy*, *Hummingbird: Magazine of the Short Poem*, *Welcome Home*, *Muse of Fire*, *Maryland Family Magazine*, *Gastronomica: The Journal of Food and Culture*, and many other newspapers, journals, and anthologies. *A Scratch On The Wall* is his thirty-fourth book.

