

# THE CHOICE OF ATTENTION

Poems by  
Robert H. Deluty



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To my parents  
Elise and David Deluty

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## The Choice of Attention



*Choice of attention - to pay attention to this  
and ignore that - is to the inner life what  
choice of action is to the outer.*

*W. H. Auden*





seeing Freud's photo  
on the shrink's desk, inquiring  
if that's his Dad

new hire wondering  
which sounds better: garbageman  
or trash collector

kindly Beth Abel  
opting to name her child  
Amy

macho-man crying  
watching a baby giraffe  
taking its first steps

the teen's mother  
seeking coffee that's stronger  
than her son's 'tude

the failing schoolboy  
asking if there are classes  
in the afterlife

*Describe your parents . . .*  
nine-year-old patient stating  
*Energy vampires*

the policeman  
arresting the track athlete  
for running numbers

the policeman  
arresting the blacksmith  
for forging checks

walking on land,  
the peg-legged pirate noting  
*I'm out on a limb*

the honest judge  
relishing his nickname  
*Tried 'n True*

her Dad trying  
to state persuasively  
*I never inhaled*

her date trying  
to state persuasively  
*I'll call you later*

ninth inning, tie game . . .  
the Sox batter asking God  
for just a walk

after marrying  
Ed Button, Belle Leib choosing  
not to hyphenate

ESL pupil  
confusing *cold sore*  
with *coleslaw*

MVA road test . . .  
the examiner smelling  
weed in the teen's car

after restuffing  
his mattress, Gramps asserting  
*It's so much bedder*

Sunday School student  
asking which famous women  
are in hell

Sunday School student  
asking why Hussein's parents  
named him Sodom

prosperous farmers  
regarding themselves as  
experts in their fields

joe-loving linksman  
noting *Folgers* and *golfers*  
are anagrams

intrusive gamer  
noting *nosy* and *Sony*  
are anagrams

her angry colleague  
wishing he were not named  
Joe V. Hull

dying ten year-old  
wondering if she can date  
in heaven

the linguist  
defining the word *ram*  
as *the guy for ewe*

turning eighty,  
asking friends, neighbors to stop  
calling him Sparky

screaming at his son  
for listening to pro golf  
on the radio

while exercising,  
the dairy farmer claiming  
he prefers cheese curls

while exercising,  
the longshoreman claiming  
he prefers fork lifts

dermatologist  
describing human skin as  
*complete coverage*

mid-July . . . a child  
thanks God for another day  
of no school

*The Fifth Amendment? . . .*  
the tenth grader responding  
*Thou shalt not kill*

wine merchant calling  
the downtown liquor store  
*a buzz depot*

cattleman calling  
the herd's feeding time  
*a graze period*

Gramps explaining,  
in baseball, stealing  
is encouraged

Gramps explaining,  
in baseball, screwballs can be  
pitches or players

Gramps explaining,  
in baseball, spitting is fine  
except on balls, umps

Aunt Syl noting  
Uncle Mort often makes  
*misspokements*

clueless young woman  
christening her new dojo  
*Judo by Judy*



golfing homophobe  
asking his playing partners  
never to wear pink

baseball manager  
describing his switch-hitter  
as *amphibious*

his girlfriend stating  
her least favorite word  
is *smegma*

her boyfriend stating  
his least favorite word  
is *snuggle*

with mixed feelings  
watching a young Israeli  
conducting Wagner

the judge regarding  
setting bail as *putting*  
*a price on freedom*

their teen calling  
films made before 2000  
*oldies*

musing which golfer  
he hates more: *cell phone guy*  
or *foul cigar man*

Trenton businessman  
naming his shirt factory  
*New Jersey*

first grader asking  
which weighs more: Oregon  
or the Pacific

the seafood chef  
deeming the spoiled chowder  
*a clamity*

during the *I do's*,  
the bride's brother blowing  
a pink gum bubble

the adman calling  
the *Coke v. Pepsi* taste test  
*a pop quiz*

despising  
his fellow ninth grade teacher  
for loving her job

the craftsman  
describing glue as  
*a Bond film*

the new mother  
praying for world peace  
and a good night's rest

steakhouse employees  
calling their dinner dance  
*The Meat Ball*

plumbers union staff  
calling their touch football game  
*The Toilet Bowl*

an old golfer  
describing the divots as  
*rough pieces of land*

nicknaming  
their peculiar parish priest  
*The Oddfather*

the obese student  
admitting that he took  
too many courses

a Catholic girl  
asking, when he was two, did  
Jesus throw tantrums

the heart surgeon  
calling the operation  
*an inside job*

Hugh Shapiro,  
a painter, choosing to name  
his firstborn, Hue

six year-old fearing  
her Mom and Dad, one night,  
will kill each other

*Describe your spouse . . .*

her new therapy patient

responding *Prompt*

*Describe your spouse . . .*

his new therapy patient

responding *Wrinkled*

a child inquiring

was it named *Reno* to rhyme

with *casino*

their French teacher

defining the word *idée*

as *a Nice thought*

their French teacher

defining the word *tête*

as *head of Marseille*

bank teller smelling  
the newly minted penny,  
noting *It's cented*

fourth grader asking  
whether psychologists have  
high school diplomas

for no good reason,  
young Josh Katz begins speaking  
with a Thai accent

the ninety year-old  
describing Home Ec classes  
to her great-nieces

watching *Giant*,  
their granddaughter confusing  
Jimmy with James Dean

their daughter's boyfriend  
sporting a sweatshirt stating  
*YALE LAW (just kidding)*

their son's girlfriend  
wearing a tee shirt stating  
*I Pee in Pools*

questioning the nurse  
how were kids potty trained  
in ancient times

Mafia don  
defining an *offer*  
as a *hitman*

Friday night dinner . . .  
a mixed-faith couple eating  
challah and spare ribs



*Do I look fat? . . .*

her husband responding

*Do I look nuts?*

gleeful Dad watching

his screaming-for-hours baby

drifting off to sleep

tennis player

regarding her aces as

*points of no return*

Jewish heretic

reading *Portnoy's Complaint*

on Rosh Hashanah

Jewish heretic

watching *Blazing Saddles*

on Yom Kippur

their mother  
defining *tomorrow* as  
*when my diet starts*

Granddad  
lambasting her new boyfriend  
for using air quotes

the wine steward  
describing the corkage fee  
as *a Cab charge*

the house painter  
noting he always puts on  
a coat for work

a single gunshot  
suddenly interrupting  
the don's funeral

## A Question of Faith

Over lunch, when asked  
What is her religion,  
A kindergartner responds  
*I'm really not too sure:*  
*Nana and Poppy are Jewish,*  
*Grams and Gramps are dead,*  
*Mommy doesn't care, and*  
*Daddy is Christmas*

museum guide  
calling the knight's armor  
*his strong suit*

Friday the 13th . . .  
the all-star relief pitcher  
balking home a run

Friday the 13th . . .  
the rookie catcher making  
a four-base error

Friday the 13th . . .  
the slugger, mid home run trot,  
missing second base

their adult son  
fearing marriage more  
than nuclear war

ninth grader boasting  
he knows sixty slang terms  
for *penis*

tenth grader boasting  
he can say *copulation*  
in twelve languages

the dairyman  
referring to his nightmares  
as *sour dreams*

regarding  
her Arkansan Great-Grandpa  
as an old Huck Finn

their Dad noting  
his six-pack abs have morphed  
into a keg

her bipolar spouse  
climbing a tall stepladder  
on their home's rooftop

old Jew refusing  
to eat porcini mushrooms:  
*Too close to pork*

edgy Mom teaching  
her sons to be terrified  
of risk

nine-year-old Arthur,  
living in the Bronx, asking  
to be called Tex

Mary Lamm giving  
her daughter Lilibeth  
the pet name, Lil

telling his wife  
her opinions matter . . .  
just not to him

a child hearing  
about the Milky Way,  
thinks of chocolate

a teen hearing  
about the Trojan War,  
thinks of condoms

Irish jeweler  
referring to faux diamonds  
as *blarney stones*

their four year-old  
asking which numbers  
smell nice

Aunt Bev nicknaming  
one grandchild *Sunshine*,  
the other *Eclipse*

while singing, a child  
mixing up *Christmas pie*  
with *Mulberry bush*

sandwich shop owners,  
Paul Brad James and Bret Lee Taft,  
loving their initials

her English teacher  
defining the word *bias*  
as *a partial view*

in shul . . . Finkelstein  
telling Weiss he'll clobber him  
once Yom Kippur ends



Grandma pointing out  
why age and treachery beat  
youth and talent

Grandpa pointing out  
that he's not anti-social,  
just anti-stupid

*D* student asking  
if Homer's Ajax were named  
after the cleaner

*Explain "Drew a blank" . . .*  
Dad stating *Good for Scrabble,*  
*bad for memory*

*Explain "Got a run" . . .*  
Mom stating *Good for baseball,*  
*bad for hosiery*



*As I grow older, I pay less attention  
to what men say. I just watch what they do.*

*Andrew Carnegie*



car mechanic  
describing halos  
as *headlights*

Lyn Hawke of Kansas  
feeling obliged to name  
her firstborn son, Jay

tattoo artist  
confessing he's scared to death  
of vaccinations

the clergyman  
referring to EMTs  
as revivalists

new Mom asserting  
her spouse, parents, in-laws, docs  
are crazy-making

sixth grade students  
surnamed Cox and Kuntz  
comparing woes

dog owner dubbing  
her pet's beloved recliner  
the *Bark-a-lounger*

a young boy asking  
which is more dumb: mud  
or a box of rocks

a young girl asking  
which are more crazy: bats,  
loons or bedbugs

their son placing  
his face in a rye loaf,  
stating *I'm inbred*

viewing as a freak  
the sixteen-year-old peer  
with no cell phone

viewing as a freak  
the fellow Brandeis prof  
supporting Trump

Bronx-born R. E. Lee  
wholeheartedly defending  
his beloved Yankees

first grader warning  
his younger sib, *Lying's fine,*  
*but stealing isn't*

psychiatrist  
describing sanity as  
*sound quality*

four-year-old twins  
starting their third straight hour  
playing with slime

asked to complete  
*Give me liberty . . .*, his child  
responding *Please*

asked to complete  
*All the world's . . .*, her teenager  
responding *Screwed up*

Baltimore doctor  
claiming his name really is  
John Hopkins

Boston athlete  
claiming her name really is  
Fen Wei



the surgeon  
referring to ether as  
*an early number*

eleventh birthday . . .  
her son wishing they lived  
over a deli

Grandpa confiding  
he thinks about nude women  
*sinfully often*

her seven year-old  
insisting folks pronounce it  
*WED-nes-day*

film historian  
calling Alfred Hitchcock's chin  
*a double feature*

thumbless Uncle Al  
demonstrating how he won  
the darts tournament

post-stroke, Aunt Tess  
demonstrating how she quilts  
with one hand

ten-year-old Ivie  
feeling she's destined to be  
a landscaper

twelve-year-old Ivy  
feeling she's destined to be  
a registered nurse

at halftime, a boy  
asks why there are no guitars  
in marching bands

Juneau, mid-winter . . .  
three Aleut brothers singing  
*Heat Wave*

Nome nuns loving  
their city's demonym,  
*Noman*

Rachel Blume teaching  
her Lutheran neighbors how  
*kvetch* and *kvell* differ

Max Cohen teaching  
his Methodist neighbors how  
*schmuck* and *schmook* differ

the burglar seeking  
a therapist who'll make him  
happy on the job

girl with OCD  
wishing Boston's baseball team  
were the *Red Socks*

the haberdasher  
describing belts as  
*waist containers*

the dairy worker  
describing moos as  
*herd voices*

Jewish bride  
walking down the aisle  
as bagpipes play

the new inpatient  
refusing to use words  
with silent letters

English tutor  
asserting a hard *c*  
is a *can opener*

on his birthday,  
the Cubs pitcher stealing home  
after tripling

long-suffering wife  
calling her ill-tempered spouse  
*my bitter half*

watching *Fargo*,  
her grandson wondering  
what *tootin'* means

watching *Grease*,  
her granddaughter wondering  
who is Sandra Dee

old executive  
referring to his cane  
as *support staff*

high school cheerleader  
giving out pot-laced brownies  
for prom queen votes

San Diego nurse  
noting her city's letters  
compose *diagnose*

Tucson CPA  
noting his city's letters  
constitute *counts*

Athens sprinters  
noting their city's letters  
make up *hasten*

Jon and Lee Winkle  
christening their blue-eyed son  
Perry

Manhattanite  
deeming Brooklyn and Queens  
*semi-rural*

turning ninety-two,  
Great-Gramps claiming he's at  
an awkward age

the convict calling  
his consecutive jail terms  
*a run-on sentence*

Uncles Ed and Fred  
removing their toothpicks for  
the groomsmen photo

faculty meeting . . .  
pondering which professor  
has the most ear hair

his blind date eating  
the parts of her Cobb salad  
alphabetically

poker player  
describing an ante as  
*a stud fee*

poker player  
describing IOUs as  
*slips, if no chips*

on her birthday,  
cancer survivor getting  
nipple tattoos



told to wash the plum,  
their four-year-old son asking  
*With which soap?*

strict English teacher  
at St. Paul's calling herself  
*a proper nun*

angry at his Mom  
for, yet again, agreeing  
to his loan request

Boulder shrinks  
dubbing their offices  
*head shops*

fearing her toddler  
will grow up to become  
a terrorist

Jewish musician  
portraying a hora as  
*a wedding ring*

hair stylist  
defining the term *dying*  
as *changing the locks*

funeral parlor . . .  
his great-niece whispering  
*Ninety's too young*

Hollywood agent  
referring to has-beens  
as *distant stars*

*What's a toga? . . .*  
Ancient Studies prof quipping  
*Senate coverage*

the naturalist  
describing otters as  
*river gamblers*

her four-year-old son  
asking if the tooth fairy  
gives kids cavities

fed up with his job  
at the Wimbledon gift shop,  
the teen serves notice

a child wondering  
if knights, in the summer, wore  
light suits of armor

longtime waitress  
defining the word *tip* as  
*scratch on the table*

at Granddad's wake,  
Aunt Rose telling Uncle Bert  
*It should've been you*

flight attendant  
describing *soaring* as  
*on the up and up*

Queens boy in Dallas  
interpreting *Dad gum it*  
incorrectly

Dallas boy in Queens  
interpreting *Thirst bucket*  
incorrectly

at the shore, a girl  
referring to seashells as  
*tiny beach houses*

a Jewish child  
assuming the *n-word*  
is *nudnik*

farmer Ella Boggs  
resisting the strong impulse  
to name her son Pete

techie Rita Pegg  
succumbing to the urge  
to name her son Jay

their math tutor  
stating *ten* is half a score . . .  
and a perfect score

twin Idaho profs  
wincing as Texans call them  
*the Boise boys*

four-year-old girl  
telling her ill Dad to laugh  
rather than cough

Kenyan tour guide  
describing the tsetse as  
*a fly to flee*

half-Cuban sailor  
remarking that *Aye*  
is *Sí at sea*

calling *Pizza Hut*  
to deliver three pies  
to their *Wendy's*

Kike Hernandez  
assuring Jews his nickname  
has two syllables

pre-K pupil  
referring to *Purell* as  
*Hannah Sittiezer*

York ensign noting  
*Pennsylvania* rearranged  
is *in navy planes*

Routt miner noting  
*Colorado* rearranged  
is *coal odor*

Payne butcher noting  
*Oklahoma* rearranged  
is *Look, a ham*

her great-granddaughter  
asking what's the opposite  
of broccoli

obese Cousin Vern  
hugging the five-year-old girl  
who called him *fluffy*

Yeshiva youngster  
fretting that Isaac's Dad's name  
contains *ham*

*Say a "P" word . . .*  
nursery school boy  
replying *Penis*

*Say an "H" word . . .*  
nursery school girl  
replying *Hellfire*

on their birthday  
twin hundred year-olds riding  
mechanical bulls



Aunt Edna giving  
each trick-or-treater  
five raisins

Uncle Gus handing  
the last trick-or-treater  
a tin of sardines

his child asking  
if petroleum jelly  
can fuel a car

Great-Grandpa  
preferring *codger*  
to *geezer*

Great-Grandma  
preferring *seasoned*  
to *elderly*

pre-K researcher  
assessing how many coins  
will clog a toilet

pre-K researcher  
assessing if bleach takes dirt  
off a new red couch

pre-K researcher  
assessing whether goldfish  
like hamburger

Yale football coach  
dreaming of pulverizing  
the Crimson Tide

on the farm . . . hearing  
the shrill cock-a-doodle-doo  
of his grandson

Aunt Fern slugging  
Uncle Al for calling her breasts  
*prime real estate*

fifth grader reading  
the word *simile*, guessing  
they mistyped *smile*

elderly chemist  
wishing that his workday  
included naptime

their three year-old  
stating the peeled banana  
*has his pants down*

tourist with celiac  
cursing his Maine rice cakes  
in the south of France



*The moment one gives close attention to  
anything, even a blade of grass, it becomes  
a mysterious, awesome, indescribably  
magnificent world in itself.*

*Henry Miller*



brassiere shop . . .  
young man trying not to look  
uncomfortable

brassiere shop . . .  
old man trying not to look  
aroused

haiku poet  
regarding metaphors  
as distractions

haiku poet  
considering adverbs  
annoyances

haiku poet  
viewing vagueness, wordiness  
as enemies

LSU student  
explaining to New Yorkers  
*Geaux Tigers*

April Fool's Day . . .  
the birthday boy receiving  
a urinal cake

culinary class . . .  
the chef suppressing the urge  
to shout *Food fight!*

asking his teacher  
which insult is stronger:  
*airhead* or *birdbrain*

asking her teacher  
which scolding is stronger:  
*tsk-tsk* or *tut-tut*



hearing Nana curse  
while struggling to rise  
from a beanbag chair

Jane and Ira Mull  
introducing their children  
Maxie and Minna

backyard football . . .  
boys lacking shoulder pads  
using throw pillows

therapy session . . .  
the wife filing her nails  
as the husband roars

therapy session . . .  
the son rolling his eyes  
as the daughter sobs

old prof glaring  
at the freshman for saying  
*conversate*

old dean screaming  
at the young prof for saying  
*expresso*

mid-eulogy . . .  
watching his late wife's brothers  
stifling yawns

pre-K cooking class . . .  
three children sifting flour  
down each other's back

pre-K cooking class . . .  
the shortest boy putting yeast  
in his socks

the rabbi noting  
how nitwits, halfwits  
and dimwits differ

their son placing  
his master's thesis between  
two bowling trophies

earth scientist  
referring to the ores as  
*mined-over matter*

drummer Saul Levine  
telling his grandchildren  
Ringo **is** Jewish

actress Leah Baum  
telling her grandchildren  
Roseanne's **not** Jewish

replying *Neither*  
when asked if he was breastfed  
or bottle-fed

Corn Belt sot claiming  
Manhattans were invented  
in Kansas

Lone Star sot claiming  
Parisians were invented  
in Texas

Gem State sot claiming  
Moscow Mules were invented  
in Idaho

Gramps telling Dad  
every time he sneezes,  
pee and farts happen

Rorschach card 4 . . .

her inpatient responding

*The Pope, but Muslim*

Rorschach card 6 . . .

her inpatient responding

*It's you, with head lice*

Rorschach card 9 . . .

her inpatient responding

*Penises chatting*

ladies' clothier

portraying girdles as

*trunk fasteners*

handing Grandma

his bound Yale dissertation

as a birthday gift

asked how he's feeling,  
the twelve year-old replying  
*Very dangerous*

the toddler  
using her Dad's huge hands  
as matching chairs

their third grader  
spelling *Mississippi*  
with six *s's*

morgue worker  
describing toe tags as  
*expired IDs*

CEO snatching  
someone else's nickel  
off the bar's floor

telling her children  
she assumed growing old  
would take much longer

*What's up your sleeve?! . . .*  
eight-year-old imp responding  
*Just my elbow*

hotel porter  
characterizing himself  
*as a case worker*

*Key to a long life? . . .*  
Great-Aunt Martha answering  
*Forgiveness, brandy*

*Key to a long life? . . .*  
Great-Uncle Frank answering  
*Avoid chick flicks*

the lifeguard  
defining the verb *kiss* as  
*give mouth-to-mouth*

their two year-old  
giving her Barbie a bath  
in Grandpa's toilet

STEM professor  
advising that botany  
*is a growth field*

the caterer  
regarding Bar Mitzvahs as  
*parties of thirteen*

pondering  
what she'd be like if her folks  
had been kind



in his report,  
Intro Psych student citing  
*Sigma Fraud*

in her speech,  
World Lit student mentioning  
*Emily Zola*

in his essay,  
Art I student noting  
*Camille Bizarro*

in her paper,  
Modern Dance student praising  
*Freddy Stare*

in his treatise,  
Poli Sci student quoting  
*Thomas Hobbits*

after learning *mar*  
means *spoil*, Deena Marr asking  
to be called D Muir

Harvard dean  
hating himself for loving  
Adam Sandler films

Princeton dean  
hating herself for loving  
Nicholas Sparks books

the manicurist  
characterizing an asp  
as a *Nile biter*

watching football . . .  
a young boy questioning how  
the offense offends

high school freshman  
screaming *Don't call me Francis!*  
though his name's Jon Liu

for Hanukkah,  
Kaplan's Baptist wife making  
gingerbread latkes

father of six  
marking his one thousandth game  
of *UNO*

informing her priest  
she's decided to convert  
to atheism

in Wyoming,  
timid Annette Smith hating  
being called Shy Ann

young baseball fan,  
asked what was Berra's first name,  
answering *Yoga*

young football fan,  
asked what was Bronko's last name,  
answering *Buster*

eyeing the title  
of her son's book report:  
*Withering Heights*

explaining to Mom  
why he **needed** to punch  
his younger brother

high school career day . . .  
the broker hopes to outshine  
the accountant

the lecturer  
describing *tapering* as  
*getting to the point*

after three decades  
of calling her neighbor *Don*,  
learning his name's *Dom*

a child questioning  
if kosher beef comes from cows  
raised by rabbis

safety Doug Fender  
wanting *D* by his last name  
on his jersey's back

young novelist  
handing two homeless men  
copies of his book

with Mom away, Dad  
answering *What's for breakfast?*  
with *Donuts, pudding*

with Gran away, Gramps  
answering *What's for breakfast?*  
with *Choose a meat*

Cascades tourist  
referring to the snowcap  
as *Mount Hood's hood*

sod businessman  
claiming his sales approach  
is *grassroots*

dubbing the Buddhists,  
Jews and Druids in his school  
the *BuJuDru crew*

young Texans asking  
if football's played anywhere  
with a round ball

posh dressing room . . .  
boastful actress showing off  
her vanity

a three year-old  
learning the hard way ice cream  
and mustard don't mix

a thirteen year-old  
learning the hard way toothpaste  
and OJ don't mix

a thirty year-old  
learning the hard way sherry  
and *Fritos* don't mix

the auditor,  
hearing *returns home*, thinking  
*the IRS*

Japanese lady  
describing her obi as  
*the tie that binds*

nursery school girl  
using a pair of tweezers  
as a fork

nursery school boy  
using a pair of *Twizzlers*  
as chopsticks

Kenneth O'Malley  
referring to his children  
as *the next of Ken*



alpine singer  
characterizing yodels  
as *Cliff's notes*

twins with autism  
going with Mom to *Walmart*  
on Black Friday

prison warden  
defining the word *inmate*  
as *a joint tenant*

potential juror  
pondering whether to lie  
during the *voir dire*

their teenager  
translating *butt dialed* as  
***ended*** *a phone call*

social skills trainer  
telling her client to stop  
grabbing his groin

social skills trainer  
telling his client to stop  
being a putz

his fiancée  
trying to fit her harp  
in a *Yaris*

her fiancé  
trying to fit his Newfie  
in a *Fiesta*

sixth graders giggling  
hearing that a synonym  
for *frost* is *hoar*

## Manners

After opening the gift  
From her grandfather and  
Being asked by her mother,  
*Annie, what do you say?*  
The five year-old remarks  
*Popi, you really, really, really*  
*Need to brush your teeth*

ENT's daughters  
making their Christmas crafts  
with tongue depressors

his wife mistaking  
Leopold and Loeb for  
Lerner and Loewe

Kansans arguing  
Ohio should be thrown out  
of the Midwest

eyeing their folks drink,  
six-year-old twins requesting  
*teeny Martinis*

Chinese New Year . . .  
Dr. Stein wishing Nurse Zhang  
a *Shanah Tovah*

hearing the doctor  
called *sharp*, a girl questioning  
*Is he pointy?*

hearing the lawyer  
called *shady*, a boy asking  
*Doesn't he get sun?*

turning nine, her son  
proclaiming he is fated  
to have it all

turning ten, his niece  
proclaiming she is fated  
to be a hot mess

the old waiter  
wishing sarcasm alone  
could pay his bills



## Author's Note

Dr. Robert H. Deluty is Associate Dean Emeritus of the Graduate School at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. A psychology professor at UMBC from 1980 to 2016, he 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 three granddaughters, Ava, Claire, and Diana. 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. *The Choice of Attention* is his fifty-seventh book.

