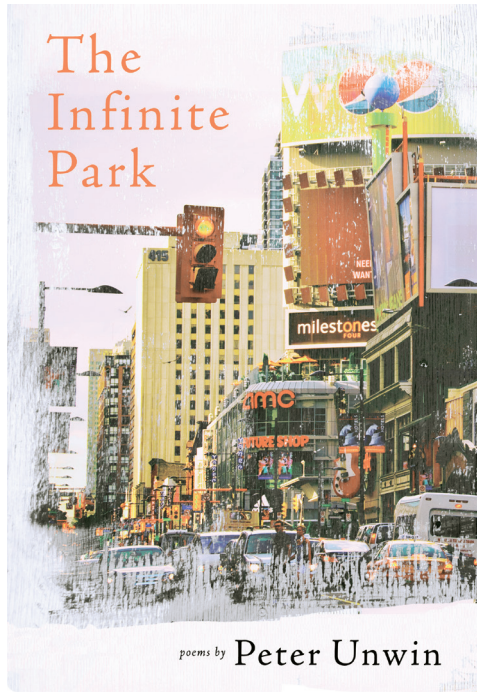


Sample Poems from *The Infinite Park* by Peter Unwin



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WITHOUT YOU

I'm afraid that without you the cat
will get out of the bag. The horse
will escape the barn and the bats will exit
hell in a hurry. Without you I'm afraid
that a journey of a million miles will be reduced

to something we do one step at a time
and that no amount of rainwater
will make the garden grow again.
Please promise not to take up residence
in that neighbourhood no one comes back from.

The rents are out of whack there and children
are not allowed to holler in the hallways.
Please attend to me where I live in this
run-down house. At least here there is still room
to hide the dirt beneath the carpets.

CONSIDER THE BEDSIDE TABLE

As if the bed isn't bad enough
consider the bedside table
the indiscretions it has witnessed;
the evidence that lies on top of it
the diaries that tell all, the lovers
who placed their contraceptives there
waiting for the right moment.

The bed is bad but the bedside table
is where it starts; the first place they dust
for fingerprints, the glass of water
that washes down God knows what
now contains countless bubbles of what
appears to be air.

Whose earrings are those anyways
and what are they doing on my bedside table?
Between the bed and the bedside table
A whole family can go missing.

YESTERDAY

Things are better today
than yesterday
thank god

Yesterday
with its circumstances
and failed romances
was enough to kill
an elephant

Maybe not the elephant
that's made itself at home
in my living room
but most elephants

Let's just say
yesterday is no longer
relevant

If I can live
with an elephant
in my living room
I can live

with what happened
yesterday.