

# Silly Old Man Acting the Young Fool

*by* Darryl Price

The green on your shoulder  
Is worth all their papery property taxes  
And then some. They cash in every friendship  
As if it were nothing more than a

Ripened apple for pie. Get rid of  
The thing before it begins to  
Rot into some unworthiness. But that doesn't make our  
Merriment in each other's company any the less

Appealing on this fine sunny  
Afternoon. That's all I'm saying and  
That's all I'm after. I've lived to this  
Buzzing moment here with you and find any

Painful stab in the road's rib  
Has been worth it. The sun,  
Even this wounded one, is not frozen to the  
Sky for anyone special, but I'll paint a little

Picture and hang it on  
A cloudy wind just for fun decoration.  
It doesn't have to be an enormous hit  
Song you know, it's just how I feel

About being here with you.  
Well, I see the green has

Sparkled over into fading golden waves. I'm equally delighted  
To make your acquaintances. Here we go again. Ah.  
Well.

Bonus poems:

We Are Sly

We are sly, they tell us so, but they don't know us.  
It's so hard to believe in anything they say. The world is  
full of wars that ended the world, but you're still always on  
your own. That's about all there is to know, and you can  
discover it a dozen different ways. Climb a rock, surf an ocean,  
haunt a heart. These days have all been ceremoniously named and  
the

saddest hours have been shackled, cooked and reconstituted, but  
the snow covered

hills you followed on your way home from school may not be  
there the next time you look for it. The picture becomes the  
ruined launderette. The picture becomes a map that doesn't make  
much sense.

The picture becomes something you used to cover up your head.  
The

picture becomes a beautiful dream lost in a paper bag. We are

sly, but they are disappointed in everything. We are sly, but we  
don't hate anyone for the sport of it. Maybe that is a  
repetitive plea for help, but it's sincere. The laughing world  
changed course

without any sailors being honored for their service just the same.  
The

picture becomes a danger to yourself. Even the rain is blue  
without  
you in its parade, but that's another empty apartment. Now  
there's this.

## How Many

by Darryl Price

How many guns are enough bright pain? How many to  
Make your deaf ears stop caring less  
About what's happening out in the streets?  
How many guns before  
You have renewed strength to lift your  
Heavy hearts up again for more than  
The hungry and poor? How many guns

Before you elect to unlearn how to be a hateful  
Bastard? All these words don't say what  
I mean. How many guns getting us  
Into a hell of  
A mess before the road disappears and  
We can't come home? It's not a  
Trick question. I want to know. How

Many guns are showing you any real affection right now?  
When you look into the mirror, how  
Many guns do you see? How many  
Guns gliding above our  
Personal landscapes? How many guns appearing in  
Your words? How many guns in your  
Mother's eyes? How many guns sending a

Small ray of light out into the world? We're not

Better than the rest. How many guns  
Sing in the wind like the body  
Of a woman in  
Love? How many guns more like a  
Long cold drink of leftover coffee than  
The delicate personality of a soft wild

Flower? How many guns comfort the dying? How many guns  
Keep smiling at us? I'm upset. How  
Many guns think about killing themselves? How  
Many guns know me?  
How many guns dissolving into summertime butterflies?  
How many guns have you ordered? How  
Many guns are too angry to look

Inside your mind for your heart, to look your child  
In the eye? How many guns put  
The smell of smoke in the air?  
Many guns take away  
Our friends forever. How many guns make  
A little love? How many guns breaks  
Your spirit? How many guns causes your

Compassion to grow darker? How many guns does it take  
To end the world in a hail  
Of gunfire? How many guns is enough?  
Melt the guns with  
Us. Melt the guns with patience. Melt  
The guns with pleasure and delight. Melt  
The guns in freedom. With generous conviction.

