JOY CASE / POETRY MANUSCRIPTS

Collected poems

2026

A reading edition

Wording and source line order retained.

Typography and stanza spacing made consistent.

ASSEMBLED FROM THE POETRY SOURCES PROVIDED

Contents & editorial note

1 poem in this volume.
Wording, punctuation, and line order follow the supplied source.
Spacing and typography are unified; long source lines may wrap visually.
Undated calendar-year assignments are editorial estimates, not verified dates.
Exact duplicate copies and non-poem publishing notes were omitted.
Untitled is an editorial label, not an added line of the poem.
Where present, source emoji use Twemoji artwork, CC BY 4.0.

In this volume

Writer’s Block 3

01 / 2026

Writer’s Block

I couldn’t take sides
on level-tipped scales…
hazed happenings
pried my eyes
from soft landings.

In the middle, I was naked.
Showers stung like hot magnets
on spitting coils.

I couldn’t get the haze
to leave me alone
long enough
to forge the steel into sense.

Traces and elements lit
like silver strands,
where synapses and mildew
ensconce.

If only

all at once

back then.

Ink frayed,
tore the scroll,
but not enough to blur
the secret.

I let it go.

It tricked the wise.

Source: outside-the-lines.pdf / p. 12, 13

01 / 2026 / CONTINUED

Writer’s Block

It teased the full.
It tore the fabric
of my soul.

This ancient ruin
I tried to warn
soaked through sheets at night
and finally found its measure
in melting candlelight.

For all who heed
as night befalls
won’t remember the fitful lulls
where poets’ pain
and writer’s block
stalled memoirs
and broke the clocks.

Source: outside-the-lines.pdf / p. 12, 13