

CONTENTS

I

- The bridge* / 3
The Toronto Star, 1945 / 6
The Blind Assassin: Perennials for the Rock Garden / 7

II

- The hard-boiled egg* / 11
The Globe and Mail, 1947 / 17
The park bench / 19
The Toronto Star, 1975 / 24
The carpets / 25
The Globe and Mail, 1998 / 30
The lipstick heart / 31
*The Colonel Henry Parkman High School Home and School and
Alumni Association Bulletin, 1998* / 39

III

- The presentation* / 43
The silver box / 52
The Button Factory / 60
Avilion / 70
The trousseau / 82
The gramophone / 93
Bread day / 103
Black ribbons / 118
The soda / 122

- The cafe* / 129
The Port Ticonderoga Herald and Banner, 1933 / 133
The chenille spread / 135
The Mail and Empire, 1934 / 140
The messenger / 142
The Mail and Empire, 1934 / 150
Horses of the night / 152
Mayfair, 1935 / 156
The bronze bell / 158

V

- The fur coat* / 165
The Weary Soldier / 175
Miss Violence / 185
Ovid's Metamorphoses / 196
The button factory picnic / 206
Loaf givers / 219
Hand-tinting / 233
The cold cellar / 246
The attic / 260
The Imperial Room / 271
The Arcadian Court / 280
The tango / 292

VI

- The houndstooth suit* / 303
Red brocade / 308
The Toronto Star, 1935 / 314
Street walk / 316
The janitor / 323
Mayfair, 1936 / 332
Alien on Ice / 333

The steamer trunk / 345

The Fire Pit / 353

Postcards from Europe / 365

The eggshell hat / 378

Besotted / 386

Sunnyside / 395

Xanadu / 404

VIII

Carnivore stories / 417

Mayfair, 1936 / 426

Peach Women of Aa'A / 428

The Mail and Empire, 1936 / 437

The Top Hat Grill / 439

IX

The laundry / 447

The ashtray / 456

The man with his head on fire / 466

The Water Nixie / 473

The chestnut tree / 484

X

Lizard Men of Xenor / 489

Mayfair, 1937 / 494

Letter from Bella Vista / 496

The tower / 498

The Globe and Mail, 1937 / 502

Union Station / 503

- The cubicle* / 509
The kitten / 514
Beautiful view / 522
Brightly shone the moon / 528
Betty's Luncheonette / 537
The message / 547

XII

- The Globe and Mail, 1938* / 555
Mayfair, 1939 / 557
The Be rage Room / 559
Yellow curtains / 566
The telegram / 570
The destruction of Sakiel-Norn / 572

XIII

- Gloves* / 577
Home fires / 582
Diana Sweets / 588
Escarpment / 598

XIV

- The golden lock* / 607
Victory comes and goes / 612
The heap of rubble / 622

XV

- The Blind Assassin, Epilogue: The other hand* / 631
The Port Ticonderoga Herald and Banner, 1999 / 633
The threshold / 635