

CONTENTS

Foreword	xi
PART I: IN THE WORLD	I
North-west London Blues	3
Elegy for a Country's Seasons	14
Fences: A Brexit Diary	20
On Optimism and Despair	35
PART II: IN THE AUDIENCE	43
Generation Why?	45
The House That Hova Built	64
Brother from Another Mother	74
Some Notes on Attunement	100
Windows on the Will: <i>Anomalisa</i>	117
Dance Lessons for Writers	136
PART III: IN THE GALLERY	149
Killing Orson Welles at Midnight	151
Flaming June	160
'Crazy They Call Me': On Looking at Jerry Dantzig's Photos of Billie Holiday	164
<i>Alte Frau</i> by Balthasar Denner	173
Mark Bradford's <i>Niagara</i>	181

Contents

A Bird of Few Words: Narrative Mysteries in the Paintings of Lynette Yiadom-Boakye	187
The Tattered Ruins of the Map: On Sarah Sze's <i>Centrifuge</i>	201
Getting In and Out	212
PART IV: ON THE BOOKSHELF	225
<i>Crash</i> by J. G. Ballard	227
<i>The Buddha of Suburbia</i> by Hanif Kureishi	236
Notes on <i>NW</i>	248
The <i>Harper's</i> Columns	251
The I Who Is Not Me	333
PART V: FEEL FREE	349
Life-writing	351
The Bathroom	354
Man versus Corpse	366
Meet Justin Bieber!	381
Love in the Gardens	394
The Shadow of Ideas	406
Find Your Beach	420
Joy	427
<i>Afterword</i>	436
<i>Picture Credits</i>	437
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	438
<i>Index</i>	445