Probably the Secret Police
and Other Slices

Nick Eisen

Published by William Cornelius Harris Publishing

In collaboration

with

London Poetry Books.

Supporting Mental Health in Performing Arts

ISBN 978-1-911232-04-9

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c/o Open Door, 224 Jamaica Road, London SE16

www.londonpoetrybooks.com

London Poetry Books

Extract onlyTo my family, friends and companions – thank you

Note: In this book I quote from Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad and from William Shakespeare. Another piece (White) was inspired by a newspaper article from the 1980s. I also make reference to the songs Santa Claus Is Coming to Town, Ghost Riders in the Sky and, from Robert Louis Stevenson’s Treasure Island, Fifteen Men on a Dead Man’s Chest. Questions about this or other matters can be addressed to me c/o the publishers.

` Contents

Millions of People 1

Love 4

Art Machine 6

Good Boy 8

Probably the Secret Police 10

Solitary Confinement in a Paperback Book 11

Soviet Penicillin (1) 12

Soviet (2) 15

White 16

Room full of People 18

Redeemer 19

Can I Kiss You 20

Instants 22

Picture of a Kit 23

DIY 25

Cinderella and the Fairy Godfather 27

Ho Ho Frigging Ho, 29

The Quality of Life 31

Look, I’m Listening 33

Moonshine 34

Blue 36

Trip to Scenario’s 37

The Shirt of Nessus 39

**Millions of People**

Millions of people

going to work

into the tunnel

on the train

under the city

into the station

day after day

again and again

minute by minute

counting the seconds

just get a move-on

late again

crowded in carriages

standing room only

shoulder to shoulder

pushing and shoving

hating and loving

avoiding each other

missing a lover

trying to find

some personal space

looking at papers

looking at ads

face to face

breathing each other

don’t look at me

earplugs in

listen to music

don’t talk to me

hunter and hunted

wandering hands

leave me alone

you dirty scum...

Day after day

millions of people

going to work

into the tunnel

on the train

second by second

again and again...

Here and there

one or two

noticing someone

minute by minute

under the city

every so often

day after day

catching an eye

just for a moment

don’t say a word

turning away

absolute strangers

closer than bedfellows

closer than family

closer than partners

closer than enemies

minute by minute

day after day

under the city

again and again

millions and millions

and millions and millions

and millions and millions

and millions and millions

and millions and millions

and millions and millions

and millions of people

going to work

into the tunnel

on the train

under the city

into the station

day after day

again and again and again and again

minute by minute

second by second

one by one

this one by this one

catching an eye

now and then

day after day

could this be the love of your life?

got to say something

in the station

now or never

gotta be now

gotta be now

gotta be now

gotta be now

Can I buy you a coffee?

Product Details

**ISBN 9781911232049**

**Copyright Nick Eisen (Standard Copyright Licence)**

**Edition first**

**Publisher William Cornelius Harris Publishung**

**Published 21 February 2017**

**Language English**

**Pages 44**

**Binding Perfect-bound Paperback**

**Interior Ink Black & white**

**Weight 0.11 kg**

**Dimensions (centimetres) 14.81 wide x 20.98 tall**