READY TERMS

ROBERT MITTENHAL

TSUNAMI EDITIONS
Tsunami Editions are published by
Lary Bremner, #3 - 1727 William Street
Vancouver, B.C. Canada. V5L 2R5

Cover design by Lynn Hamrick.
Typesetting by Olav Martin Kvern.

Thanks to Lynn, Lary, and Ole, and to the editors of Writing
(Colin Browne), TYUONYI (Phillip Foss), Hambone (Nathaniel
Mackey), and Raddle Moon (Susan Clark and Jeff Derksen) in
which some of these poems first appeared.

Copyright 1989, Robert Mittenthal

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data
Mittenthal, Robert
READY TERMS

Poems.
1. Title
PS3563.l87R42 1989 811'54 C89-091103-7
Dear Initials

No letter will do within words
what I see. Needling space fills
dragging out what isn't, which is most
clearly in an honest site repaired.
The no competes with now
and now that I've read I'm reifying, I am
which is a problem of all reading.
Pants fall down in disbelief and fear
displaces pleasure, but pleasure equals
a pronounced suspension I am.
Curious to begin, what community or writing
isn't flattered obsession, some headline
or critical mess that announces
there's no place to stop,
there's nothing between us.
Without Fishing For Initials

I can't implies mores
simulation as forged

assiduous life is always near
where heards mark cymbals

In effect creolizes themselves

Pop strength baskets fish
to sink donut futures as body

basins up Marsh lands another

I’ll swim through this absence
test the pole of actual ones
to infer predetermined lengths

Deciduous following favors change

To leave as hunted still humming
pteroid reader flinging bone

this responsive jumping protrudes
as if one sense on the next

quickeened silence
where darkness

populates the hinterlands
A sea squirt cups handles
to allege journey meaning

places to speak along
the fool’s progress

loyalty aloud drinks
indulgence

straight-club
honey-drone
syncope
A Present Formula

A present formula imposed
is the manner replaced

It's more material to you
a child to clothe itself in precise examples

Free to control some mirror image of an imported body
rubbed off alternating current to deny the flavor

So power is thought raised to which
provided philosophy is absorbed work

Danger is a star between and looks intact
to employ the old thing

First force whose use
clothes embraced

The ends of me with
words I was reluctant to wear

I stores itself in a business
modesty controls

Sacrifice was a different story
lines of weakness stem

Legs of houses, a flood
produces a gulf in the horizon

Focused information to mature
place

A name surveys a strategy
and lives in different nouns

As the arms shift hands
the distant sound signifies them

An alarm equal to the distant us
smoking signals that clip

Nature to shift tents
silent in the state of reading

A formula looks to avert looking
shelters an urgency undressed
Bridge of Disaster

To throw across a river
suspension. Mark way a bridle-bit
one's passions, measured brightness
to look misfortune into action.

Of health difficulties as a button
contracts, a gap to play
action against solid works.
An apparatus of winding in one

fashion a string of disease.
Hardened-leg hinge to crane

the chief ear, to sell
the storm of things, house on

fire. O rain the seasons
occasions offer. First June of wood,
to chance the bark of opinion
to sleep at work on time

with your shoes virtue all virtue
success, the best hearing—a fool—
to die straight against the laws
of courtesy. Word is one

sense of justice. These private ends a number, every failure to
signal public headed for a loss.
Winter's abscess—rivers that
discharge all responsibility. Our
sight to treat transmission
station winking-light, under
coupled aerial. A mind its hands
on gloves, business being done.
Identity scent slipped into bankruptcy

with between from a place between.
No one can come separated by
rushing. Stay, you will find
no hotel. Part the way to the
ear, affection. The best known
question appointed itself. Betting

one would ill-find once late.
Seized a certain day each train

set off impressions. Stiff
marks of paper each big-boned picture
beams. Stones defend dams. The grid
pumped flat lets the scene
grow, it raised or stirred one's last "I am"
authority—square rule to wheel's edge.

Stick no child with consequences.
Vocational rickshaw is its property
system. Nothing praises. Even the
church in the Rhine at the back of
a picture. An attack folded
the sound in every bullet. With a
flea in your ear, turning to land
talking pictures, a will

will stress, to internally
angle holy orders. Shorts

sanity held to watch someone address
the picture—its equivalents of sin.

obstacles a trick, procession well
legs an orphan, applied to

length where a boat crops
so much a week hinges.

Selling Liberty

Between strongly to stand out.
A sum of money to form
quite a bridge for breach of
design. A little gadget marriage
of wounds cause. A private
state map (line) contorted.

Existence of an interest one's
share with success a sentence.
Cast a painter, a house, a
life become intent. The sea
in a net, its wings firmly.
Without pencils a smaller

angel is dead. She sent a
letter to get your goat or
tries to help a spoon in
your mouth. The point-anchor
rings its lips, forgiving
forgiveness. If you need me

in the sinews of war, as
ugly as "sex", appointed
propriety rubbing the letters
raw. Inadequately turned, he
hasn't a penny to test you
with. And with splendid goods
thirst consumed. Take for one's
look to feel so constituted—
earth-man of talent's desire

with the five points together,
without speaking contains a scene.
Fashion something ground in

subject: terms strictly cash.
The answer is negative.
This word not stinging mine

makes me be that kind of
business. Its right or
left hand under a price for

matter into something. To die
at this remark step forward
and retire. A stencil is the

course put in—to flash
against oneself. Slopes
dive in indignation,

down one gear, a stepped
phrase—chased to fast
a current career. A cipher

of classic ignorance, its
sunshine on prejudice. Or
on a house into one's words

eating you. I was going out
for slack of dough—the chamber
rent echoed. Stand at ease,
Tempered As Even

Tempered as even each phrase
refers to a chair made to read in

Letting past the questions that answer
an instruct of each resist

Have to, towards being writing
creatures, what dreams cry mute

approach sounds it entirely if
it isn’t (a recipe) what is it

My people are what words
arrange into things or nations

urge control, repeated mistakes
so if not poetry atop itself

then the links which imprison speak between toggles
With brief success ballast

props the sway, holds in the hull
the plug we’re abusing

Social Pointer

Always title desire sub-
stance relevant as placed

laughing because weave would
mean a specific infinity

or distortions proof of poem
knowing eye, naming

against the horses—predictability
rejects sensations of travel

because a man doesn’t talk
on Tuesdays with something to show

You leave the motor alone

and don’t notice who’s reading—
me now, association before rubbed out

eyes hearing the changes ears possess
strange but garments hunted

this hard radiant string
or should this fracture be receptive

as freedom ties entire dedicates
awake, enough to ask Skinny

“is that your anything today”

only one sentence long
in their excitement to power
Like Life Light

I
This is an elbow, a tree, green as a given noun. There is in color
one different sound. The carbon light traps against one’s face.
Counting to one, the neighbors are counted. One copy each at the
speed life pictures. When features branch matter in use to shadow,
the gray descends, full of color. To close, one eyes and reads a
shadow. Another stares down to a river. A single tone opposes
the gray.

II
There is something else in terms of surprise. Midday
specifications of ordinary flowers. What petals project. In saying
no, one could know its chorus occasions. Lamps tilt to north,
difficult blank a magnet of the current proportions. To call itself
sinking in a world, a person choosing the proper thing to copy,
hands back what history swallows. The instructions: to defuse a
bomb use two fingers or lose them. Light passes under the river
and surrounds you.

III
Adjusted daily, memories focus on someone’s attentions. Two
hands sleeping. A river’s reflection at a point light evens. Is the
stark white importance a boundary reference meets? These severs
finger glass, no pierced light to utter ideals. The sound cleans


IV
Itself until the shore fits. Or the light trapped a story, the sun set.
Think of the devil or a cool sink of water. A shape’s shadowless,
bound darkly, each separate limb.

V
There is a corner emerging in the triumph of dark, a fruitful river
in a defensible line. Soldiers are in side streets, no longer safe.
The populace filtered into a room, curving light to myth. Sticks of
fire stole out. The roar of engines. Nothing will work because
nothing will work better. A sentence because meaning jammed
it better. Nothing will. Priceless action barely affords the store a
person is.

V
There is a light published, piercing out forever. An answer is
correct to separate light. The figures in use tempt inward one’s
suggestion. A code for reference: you’re me or I’m not. The color
walks on-site wrestling light off an object. Black towers from the
felon-quarried stone. Don’t look what is then in the absence of
anything else. No reason tongues the snow’s white.
Past Fighting For Is

Know who by another rely
what deaf something were myself

when ready terms the show of
them fully and conversation

contained the elect in guided spring.
To journey answers in strength

to climb the years spread.
Can one which cities into crumbles

grow them emigrate behavior?
All covered on with place.

Troubles distant from; to addition
other than the other domain.

A face whose chronicles wisdom
loves. They group another

a slower to hurry evil.
Next we neither eyes spiritual

from all of now. No minerals nor
that giving seeds, but those plods

between dwell. Say of roads
given no pursuit, angels to a

side of false finds. Gels some
times with is. He the desire

they built to nourish creature
buildings. He first in terms
away. His eye is little the
to its eye. Perceived sweetness
compares the connects—of course
the stature sweats themselves.
Gifts advantage fortified

as sweet. Epiph-guide seeds
in approach forever toward.
**Military Police**

Seminal bears in time's own
speech. A reaction at once
and impulse in sight to the next poem.
A continually gestural (local) collection
abstracts word of a surface to process
myths all awakening all in
a plural moment dictation represents.
The first we its with are against.
Of an of (course) is historical
liberated coherence the (limited)

**Magazine**

Before you wax cool tell me you’re on. Good looks
value and whirls recommend. The same instinct getting
hurt twice. To act now is a diamond is a lifetime is
love. All taste its heavy use, what a drag my feet
explain things. America’s choice figures show why a
known newest guarantees because published it’s all
swell. The whites complete what buy contains though
given faster many goods are longer. Its keep that
containers dazzle. Women reflected for impact until
you’ve got income all over your face. Find this in
your picture and write home when you’re ready to pay.

This gun is a book or the gun is.
To touch each finger the right way I
opened for business a toned down realism
to kill a true portable you. Automatically
more needs

what bent turns in
accessibility or in
vested seeds, cracking the nut.

History is odorless too
on the ropes squeezing power
you sport the genuine monogram I
am instantly stopped at
the money belt of a midriff,
this dumb crop splits to shift.

Insisting on extra, anyone stops
to protect the ears, to eliminate
stoop in those tossing with pleasure.
Symmetrical Bodies Expand

I

each
word

II

eight words  shoulder of
little wonder  Egyptian king
it's like  (purloined from
this so  a pyramid)

III

parts distance sensation
head afire sleep
or circles constant

though wallows while
brew oozes energy
ev'e's word ribs

no nouns only
tropes absorb how
space absolves ends

IV

Flow resolves balance I've become or eat what closes so choices extend a social and soft causality to follow exotic flows. Local words follow a currency bent west symbol of balance each figure from changes or completes but waves three or four ways goodbye. Can never finish horizon emotion contains since the globe closes at unknown and adjusted you always adjust alone threes vaunted.
Gaming the Mouse

The slight curb depletes the inordinate path
growing out its awkward limbs
broken by naming the bone
This mind feeds as if aversion longs
the length of what briefly
I think on ponds my skates illumined
This fall my evening to backside terrain
hammers on feeds to attend the dreams it gathers

Think in-slaving to throw
joy if a form of acts
disperse onto ice snow emits

reins so possibility is
and its saddle crop derives

To speech this silent leaf
is a drag rocked in palpable blur
(you’ve used this before)

A word bags its encumbrance between
if dreams dictate, trees
planted are cupped in “his”
hands “her” plaid
skirts a plural imagined
in a cave the complete picture
collected images for the poor

Reality is its present obsession

I peach the possible calm
that fruit is—
an inward sea

The beach will never meet me
levered to alarm the
coiled sleeve that panic
limits mean. Enough is alone
what crashes in interior parts

That when a pronoun’s freed I’m certified correct
That implements recall a perpetual
topic breached in drawl
across the set table

Your lipped bulbs prong an indelible
feel. Beauty stems hump stasis—

Cognition its most basic surprise
phantoms a landscape ease
whose mute leaves garnish
the weeds in my mouth

I kill to feed wasps in their beds
Freak touches perish if
color roots for the mother
gray. The name of this house
is arrest to break the hold
of its keeping, its leaks
in lines color saves
Oh Hard Sell Me, Till I Can’t See

These goods are an instant slight
Gratification that action hands
across. My scraped knees are balanced
weight that manners turn down

The assumption: until—
that units link to its place

Number the springs that map
flesh derived from form
compressed I
upholds the rip which shows
its point. To plant the think
is a bug. If earth then
all for all are not nouns

The unknown thinks not by but of
and listens to someone found

This trip beats the given
lake, my limbs going on
off, perfecting error to call
difference incorporated
with what attorneys
an agreement to pounce.
But off course the track
as all systems go
to own ones own horn
and address the valves
till an outline blurs
the bracket between.
How fulfill your bent

if fetish logics
the vague look that remains
what gives the think
its tug to shore

Details in error these days
or earth down to hand weed
the true worm

A plural want is rubble
I rocks upon its shore
till the rain rivers a true raft
swift banks moving
letters whose deposit
land erodes to
the reader lost in
a hole
The first series of *Tsunami Editions* chapbooks:

Arni Runar Haraldsson, *Metaflowers*
Peter Culley, *Fruit Dots*
Gerald Creede, *Verbose*
Lary Timewell, *Jump/Cut*
Jeff Derksen, *Until*
Kathryn MacLeod, *How Two*

Currently available:

Calvin Wharton, *Visualized Chemistry*
Nancy Shaw, *Affordable Tedium*
Dorothy Lusk, *Oral Tragedy*
Peter Ganick, *Braids of Twine*
Susan Yarrow, *Believing in the World*
Robert Mittenthal, *Ready Terms*
Dan Farrell, *ape*
Jeff Derksen, *Until* (reprint)

Ever-forthcoming:

Kevin Davies, *Animal Drill*

Cheques ($4.00 plus 50¢ postage per copy) should be made out to *Tsunami Editions.*