

TED GREENWALD

RIDE THE BIG AIRPLANE

© 2008 Ted Greenwald  
All rights reserved

This piece was presented to poet Tom Raworth on the occasion of his 70th birthday.  
A few photocopies of the author's handwritten manuscript were circulated among friends.

“The loophole never deserts a sinking ship, even if it’s a train.”  
— Something (movie?), can’t remember

“It’s wonderful to be famous as long as you remain unknown.”  
— Degas



It's soap  
Whyn't  
Assure  
Sold on  
Rub amps

Lips at  
Comma  
Don't  
You don't  
Most comma

A phone call  
(Jitters)  
The house  
The country  
The voice

The history of  
A mystery  
A doorway  
(Fidget)  
As shall soon

The doll  
The past  
A past  
The hand  
The given

Look back  
Looking forward  
Lean forward  
Closer  
Closer still

Hang up  
Open anywhere  
The once  
Open anyhow  
Tear along

The fatal night  
What you saw  
You think you saw  
A circle  
The verb of

No weather  
Speaking of  
To speak of  
A shaft  
Spoken light

Look interested  
Even the eyes  
A sharp stick  
The one better-than  
Body that works

Red bird lights  
The roof  
Airport nearby  
A song  
Approaching lights

Zippy jiffy  
A know-about  
Says of  
Driveway gravel  
And although

Gift wept  
A tear  
But an ash  
The words  
Words to

Best undress  
Better tasten  
Not enough  
A go-by  
You can't buy

Only so long  
The air  
The meat  
Falls off  
As yet only

Each is  
Place in  
A child  
Turning into  
Too somehow

A rest  
The mind  
Clear  
Looks like  
Letting up

An average  
Right fit  
A thinner  
Paint  
Already slip

You tell me  
*You tell me*  
What should  
Should be looking  
A swerve

Like to say  
Tag along  
(But can't you)  
Others make do  
Obvious



So begin  
Bumpy  
The just-wrapped  
Is there anyone  
About during

Light follows  
A finger  
A line  
Sounds deep  
The light

Lyrics include  
This is not just  
About me  
The *anymore* me  
Fooling around

Act as a witness  
By early fall  
Put hands out  
(Flashfrozen)  
Scene make good

Come running out  
Visible for miles  
Great fire leaping  
Beautiful something  
Off at the mouth

Complete night  
Begin with  
More like  
Things done  
A fit

The hip  
A former  
Once before  
The secret  
The hip

Stone  
The very words  
Let rumor ate  
The homework  
The dog gone

The eye  
A beholder  
Cup holder  
Fills  
(Freshen)

The facts  
Erase  
Look me up  
Worded  
Base on

Gotta admit  
Then came  
The night  
Never know what  
Plus

Platter fill  
Only you  
Gotcha  
Lite truck  
Long bed

Bodily lui  
A pelican torn  
Dorsement steam  
A pile irony  
Bridge

Last night  
The door behind you  
Don't let  
Go hit on you on the ass  
Lack you wanna

The disaster  
Branch  
Cloud  
Blue  
You gonna

The *it* call  
A day  
The other day  
That *when* afternoon  
In care of

A player  
To be name later  
The later  
The day after  
An after all

Took a cabbage into town  
And mall walks of life  
Kill frequent  
Flyer miles, no earthly  
Many is the time was

E for far  
Comes in lite  
Comes in  
A gun  
Head Head

Turn right  
Left  
Turn a deaf ear  
Flood meadow  
Turn a cloud

Black box  
High blue's  
Signature  
Leg dirigible  
Rain plurals

Be looking  
It's said  
Later culture  
Chop river  
Cloud shadow

Animal sleep  
Transmitter  
Into the forest  
Bad eagle advice  
This is your chance

Dash off  
Sparkle like  
Nerves strike  
Nothing more  
Look toward

A crisis  
A twinge  
An iris clause  
Iris be cause  
And besides

Fingertips on edge  
Circling circling  
But *not* saying  
The word for  
A word

A different person  
Big deal same night  
Not even sure  
Sure, okay for you  
Cast upon bread upon

One more city  
Short forever  
Spoken written  
Famous for  
The Ages

Snow globes  
Hat drop  
Ride right  
Blown recap  
Your A goner

Something to atone  
Ado alone  
Repeatable duco  
Cut grasses thin  
Radio picking up

For once  
Upon timing  
Inconsolable  
Push pull  
Self away

When you runs out  
You run out  
She wrote a long letter  
On a short piece of paper  
And these vermins

It all stats  
As ever all  
A mini-chimp  
Call for tech  
Put, what's

(Hidden) of unknowing  
A briquette secrecy  
Smile excerpts  
Flaming gibberish  
Inside fire yakkers

A study in piano  
Tiptoe  
The amazing journey  
Mystery training wheels  
As we're sitting

Put on hovel  
Dreaming chrome  
Hazy lazy  
*Play ball*  
Name for *was*

Absolute certainty  
Push to egg cream  
East wind rain  
North wind cloudy  
West wind clear

Darning socket  
The group home  
Wear on the grounds  
Heavy at times  
Situation removal

Herbs no blame  
We lite bulb  
Warm sale air  
Moan phonetics  
The day will comb

Invisible glass  
*Horrible shit*  
Plastic receptors  
Walk Talk  
Terrific traffic



A piece of tail  
Makes a kite  
Out of check  
And balance  
Traceless

Common tally votes  
Reds off outta here  
Cycle paths of aperture  
February removal  
Each gust, O three me

Everything  
I trying  
This morning  
Nature paints  
By numbers