

Gay Studies (in 69 Lessons)

Jacob Sunter

TWO MISUNDERSTANDINGS: THIRTEEN

naval gazed for eleven minutes and forty-eight seconds
naval gazing is catholic slang for masturbation

FOUR AND A HALF EXCUSES: FIRST BLOWJOB, RECEIVED

nerves (anatomical)
nerves (the affect)
history (of smoking)
history (so sad)
I am used to naval gazing

TWO AND A HALF EPIPHANIES: FIRST BLOWJOB, GIVEN

any penis is a big penis at eye level
will eat anything for the right amount of money
floss more

FIVE THEORIES: YOU WALKING BESIDE ME

bad luck
a small city
the snacks I keep in my pocket
you are studying anthropology
friend

ON CORRECT TERMINOLOGY

desire: to walk on a singed heel
e.g. I desire.
Ouch!

FIRST KISS IN THREE ANALOGIES

two desert islanders sucking the meat from the ocean's last crab leg
Edwardian dentistry
jello fight

ON MEN

get off now

FOUR UNFINISHED POEMS: TWELVE TO SIXTEEN

I am
the
if only
Deciduous

FIVE NEW THEORIES: YOU SLEEPING BESIDE ME

intent to kill
homelessness
the snacks I keep in my pillow
love
an elaborate fall

BETWEEN: OUR BACKS

the longing to turn

TWO MINOR INCONVENIENCES AND ONE CATASTROPHE IN THIRTY-SEVEN LETTERS

This town has no flavour [said the wife of Lot]
Give us a twirl [said Eurydice to Orpheus]
Night [said the back to my front]

THREE QUESTIONS: DILDO SHOPPING

where's the fitting room?
what policy?
dad?

TWO ADDITIONS: SHOPPING BASKET

lyre, golden
salt, in phallic pillar

SIX UNFINISHED POEMS: YOUR BEDROOM CEILING

the body is made of noises
honk honk
boing
a-wooo-ga
I wore two hands
no longing

ON HUMAN ANATOMY

does this look normal to you?
and this?

THREE MISUNDERSTANDINGS: SEVENTEEN

fifty meant his age
no longing
looks normal

ON CORRECT TERMINOLOGY

fun is something people have
for example
people are having fun as if fun were a snack in my parent's kitchen
or a fatal diagnosis delivered by a movie doctor
I'm sorry. *Beat*. You have fun.

EIGHT CHAPTERS TO SEXUAL MATURITY

seeing Josh Hutcherson in *The Bridge to Terabithia*
seeing Josh Hutcherson in *Zathura*
seeing Josh Hutcherson in *The Hunger Games*
seeing Josh Hutcherson in *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*

seeing Josh Hutcherson in *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I*
seeing Josh Hutcherson in *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part II*
seeing Josh Hutcherson's jaw
seeing other people

ON CORRECT TERMINOLOGY: FISHING AND GRAMMAR

a question is a fishhook with the line unfastened
? – with it you catch things
the catch will reek of shit and blood
and ocean

ON SHIT AND BLOOD

get off now

ON OCEAN

HELP!

TEN ATTITUDES: THE FIRST UNDRRESSING

remove trousers before shoes
hop flaccidly on hardwood
look down at a body that has never received direct sunlight
laugh when penis is compared to a ghost
imagine a poltergeist that topples antique furniture
imagine a basement damp with retired hauntings
can you put fake tan on an uncut penis?
ask this as a moral question

TWO AMENDMENTS: FISHING AND GRAMMAR

a man is a worm on the end of a question
with it you catch things
two twenties and one ten
hair in teeth
burning when you poltergeist

crabs
poetic itch

SEVENTY-NINE EMBARRASMENTS: ONE CONVERSATION

How do you unwind?
I spin really fast.
Do you believe in God?
To do what exactly?
What vegetable do you most identify with?
Now you've stumped me.
[seventy-six redactions]

BETWEEN: QUESTION AND ANSWER

the appearance of a yellow notepad
rubber-tipped pencil
thirty seconds of scratching

ONE THEORY: WHY I AM LIKE THIS

my life is very easy except for the fact that it is also very hard
the hardest even
because I am the only person who has nothing to actually complain about

ELEVEN OBJECTS OF LONGING: SIXTEEN

fun (to have)
sex (to have)
snack (to eat)
lyre (to play)
hook (to catch)
Josh (to have)
salt (to be)
a movie doctor and a fatal diagnosis (to be not)
tan (to resuscitate)

Josh (to have again)
something (to complain about)

LOVE IN THREE SIDE EFFECTS

a sudden enjoyment of poems that rhyme
thinking only in onomatopoeia
diarrhoea

ONE HONEST LOVE POEM

clang
sizzle
woosh
eek
bark
splat
ooft
ahem
aooooooooOOOOOOOOoo
does this look normal to you?

THREE SOLUTIONS: TO BEING IN LOVE

wriggle legs
haul body forward with a nearby branch
yell: aooooooooOOOOOOOOoo

ON CORRECT TERMINOLOGY

pride
I gather
is something you take
like sugar in coffee
or IT up the ass

pride is mostly undeserved

hence the taking
and storing it elsewhere
pride in school
pride in work
pride in my sock drawer

no abstract noun can be virtuous
if easily detected by a sniffer dog
or
my catholic father

FOUR THINGS THE CATHOLICS GOT RIGHT

shame
wall art
that golden nutsack of incense
dramatic timing

QUIZ: MATCH THE INGREDIENT TO THE DISH

lemon zest	first rimjob
shit	first bike
fungi	first communion
daddy	first mistake
metal	first blowjob
semen	first word
latte with two sugars	first date

QUIZ: THE QUESTION TO THE ANSWER

how long?	in metric or imperial
how long?	eleven minutes and forty-eight seconds
how long?	thirteen billion
how long?	too long

QUIZ: THE FLIRTATION TO THE SETTING

is that a dildo in your pocket or are you just happy to see me? church
your nutsack is burning adult store

OUR FIRST TIME IN EIGHT STAGE DIRECTIONS

(ecstatic)
(with larval uncertainty)

(howling)
(in unison)

(turn)
(upstage)

(hideous)
(with honesty)

QUIZ (STAR GAZING): THE OBJECT TO THE SIMILE

stars burning	like collisions on tarmac
stars burning	like posthumous fame
stars burning	like Steinbeck's unfinished sequel, <i>Grapes of Ass</i>
haemorrhoids	like peepholes to nothing

THE SET-UP TO THE PUNCHLINE

and I left	with poems (all bad)
you left	with haemorrhoids (also all bad)
a better poet	would see no difference

IN: RECOLLECTION

I study my ass in the bathroom mirror as you sort through half-dead verbs on the bed

some must watch while some must live [a better poet]

HATRED IN THREE SIDE EFFECTS

plotting revenge in rhyming couplets

thinking only in onomatopoeia

diarrhoea

GAY SEX FOR SMOKERS

lick

roll

butt-to-mouth

GAY SEX FOR ANIMAL LOVERS

anteater

shiatzu

swallow

GAY SEX FOR FAILED PHILOSOPHY STUDENTS

go Hardegger

Hardegger

even Hardegger

GAY SEX FOR STRAIGHT PEOPLE

save it for cheat day

and maybe keep your shoes on

GAY SEX FOR JACOB HENRY SUNTER

not a poem

but a call to action

so call me

TWO DIFFERENCES: LOVE AND REVENGE

one you plot

and the other you fall into
poetry could be avoided
if people just watched where they were going

note: hire people-seeking-revenge as urban planners (less falling)

FOUR CONDITIONS: THE SECOND UNDRRESSING

no penetration
no overhead lighting
no sounds we can help
no! you cannot shatter the built-in-wardrobe with mirrored doors

there in the glass
I am pale and stupid

I scream FENNEL

YOUR PENIS IN THREE ANALOGIES

an unfeathered bird (waiting erect for a chewed-up breakfast)
my penis
any penis
(no one is special)

ON BIRDS

cool huh?

ON TREES

also cool!

ON BIRDS ON TREES

shut the fuck up!

OUR SECOND TIME IN SIX STAGE DIRECTIONS

(light moaning)

(muffled by armpit)

(downstage left)

(downstage right)

(static)

(like fennel)

QUIZ (THE SEVENTEENTH TIME): MATCH THE VERB TO THE SIMILE

brush like searching a bookcase for a secret hollow

spank like vegetation

FOUR NEW THEORIES: YOU SLEEPING BESIDE ME FOR THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIVE DAYS

an elaborate joke orchestrated by a nemesis or family member

not mutually exclusive

I kidnapped you by accident

please leave and so sorry

I am good, if not very good, in bed

I open the sheet for the person behind me

I say please and thank you

I act as though my grandmother is watching

you are stuck with no branches

NINE MISTAKEN THINGS: TWENTY-FOUR

I mistook

reading

for literary talent

lists

for poems
stomach ulcers
for love
I mistook
love
for literary talent
talent
for work
work
for stomach ulcers
I mistook
hands
for thread
and bloodstains
for a mark of good character
I mistook Nic Cage
for Nic Cave
that one killed me

THE ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE: FOR IDIOT QUEERS

two drunk virgins collide in the dark
what's so sticky?
god that's big!
the first light flatters no particle
they sprint in opposite directions for 13 billion years

ON CORRECT TERMINOLOGY

slut *noun* (formal)
a person who upholds their cosmic heritage to fuck and turn away
e.g. my grandma had a mug that said we are all recycled stardust
so I think we should no longer see each other

FOUR QUESTIONS: ON “ANONYMOUS” SEX

middle name?

first name?

opinions on anthropomorphic vegetables?

what pit of knowledge will make the man whose tongue is latched to my armpit

finally known?

FOUR THEORIES: KEEPING MY SHOES ON

uncut toenails

a fetish for lace

he seemed like the kind of guy who enjoys sucking feet

for running

FOUR THEORIES: MYSELF

from great distances: man

from ground: bulb of fennel

from up-close: warm-blooded question

from pavement: a body of chewed up noise

ONE ATTEMPT AT CAR HUMOUR

on the left: dad

on the right: a body of chewed up noise

(or man)

(or question)

(or warm-blooded fennel)

funny that these strangers should end up parent and child

(hold for laughter)

(still holding)

(holding still)

ON HUMAN ANATOMY

below the stomach
is a briefcase of knotted eels
below the briefcase of knotted eels
is the choreography to “Me Against the Music” by Britney Spears feat. Madonna
below the choreography to “Me Against the Music” by Britney Spears feat. Madonna
is the knowledge that I will never speak French

TWO EYE-WITNESSES: ON LOVE

I felt an incision from my naval to my throat
and I watched my vital organs tumble from the cavity like a tipped-over fruit stand
no butterflies

ON CORRECT TERMINOLOGY

love *noun* (vulgar)
to chase one’s spleen through highway traffic
to play tug-of-war with lower intestine (against pack of rabid sled dogs)

I learned to apologise for the trail of bloody spillage like a hot person late for air travel
So sorry. *Beat*. I'm a total klutz.

FOUR THINGS LEARNED WHILE LOVING

the average penis length is 5.1 to 5.5 inches
men are bad at numeracy
still no French
you can scramble a human kidney on the roadside in summer

ON CORRECT TERMINOLOGY

time *noun* (origin: everywhere)
a big wet dripping knot
e.g. time and love made a great red spill
how cruel that I am not yet a fossil

BENEATH: THE KNOWLEDGE THAT I WILL NEVER SPEAK FRENCH

the first first time
a fossil

TWO THEORIES: ON LAUGHTER

evidence (that I am here)
evidence (that you are with me)

SEVEN THEORIES: THE FIRST FIRST TIME

I wanted something to complain about
people enjoy a stereotype
I am fun
 and fun is had
stuck with no branches
good in bed
I'm a total klutz
an elaborate fall

SO: MANY

things to look at
and all from the garbage of

TWO PARTICLES RUNNING

was I a boy?
what does size matter?

A LOT WHEN YOU ARE SMALL

YOU HAWK

I sparrow
you sparrow
I hawk

WE BUILD

our nest from feathers

(hold still)

(still holding)

Jacob Sunter is a PhD candidate in English and Film at the University of Adelaide. His research explores the visual and literary history of Fire Island, New York. Call him.