

JUST BEFORE BED



DAVID JACOBS

HUB EDITIONS

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Some of the poems in this collection appeared in the following publications: *Acorn, Blithe Spirit, Bottle Rockets, Chrysanthemum, Frogpond, Haiku Quarterly, Heron's Nest, Inspired Times, Mainichi Daily News, The Mainichi, Mayfly, Modern Haiku, Paper Wasp and Presence*

Hub Editions

Hub Haiku Series

Text © David Jacobs 2012

Cover Drawing © Eliot Spinks 2012

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Hub Editions

Longholm

East Bank Wingland

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Spalding Lincolnshire PE12 9YS

“coming ashore” was featured in *Carving Darkness* published by *Red Moon Press*, an anthology containing the best considered haiku for 2011. The same haiku was also a runner-up in the *Haiku Calendar Competition 2012* in respect of *The Haiku Calendar 2013* (*Snapshot Press 2012*)

“New Year’s Day” was a runner-up in the *Haiku Calendar Competition 2012* in respect of *The Haiku Calendar 2013* (*Snapshot Press 2012*)

“Soma ia famine” won first prize in the *British Haiku Awards* for 2011

“deciding not to go” was selected as one of the best poems submitted for the *eChapbook awards* published by *Snapshot Press* in 2012

“a golden autumn” was selected as one of the best haiku to be published in *The Mainichi Daily News* in 2011

“the longest day” was selected as one of the best haiku to be published in *The Mainichi Daily News* in 2011 and was a second prize-winner

David Jacobs has written poetry for over 30 years and been widely published in literary and poetry journals in the UK and overseas. The most recent of his three collections from Peterloo was *"The Gardens of Onkel Arnold"* (2004). *"Just Before Bed"*, however, is his first haiku only collection

Jacobs' work has twice been anthologised by the Oxford University Press, on one occasion in *Writing Poems Plus*, an educational publication which encourages schoolchildren to write and, again, in *Sporting Literature* edited by Vernon Scannell. His work was also anthologised in *The Iron Book of British Haiku* edited by Martin Lucas and David Cobb.

Jacobs is a previous prize-winner of the *National Poetry Competition* and received the *British Haiku Award* for 2011 for the following haiku:-

Soma ia famine
a child camps
inside its father

bomb shelter—
my old belongings
huddle in the dark

new dementia wing
Mum insists
on the guided tour

deciding not to go...
I dress
in a patch of sunlight

a day of rain
the street cleaner clears
one puddle into another

green summer leaves
I steal my son's tooth
from the tooth fairy

kick-off time
a song bird whistles
before the ref

the stopped clock
showing the correct time
freezing snow

auction rooms
the girl clerk giving
nothing away

coming ashore
at their own pace—
oarsmen's ripples

the Sunday visit
still on our clothes
as we drive back

under the parked van
a perfectly good
orange

head and tail
both down
old labrador

a record attendance
at the IPL
fireflies

the longest day
Robert Mitchum lands
in Normandy

Mum's cremation
Dad asks the humanist
what she'll wear

winter sales
the shop girl wrestles
with a manikin

funeral plans
the salesman has youth
on his side

Autumn has passed
the commuter still wears
his Remembrance poppy

funeral coats
my cousin's hug
better than mine

all the family
around the hatchback
summer's end

falling locks
my cutter talks
to the other guy

toilet queue
the unborn child
first in line

a golden autumn
the girl witch
has us spellbound

winter cremation
the humanist tells us
what to expect

the morning run
I outpace
the motor launch

a flight of steps
to the next level
floodlit site

the squirrel
almost a chameleon
winter graves

where the notice reads
everything must go
everything has gone

antiques fair
the dog exhibits
a huge yawn

lady's coat
sprouting
a little puppy head

cafe closing –
the barista
sweeping around me

cafe closing –
only the business section
remains

station name
at exactly the right place
the doors open

my son bids
farewell old haiku
winter rain

Darth Vader
the endearing child
of the prequel

morning tide
a cormorant spreads its wings
on the timber jetty

Somalia famine
a child camps
inside its father

**Commons party
the Shadow Chancellor
hides in Santa**

Thames Water
pedestrians routed
through puddles

party on deck
the launch passes
without a wave

after the theatre
the train lovers
perform for free

New Year's Day
pressing the old soap
into the new

the long evening
my son
into economics

nightfall –
the florist wheels in
his red azaleas

job seeking students
the recruitment officer
employing smiles

last day of term
the sweet shop owner
catches a thief

Good Friday
the usual mayhem
on the gyratory

just before bed
the washed up plates
shine in the rack

outdoor tables
a woman eating alone
in the sunset

departing at last
with all its paraphernalia
toddler buggy

traffic lights
a cyclist says sorry
to a cyclist

late autumn park
an amazing rally ends
with a drop shot

THE EDITOR

OF THE

NEW YORK

HUB EDITIONS

* HAND MADE *

IN WINGLAND

Previous Press Comment:-

“buy this one... Jacobs has developed control over tone and confidence in the speaking picture. There is a sense of unfolding purpose in his work which can make some other collections seem half-hearted”

Sean O'Brien, Times Literary Supplement

“The poet is an observer in a landscape where nothing earth-shattering will happen but where his attention is ravished by the mundane. In his best poems this ordinariness becomes luminous with tenderness...There are beautiful unforced effects and always the sense of community, of living in relation to other neighbouring lives. There is a deceptive smoothness of effect: the language is conjured into our imagination where it continues to reverberate”

Graham Mort, Poetry Review

“These urban and suburban studies are distinguished by a palatable blend of wit, melancholy and sharp observation”

Vernon Scannell, Ambit

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