# JUMP MY BROTHERS JUMP

Poems from prison by Tim Daly

edited and introduced by Adrian Mitchell

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N LOVE,
ON SEX,
EL ON POEMS THAT GO
BUMP IN THE NIGHT.



"love is the mystery between two people, not the identity".... John Fowles.



tossing her a paradox open this and you have my heart refuse it and you take my soul either way I will love you and hate you forever.

SIND THE THE STAND



# IM SORRY

she replied glancing casually at her own stigmata as she drew pain-marks across my forehead no please she murmured dont look at me like that.

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Jump,
my brothers,
jump

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Freedom Press 1970

# A very, very dangerous person—Tim Daly, poet

SENTENCING TIM DALY to four years in prison, a judge called Thesiger said: "One who endangers other people's property is a very, very dangerous person."

The only name for a system which steals the liberty of loving human beings like Tim Daly, locking them in prisons which are mazes built of small and large cruelties, is barbarism.

In November, 1968, Tim was twenty years old. He took two petrol bombs to the Imperial War Museum, and, after ensuring that nobody was likely to be hurt, started a good fire. Nobody was hurt, but a pile of documents went to blazes. Tim did this because he had seen children being taken round the Museum. He believed that the Museum taught them that war is glorious. Of course it did, and still does. The State wouldn't tolerate a Peace Museum.

I didn't meet Tim until after his sentence. Since that time, by exchanging letters and poems, and by visiting Tim in Wormwood Scrubs and Maidstone, I have come to love Tim as much as any other man on earth. I do not know a gentler or a braver person. He is not a faceless saint, but an intensely complicated person, good to be with even in the limbo of a prison visiting room.

The British penal system is designed to break men. Tim, as you'll see from the visions and jokes in his poems, has not been broken. And he will not be broken. His spirit is a flame. You cannot break a flame.

These are only a few of his poems, songs, epigrams and messages, almost every one of them written in Her Majesty's Prisons. Their subjects are women, politics and prison. Their tune is love. Use them well.

ADRIAN MITCHELL.

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#### THE BALLAD OF AN ANTI-WAR CRIMINAL OR VICE-VERSA

Those two fanatic demons of honesty and love Held me against emotion as the sky grew mad above I myself determined to see this mission through As the will to free all children from the sins of parents grew

Memories of soldiers dead for causes true and just Their killing long forgotten as was the soldiers' lust Then on the night's horizon my frantic eyes did find A building almost beautiful but there the war enshrined

So I made myself two molotovs as result of what I planned For this travesty of beauty I could no longer stand On a Sunday night at half past eight up to its dome I made There I threw down my freedom where were documents displayed

Now in my cell my freedom gone I yearn for friends I knew My strength is getting smaller where before it only grew And yet I know with all my heart atonement for my act For my heart believed in what I did and can man say more than that?

## THE VERY FIRST REALISATION

We are all living in an embryo the sides of which are coarse and reject all attempts to burst through to another reality

so wait
my friends
just wait
be true to yourselves
eventually to such an extent
that the embryo
itself
will reject you

and then but only then will you be truly free—

#### **IDEALIST**

his hair Shining and Auburn a degree slowly seeming to him to be now Less Important

under-cynical under-graduate a belief in Peace dear to him

his Suburban Mother putting away both cars Hopes

that his Peace will wear off in time for his Degree

DON'T WORRY MOTHER

IT WILL!

#### TO RHONA

You stepped towards me Out of Elleslie Hall Near a five feet tree Near a two foot wall

You stepped unknowingly
Onto a tiny ant reducing it to
A grey black smudge on the pavement

Your hand reaches out To touch mine I love you so why is it Fear whose hand I feel?

Jesus Christ in his fastdecaying life Perched on a cross of splinters Dressed clumsily in an authentic Superman costume but Then my whole body Shuddered with shame

### CHICO AND THE PRISON DOCTORS

a few months ago a friend of mine named Chico was kicked in his groin by a promotion hungry policeman and since then my friend has sporadically had severe pains in above mentioned region which stops him walking or even standing so he saw our prison doctor two weeks ago who then sent to the prison out patients hospital since then he has had six urine samples taken and three blood same in the end he got a little worried concerning the efficiency of these silent doctors so he refused the fourth blood sample and asked for help please so they gave him some medicine

six weeks ago I was given the same medicine as Chico only they gave it to me then as a TREATMENT FOR WHOOPING COUGH!!

Signed Tim and Chico

#### **GRAFFITI LIVES!**

Synthetic hash transcends the tune And turns my socks to kippers Ravi Shankar's CLAIRE DE LUNE And out of jackboots—slippers

Uniform my pantomime My bed a cotton haven Policemen sing Aulde Lang Syne Their big toes all unshaven

CRICKEY shouts a High Court Judge MY EYES MY TEETH MY EAR He didn't know that acid fudge Cleans white all dutyfear

Papers ask me what to do And how should they report? Point I at writings in the loo Where George Gale's Wit is wrought

Aussie White downed rather fast Reminds me of the time I glance at igloos running past And shrug at sexless crime

Yes

Synthetic hash transcends the tune And turns my socks to kippers Ravi Shankar's CLAIRE DE LUNE And out of jackboots—slippers

#### FANTASTIC

(to Jim in anglo-canadian friendship)

The real Ethereal For the moment Both forgotten The child

A small boy wearing glasses and a fading awareness

Gazes At the Cinema screen Of life

And wonders Whether or not It is true

FOR IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE TRUE

That Soldiers seldom Die

#### THE PATH THAT MY SOUL TRAVELS

The path that my soul travels into, as I drift towards sleep, is not so much the shape of a valley but more that of a ceilingless tunnel. Wonderful shapes of weird designs come towards my consciousness and then drift away again, much as the apparent motion of telegraph poles one sees when sitting in a moving bus, day dreaming.

Did I say day dreaming? Yet this is real. I am moving into sleep. I am moving into a world where fantasy gains status to become reality, and *reality* falls lower and lower, loses prestige until its problems become the pawn within the overall adventure

That which in the waking hours is comfortingly familiar is now strange. That which, during my waking hours would be incomprehensible and individual tokens of insanity now appear as long lost friends. "Of course!" says my psyche as realisation dawns and my once-a-night enlightenment becomes mine again. As reality slips from its forefront of importance so does the awful amnesia so common and yet so consistently unrecognised in all of our daily living. Psyche-wise the man I am in the daytime has shed his mundane clothes and habits to become the splendidly coloured and appendaged superman. As I lose a power so do I gain a power. As I lose a reality so do I gain my personality. It has started. The egg, incidentally, comes before the chicken.

After committing myself to the final surrendering my new (yet not new) world is forming into something that I can even attempt at communicating. I cannot say what I now see and know in words. I feel I can, however, try, using words, to imply the knowledge. From this point on please read only implications. My reader, you have borne with me to this point. Prematurely perhaps, I thank you for the patience and effort you will need to reciprocate the understanding. Thank you.

The tunnel is no longer a tunnel but instead I am floating over a splendidly furnished valley. The valley is only a token part of the world and before my adventure is through I will explore other sectors but as a start to my story that valley alone will suffice.

I know this valley. It is named simply the Valley of Truth. It is peopled by angelic creatures each of whom personifies an aspect of truth. Geographically the valley is adjacent to The White Valley of Ultimates wherein is the Palace of the Living God. This area is the most powerful and holy state in all the world. Even in this world of abstract does it demand awe. Very few of the Truth People are allowed into the Divine Area but all share the privilege of living very close by.

#### ON POLITICS

I have heard some student friends say—"we are living in a society of murderers and to combat them we would be forced to kill them", to this, or something like this, I find myself replying—"no. it is more true to say we are living next to a society of lemmings and it is our moral duty to take away the sea."

# THE STORY OF THE LOO THAT KNEW HOW TO GIGGLE for Adrian Mitchell

Gazing, one day, at the Sewer that is MY WORLD, I happened to notice a few currents of silverclear water. Swirling inwards, and outwards: they were naively attempting to break up the faeces into easily digestible portions.

#### AND

Gazing, one day, at the Sewer that is MY WORLD, I happened to notice a few Lilies o' the Midden. Swirling hither, and thither, they were naively attempting to digest these almost easily digestible portions.

#### AND

Gazing, one day, at the Sewer that is MY WORLD, I happened to notice a few dying Goldfish: swirling symbols of HOPE, and PEACE, and LAUGHTER, with their final orange moments: all across the rank surface of the brown sewage that forms MY WORLD.

#### THEN

Looking up, I find myself observing a tiny copse of Israeli fig trees bunched together in mutual pity (like bananas); bravely gripping their personal horizons.

#### JUST AT THIS POINT

Jesus Christ, William Blake, and the angel Walter Gabriel, peeped through the khaki clouds.

So, together, we sang out in greedy joy "IT MAY BE BROWN AND SMELLY, BUT IT'S OURS!!"

#### Question:

#### I AM THE ALIEN WHO WEARS TROUSERS

circumcise your mind and impulses allow the foreskin of bureaucracy to drop into the fast flowing eddy in the lavatory of cynical laughter

ONE DAY AS YOU WALK THROUGH TOWN WALK UP TO A POLICEMAN CALL HIM "DADDY" AND SEE JUST HOW UNCONVINCING IT SOUNDS

the stomach swells when the body is about to die of malnutrition and a policeman smiles at a little child—

#### **SMOOTH**

Oh silken Conscience Bury my body Beneath the wave Of my senses And let me be Me.

#### FRED ONE

In England there is an old saying. So what?

LIFE IS A GOLDFISH THAT SWIMS AWAY EVERY TIME YOU TRY TO LOOK AT IT

Romanticism is the art of being beautifully wrong. Cynicism is the knack of being horribly right.

I am not brave. I merely seek courage.

A LIVE HIPPY SMELLS A LOT BETTER THAN A DEAD PATRIOT.

Nirvana must be a nice place to visit, but I don't think I would want to live there.

#### AT TIMES

at times I feel like lemon-juice that is somehow out of plaice or a policeman working overtime in my uniform of a face at other times I feel a prick whose point is totally missed or a concept floating in a head too ugly to be kissed

# A PRISONER'S LOVE POEM WITH A DIFFERENCE (for many girls)

when next your breasts are kissed by the early-morning breeze as it wafts in through your open window and that velvet darkness between your thighs is all lit up by those glow worms of desire and you find with sadness in your wide frightened eyes that the crease in your topsheet has cunningly formed itself into the well remembered shape of my arm and then you will softly cry recalling my cruelty and the bitter words that smothered our parting love and when you remember all these things I shall be sitting here alone in my cell

HAVING A BIT OF A GIGGLE

#### LOVE IS AN EASY WORD TO WRITE

LOVE is an easy word to write said Sophie (age of four) the pen will move and having writ will go on writing more but I moved in and you I loved despite the open door that froze the words I tried to write now melting through your floor.

### THE POLITICIAN

the politician moving his hypocrisy stained finger around the bowl of the cake-mixture world declared with the charm of his boyish smile which incidentally bought him to fame that it always for him anyway tasted better before it was cooked.

#### WALK ON, PRICKFACE

a deepfeeling Christian can turn Jesus into a reality a live flower who needs to love and to be loved

so how can you be satisfied? creating a cynical evil toy from our greenlygolden world

instead of loving you content yourselves with bombs and excuses and napalm ridden foreign policies

you civilised twits you call beauty "Ignorance"

throttle it wash your hands and walk away.

### THE RIVER-FOR JANE

meander lines your body ripple curves your ivory breast quick sunset twinkle your flashing eyes

let me know and ride the dangerous currents of your body become a wave in the calm of your soul my river river maiden

#### WITHDRAW

withdraw onto a cross of iron and steel refuse to condone policemen for though they may love their mothers yet they couldn't give a damn about guarding demonstrations—

about guarding crucifixions

# THE BALLAD OF LENNY'S ANUS (WITH APOLOGIES TO THE BEATLES)

Lenny lived and Lenny died, And did things in between. He loved: yet believed in nothing That couldn't be felt or seen.

For Lenny was a hippy man. His eyes were brown and fair. He had skid-marks in his underpants, And flowers in his hair.

#### **IMAGINE**

for Jane Kingshill

Imagine
the love of a man
moving slowly like cigarette smoke
towards himself.
This is my idea of fear.

#### THE HIPPY SAVAGE

The hippy savage
His long hair and thick fuzzy beard
A satire to the helmet and the chinstrap
His bright eyes smiling with wordless love
HE IS CAGED
Held in captivity by men with chrome uniforms
And dark blue jowls
Not only uniforms separate these human beings
These former brothers of the womb
But also language and culture and other things
Each the other's alien

Unable to share language
He talks little
Unable to comprehend the routine
He shuffles aimlessly and beautifully
As he sweeps his cell
Having no carpet he is compelled
To sweep all the dirt
Under his heart
Where it will remain
Until one day his cellmade cadaver
Will have LIFE breathed upon it
By the laughter of friends
And the slow soft rustle
Of Autumn leaves.

#### SONGWRITER'S LOVE POEM

although I cannot change what I've already sung please finish my song with me

#### GIPSIES ARE DIRTY

I seem so neat and tidy now
I have washed my mind so clean
That neither humility nor dandruff
Are anywhere to be seen

# ONE DAY I SHALL HIJACK THE REALISATION OF WHAT THIS POEM IS ALL ABOUT

I knew a girl called Rhona once whose grace my pain distilled we swopped those things we never had and found ourselves fulfilled

## THE HOLLIES, JANE AND ME

We found the Hollies basking in the Sun And we Ignoring its initial indifference to our arrival Began to stroll hand in hand thoughtlessly Yet at the same time proud and erect A king and queen Painstakingly composed by Tolkein

Soon
Tiny gnats
Little gossamer regiments of life
Unknown to us
Formed an affinity with the Sun
And together with the Sun
Made for us a goldgreen CURTAIN
Many paces long

And so our heedless steps
Spun us magically around
A warm kaleidoscope of trees
And flowers and kneehigh grasses
And of course the CURTAIN
Which by then had metamorphosized
To become for us
The redeemed euphoria
Of childhood

Then
Sitting in the shade by a brook
I look at you longhaired
Sitting there in my funny bush-hat
You smiled and said
I AM HAPPY
And suddenly a torrent of calm
Washed over my senses

and just as suddenly
the little boy
who was afraid of the WORLD
yet could climb trees better and more happily
than any other kid on the estate
This boy was alive again

and just as suddenly
the old man
who drunkenly lying down
in his 20 year old body
would silently cry
over the cadavers of his memories
This man was dead forever

O Jane
Who became in that perennial afternoon moment
My executioner and
My giver of life

O herald of Peace
In that
Our moment of quiet
In that
Our moment of fidelity
I HAVE LOVED YOU FOREVER

# A SORT OF A DIARY-POEM FOR ADRIAN MITCHELL ENTITLED "TRIPS ROUND MY CELL"

Softly Softly Catchee flu' I love my love How about you?

this morning a fuse blew somewhere in the prison and now my ugly chippedpaint cell is bathed in soft early morning shadows which I find rather lovely and it occurs to me that when something goes wrong a fuse blows for example we are usually too busy being annoyed to realize that only with quiet love can we hope to see things as they really are and LOVE IS THE ONLY TRUE DEODORANT

Cutting clearings through the jungle of My foggy childish mind
I hit a tree that wouldn't fall
Then others of this kind
They told me they were Lovetrees
And not the weaker type
"O sillyMe!" I cried in joy
And felled them with a swipe

while walking one evening through the bright streets and lessbright alleyways of my friendly imagination I suddenly stumbled across a corpse who when I did this shuddered fell stood up again and started to grin at a cartoon in the DAILY MIRROR which was printed on the skin of his hands then dirge like he laughed and told me my hair was too long laughing with him out of pity I stretched out my heart and touched him but his eyes began to crumble then and his face began to convulse with something that couldn't be laughter he dissolved into and onto the pavement became a putrid mess lapping like silly surf against my sandals horrified amused and somehow bored I moved on . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

(egotrip)
I am many growing fewer
I chastise as I pardon
I am flowers in a sewer/I am sewage in a garden

. . . . . . . . . .

Many fat girls saying: Yes (this is my answer to the Race question) An "Englishman" is merely an anaemic negro. Now let us ask ourselves-"What is a penis, if not an Instrument of Peace and Goodwill?" ".... the Banana Scandal cometh." (Traditional) Dirty Fred went to bed To see what he could see He pulled his navel captain Then placed it on his knee Dirty Fred went to bed And read a dirty book About a three-limbed poet Who did things with his hook (finale) Adrian Mitchell writes poems in anger And from him comes glass out of sand The Lord God made prisons and armies To cure those who get out of hand But Hitler made golliwogs illegal And I broke the laws of my land CHORUS: There'll always be an England, etc.

. . . . . . . . . . . .

#### KRAKATOA ISLANDERS

A song for Rhona

an elegy to love

We swam upon an island
where we knew the lies were warm
And all the creatures in our head
were playing with our scorn
And high above a scarlet pain
whose waters tumbled down
And then we turned around

I met vou in a coffee room where people laughed away their fears of dying. You sat there nodding pleasantly as I asked all the people why they smiled. They told me they were Christian sons of Christian daughters who had stood alone. So I said Rhona don't you see that we stand far away from me. And that my soul is lost forever don't you know.

### YOU KNOW THE LORD MADE US THESE ISLANDS

OF KRAKATOA DOOM
HE TOLD US NOT TO LIVE IN THEM
BUT HE DIDN'T GIVE US ROOM
TO AVOID THESE AWFUL ISLANDS
TO AVOID THE VOID OF DOOM
TO AVOID IT
TO AVOID IT
TO AVOID THE VOID OF DOOM

Now times have changed you rearranged the pattern that we set Your prisoners

who brought me here have finished with regret.

I cracked that awful joke about the holy hallowed pain of disbelieving. You thought my laughter colder than the streams that run so swiftly through your mind. Then you took me to your mother's home and gave me gifts of clothes to wear beside you. But I could not put your father's tie around these islands in my mind. I'm sorry that was how it had to be.

#### YOU SEE THE LORD MADE US THESE ISLANDS OF KRAKATOA DOOM

HE TOLD US NOT TO LIVE IN THEM
BUT HE DIDN'T GIVE US ROOM
TO AVOID THESE AWFUL ISLANDS
TO AVOID THE VOID OF DOOM
TO AVOID IT
TO AVOID THE VOID OF DOOM

So you've married all my failures And you've found another man and he is John Whom Jesus loves and this you understand.

Now the poems that I sang to you will count no more than this . . . . . . A dream of moments long ago

A fear of Satan's kiss . . . . . .

#### WHAT TO DO

What to do in Life is, perhaps, the most difficult question of all. In a sick society, how can one not only be healthy but also be able to demonstrate health; to infect others with it in consequence? I am thinking of an answer in terms of an adaptation of the Uncertainty Principle—e.g. a man who has money can never be sure that he will give it away—he cannot look into his wallet and find the contents both his own property and his gift to somebody else. One has to offer a tramp money and just hope that you have it to give. Basically it all boils down to my fanatical (literally) belief in the Beauty of Action. Almost more than anything else I hate to see a good man standing still when he could be moving somewhere.

#### FRED TWO

Peace, always evasive at the best of times, lurks hidden somewhere inside my prison uniform, and the war drags on. . . .

#### A POEM THAT WILL ALWAYS REMAIN UNFINISHED

sitting in a room that looks strangely like a cell an ephemeral female angel glides inaccurately through the bars and sits beside me

naive and longhaired she speaks firstly in the language of angels which being ugly I cannot understand

then cutting her short

I tell her a story of dreams and disasters of Christians, abortions of suicides and lies

is it a poem?
NO NO NO
it really happened

are you a poet?
NO NO NO
it really happened. . . . . . .

### **CREDO**

I believe that sensitivity, to-love, and beauty, are inherent qualities that come naturally with human-beingness.

I further believe that these qualities would be far more universal, and apparent, was it not for the truth that each generation of human youth is taught to accept, and even to emulate, the insensitivities and barbarisms of their fore-fathers.

The truth, the answer, may lie in the following truism: "One cannot keep both feet on the ground and jump anywhere, at the same time."

Jump, my brothers, jump.