The Dolphin

FOR HANNAH,

GIVEN NOT JUST SIGNED,

WITH ALL LOVE

FROM

New York, 17 November 1973
ROBERT LOWELL

THE DOLPHIN

FARRAR, STRAUS AND GIRoux
NEW YORK
Contents

FISHNET

REDCLIFFE SQUARE
1. Living in London 16
2. Window 16
3. America from Oxford, May 1970 17
4. Oxford 17
5. The Serpent 18
6. Symptoms 18
7. Diagnosis: to Caroline in Scotland 19

HOSPITAL
1. Shoes 20
2. Juvenilia 20
3. Rival 21
4. Stairwell 21
5. Walter Raleigh 22
6. Double-Vision 22

HOSPITAL II
1. Voices 23
2. Letter 23
3. Old Snapshot from Venice 1952 24

CAROLINE
1. Flashback to Washington Square 1966 25
2. Fragility 25
3. July-August 26
4. Marriage? 26
5. Morning Blue 27

SUMMER BETWEEN TERMS 1–2 28

FALL WEEKEND AT MILGATE 1–3 29
RECORDS
IN HARRIET'S YEARBOOK 32
COMMUNICATION 33
DREAM 34
MERMAID 1–5 35
THE MERMAID CHILDREN 38
THEY 39
THE FRIEND 40
IN THE MAIL 41
DOUBT 42
1. Draw 42
2. Pointing the Horns of the Dilemma 42
3. Critic 43
WINTER AND LONDON 44
1. Closed Sky 44
2. At Offado’s 44
3. Flounder 45
4. Mastodon 45
5. Freud 46
6. Harriet’s Donkey 46
DURING A TRANSATLANTIC CALL 47
EXORCISM 1–2 48
10
PLOTTED

THE COUPLE

BEFORE WOMAN
1. Before the Dawn of Woman
2. Day

ARTIST'S MODEL 1-4

MERMAID EMERGING

MARRIAGE
1. Angling
2. Tired Iron
3. Gruff
4. Leaf-Lace Dress
5. Knowing
6. Gold Lull
7. Green Sore
8. Letter
9. Heavy Breathing
10. Late Summer at Milgate
11. Ninth Month
12. Question
13. Robert Sheridan Lowell
14. Overhanging Cloud
15. Careless Night
16. Morning Away from You

ANOTHER SUMMER
1. Wildrose
2. Dolphins
3. Ivana
4. Alimony
5. The New
LEAVING AMERICA FOR ENGLAND

1. America 66
2. Lost Fish 66
3. Truth 67
4. No Telling 67
5. Sick 68
6. Facing Oneself 68

FOXFUR 69

ON THE END OF THE PHONE 70

CARS, WALKING, ETC., AN UNMAILED LETTER 71

FLIGHT TO NEW YORK 72

1. Plane-Ticket 72
2. With Caroline at the Air-Terminal 72
3. Purgatory 73
4. Flight 73
5. New York Again 74
6. No Messiah 74
7. Death and the Maiden 75
8. New York 75
9. Sleepless 76
10. New York 76
11. Christmas 77
12. Christmas 77

DOLPHIN 78