Contents

1. Essays	
Blue	3
Shape and Tonal Equilibrium	4
Journey into "(American Journal)"	9
Forces That Move the Spirit	12
Control Is the Mainspring	14
Tough Eloquence	16
It's Always Night	22
Improvised Symmetry	23
Poetry and Inquiry	25
Langston Hughes + Poetry = The Blues	31
Improvisation/Revision	36
A Note to Bloom	38
II. Poems	
Troubling the Water	43
Nude Study	46
Trueblood's Blues	48
Jeanne Duval's Confession	51
Facing It	54

III. Interviews

Lines of Tempered Steel	59
An Interview with Muna Asali	76
Hotbeds and Crossing over Poetic Traditions	85
Still Negotiating with the Images	93
The Body Is Our First Music	107
Yusef Komunyakaa on Etheridge Knight	126
Notations in Blue	135
IV. Explorations	
Tenebrae	147
Shifting Gears	151
New Blues	153
Shot Down	155
Buddy's Monologue	157
Blind Stitches and Notes from First Takes	162