

GEORGIC, WITH ECLOGUES FOR INTERROGATORS

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## Eclogue 1

I glanced upper left -- she looked right

I stared left -- she looked left

I glanced lower left -- she stared upper right

I looked upper right -- she looked lower left

she glanced upper right -- I stared right

I looked lower left -- she looked lower right

## Eclogue 2

I GLANCED LOWER RIGHT -- she stared right -- I looked right -- she glanced lower right -- I looked upper right -- SHE STARED UPPER RIGHT -- I stared lower left -- she stared lower left -- I glanced left -- she glanced lower right --I looked upper left -- SHE STARED LEFT

## Poison Ivy

may its adipose leaves zero out at 8 am  
may its baneful leaves yellow at 9 am  
may its corruptive leaves be X-ed out at 10 am  
may its deleterious leaves wizen at 11 am  
may its elastic leaves vanish at 12 pm  
may its filmy leaves un-exist at 1 pm  
may its gooey leaves tarnish at 2 pm  
may its hostile leaves shrivel at 3 pm  
may its icky leaves rarefy at 4 pm  
may its jagged leaves quit at 5 pm  
may its keen leaves poop out at 6 pm  
may its lubricious leaves oxidize at 7 pm  
may its morbid leaves neutralize at 8 pm  
may its noisome leaves melt at 9 pm  
may its oleaginous leaves languish at 10 pm  
may its powdery leaves keel over at 11 pm  
may its quarrelsome leaves junk themselves at 12 am  
may its rugged leaves injure themselves at 1 am  
may its septic leaves hush at 2 am  
may its tenacious leaves gag at 3 am  
may its ugly leaves fuck-off at 4 am  
may its viperous leaves evaporate at 5 am  
may its waxy leaves disintegrate at 6am  
may its xenophobic leaves collapse at 7 am  
may its yeasty leaves black out at 8am  
may its zesty leaves attack themselves at 9 am

Do not let your arm hang too far off the mattress or your elbow will ache in the morning.

Talk to yourself in your normal tone of voice, not in the fake Australian accent.

Leave time to enjoy your morning bowel movement.

Do not rinse the thermos out immediately after pouring out hot liquid or it will make that “pong” sound.

Never waste time talking to people who want money for the police.

Do not read the newspaper horoscope. If someone else starts to read yours out loud, leave the room.

When trying to determine what is on your finger, smell, rather than lick, it.

See if the girl will dance to Webern.

If a pill falls on the counter when you are getting out your medicine, be sure to take that pill.

## Fly

I heard a fly buzz 121 years after Emily Dickinson died.

No more than ten (10) magnets on the refrigerator: remember electro-magnetic pulse.

The ball-point pen should lay either parallel to but not touching the bottom of the paper or on the paper parallel with and within two inches of margin line.

Use a new razor for the first time only on a Saturday or a Sunday.

Wait until there are at least five (5) plastic water jugs empty before flattening them to be put in a garbage bag for recycling.

Should you kick a water jug accidentally, you may flatten either that one or the whole group, regardless of number.

Wipe you hands on you hips, not your front pockets.

After dark, be within four (4) steps of the nearest flashlight.

T-shirts should have pockets.

You may wear a shirt for the second day in a row only if on the first day you wore it for less than four (4) hours and did not sweat much, only if you are going to different places, and only if you are not likely to see anyone who saw you the day before.

## Eclogue 3

I glared lower right -- she blinked

I glanced upper left -- she blinked

## Eclogue 4

she looked straight head

I focused left

she stared straight ahead

I glared lower right

I peered upper right

she focused lower right

I looked straight ahead

**SHE LOOKED RIGHT**

she looked left

I glanced lower right

**I LOOKED STRAIGHT AHEAD**

she stared straight ahead

## Aviary

that oven-bird just answered a call.  
that sharp-shinned hawk just grunted.  
that northern flicker just went ah-ah.  
that spotted sandpiper just said morning George.  
that ruby-throated hummingbird just left a visiting card.  
that long-eared owl just buried a Quaker.  
that catbird just made a Tom.  
that tufted titmouse just went upstairs.  
that ruffed grouse just went for a walk with a spade.  
that brown creeper just let out its Hong Kong dog.  
that black rail just posted a letter.  
that bobwhite just worked a sit-down job.  
that pintail just visited the Chic sale.  
that cerulean warbler just shook its ashes out.  
that black-throated green warbler just shot a dunk.  
that worm-eating warbler just opened its medicine.  
that snowy egret just tilled some nightsoil.  
that least flycatcher just sat on the throne.  
that blue grosbeak just pearled some cement.  
that little blue heron just did a rural.  
that veery just dropped its wax.  
that marsh pullet just cast its pellet.  
that white-eyed vireo just oozed honey.  
that royal tern just shot a torpedo.  
that wood pewee just blew.

Store different copies of the same book in different rooms.

You may wear boxer shorts outside to check if you left something in the car if the shorts are dark and can be mistaken for gym shorts from a distance.

Pre-heating is optional.

Pee before starting the DVD.

Floss the upper teeth first.

Set the time on the answering machine a minute ahead of the actual time you start, since it will take you a minute to complete the task.

Blue or black ink work equally well.

Do not, on any account, wear one of those Peruvian knit caps with ear-flaps.

Do not worry about blacksnakes.

## Cicada

Most of what I call “thinking” is just listening to a dial tone

No need to use a new sponge until the old sponge splits.

Wash your hands after touching the bottle of weed spray.

Try to shoo a hornet out the door; try to kill any wasp in the house.

Do not back the car onto the concrete patio.

Pour cream or milk into the coffee slowly and stop when the first paleness swirls up to the surface from below.

If you use a paper towel to squash an ant, tear as much off an individual piece as you think you'll need, leaving the rest of the piece on the roll for later.

Do not place a spoon that has been in contact with olive oil back on the spoon holder.

If the dust-bunny is larger than your thumb nail, pick it up and put it in the garbage immediately.

Turn off the coffee maker before pushing down the toaster's lever.

## Eclogue 5

I blinked -- she blinked  
I blinked -- she blinked  
she blinked --I blinked  
I glanced lower right -- she blinked  
she blinked -- I blinked  
I blinked -- she stared straight ahead

## Eclogue 6

She stared straight ahead -- I blinked  
She stared straight ahead -- I stared straight ahead

## Mimosa

The mimosa stilled me with its velutinous fluff and then it soothed me with its furry down and then it lulled me with its ruffled plume and then it hushed me with its fuzzy crest and then it clarified me with its unshorn fringe and then it whisked me with its bristly pelt and then it flailed me with its raspy quills and then it scoured me with its asperous bristles.

Always have at least one (1) box fan running to provide white noise.

Remove everything from the sink before you use Goo Gone, so when you wash your hands nothing will get on a plate or a fork and you won't erode your intestines and bleed to death.

If you step on a wet spot on the floor, keep your foot on the wet spot and look at the ceiling to see if there's a leak.

Hit the yellow jacket with the shoe one (1) extra time after you're convinced that it's dead.

If you hear a noise in the garbage can, investigate.

Blow your nose before applying skin medicine, so you don't immediately wipe the medicine off.

Shave before brushing your teeth to give yourself time to assess the damage.

It is not necessary to put on deodorant if you're not going anywhere.

If the banana is still edible, eat it.

### Yellow Lilly

I feel the way I feel when someone says call me and I say I will but I know the person doesn't really want me to call and I know I won't.

Take off your glasses before you blow your nose.

Take the Pop-Tart on the left out of the toaster first.

If you phone someone, count the rings so you can hang up before the machine answers.

If the DVD is three hours long, take two nights to watch it.

Use a ball-point pen, point retracted, rather than the scissors to scratch between your shoulder blades.

After opening the salsa, put the lid back on and shake the jar, since you forgot to do it before opening the jar.

The 5-second rule (real time = 20 seconds) holds good for all edibles except those that have rolled under the refrigerator or stove but are still reachable.

Do not watch a David Cronenberg movie if you are feeling emotionally vulnerable.

Avoid the terms "flick" and "joint" when referring to film.

## Eclogue 7

she glanced left I glanced right she glanced upper left I glanced lower right she glanced  
lower left I glanced upper left she glanced upper right I glanced left she glanced lower  
right I glanced lower left she glanced right I glanced upper right

## Eclogue 8

she stared left -- I stared left  
she stared left -- I stared left  
she stared left -- I stared left  
she stared left -- I stared left  
she stared left -- I stared left  
she glanced lower left -- I glanced lower right

## Chicory

In Novalis's novel *Henry von Ofterdingen*, the finder of the blue flower will see in it the face of his own not-yet-found true beloved. That's fine, but really all I want is a good cup of coffee.

If you have to comb your hair more than three (3) times in one day, you need to examine your life.

Once you start to take a dump, keep going: don't try to stop to answer the phone.

When cleaning gunk from the outside of your ear, start at the top of your ear and run your finger down the main trough.

Never eat an uncooked hot dog.

Never eat a hot dog in any state.

Always have two (2) Kleenex in your t-shirt pocket.

You can't have too many of those heavy orange extension cords.

Shave your mustache even if you don't shave the rest of your face so you won't get Kleenex fuzz between your mouth and nose.

Gray tube socks will do for any occasion.

## The Nettle

The nettle's thorn rebuked me but then its axial organs prodding the clay galvanized me but then its needles reproached me but then its radicles thrusting through the grime roused me but then its spikes cautioned me but then its tubers ramming through the sludge thrilled me but then its pricks chided me but then its cambial activity jabbing the dust incited me but then its spicules upbraided me but then its nubs poking the loam provoked me but then its spurs warned me but then its wurzels raiding the ooze titillated me but then its barbs scolded me but then its laterals jamming the muck goaded me.

Make lists.

## Eclogue 9

I looked upper right -- she looked upper right  
I looked upper right -- she looked upper right  
she blinked -- I blinked  
she looked upper right -- I looked upper right  
she looked upper right -- I looked upper right  
I blinked -- she blinked

## Eclogue 10

I pretended to be asleep -- she blinked  
I blinked -- she pretended to be asleep