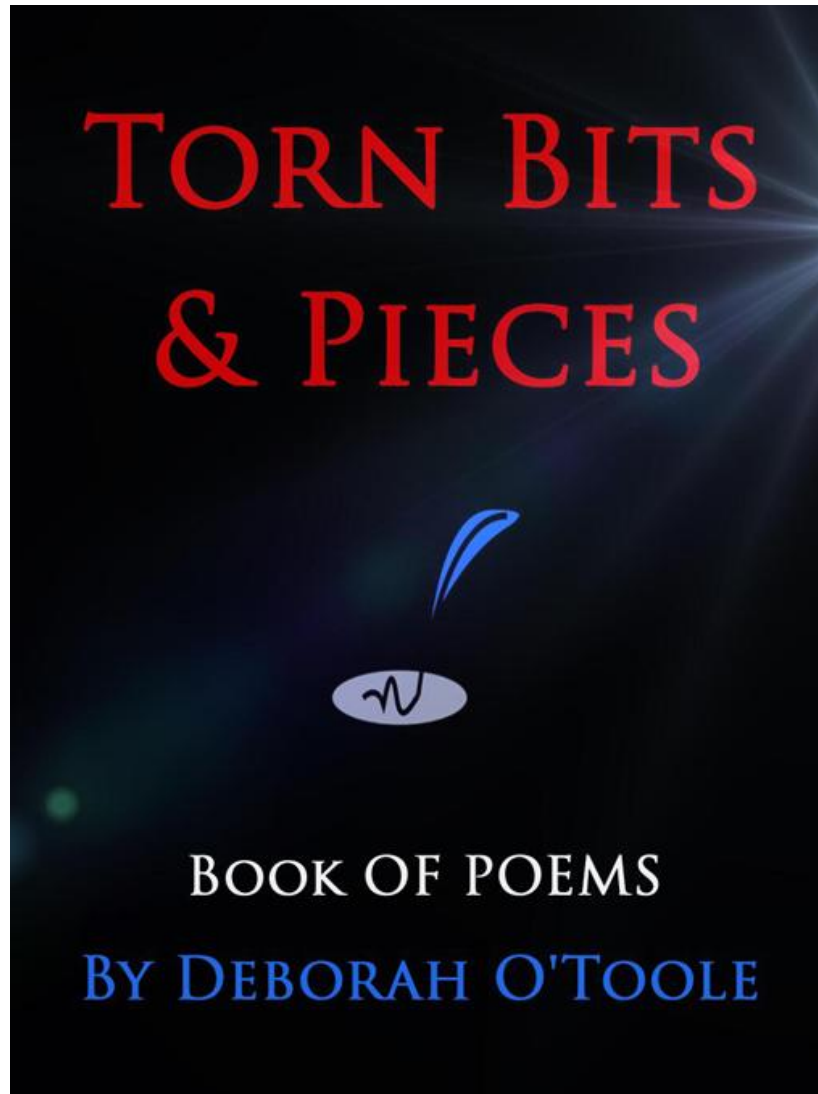


Excerpts from:
Torn Bits & Pieces
By Deborah O'Toole



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POETS NOTE

I've never thought of myself as a poet. I'm a fiction writer, first and foremost. I'm not one to follow guidelines well, so the particulars and accepted standards of poetry never appealed to me.

However, there was a period between 1978 and 1982 when I churned out quite a few poems. I shelved them for a number of years, being of the opinion that the collective verses were nothing more than the ramblings of an angst-ridden youth. My thoughts were very dark in those days.

I recently found the long-forgotten collection, all poems written in long-hand and located in an old dust-encrusted journal. I re-read a few of them and thought to myself: "Why not?"

Why not set them out for the whole world to see?

My "poetry" does not follow the standards in assembly by any measure. I have not sought advice or censure from professional poets, nor have I tidied the language in the poems contained herein.

No, my work in *Torn Bits & Pieces* does not follow the well-known standards of prose. It's just *what it is*, without apology and without a false sense of ego or entitlement.

Deborah O'Toole

<http://deborahotoole.com/>

Dark Blue Moon

Wind.

Dark Blue Moon.

*The chill, I find
is beautiful.*

Stand straight.

Let the air

go to your bones.

This feeling

I have

has taken

my depression away.

I feel

alive

more than ever.

My problems now

seem so small.

Standing out here,

I feel

ten feet tall.

When troubles arise

in my life once more,

I will remember

that night

of Wind

and Dark Blue Moon.

"Dark Blue Moon" ©1978 Deborah O'Toole. All rights reserved.

Drama

*The mask of life,
caked paint
and make-up
covering the truth.
None of us is real,
just characters in a play entitled
Drama.
Live out your dreams
only in your mind.
It never comes true.
It's all the same,
don't you think?
So you carry on,
screaming inside,
crying out for mama.
Standing on stage in
Drama.*

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Edward

*Whenever I think
of what we did
my skin turns red,
and my neck stands out.
He said he was drunk,
that wasn't so.
He told me things
he didn't mean.*

*I didn't fall
for his horrible lines.
I kept a distance,
between here and there.
We came so close
and now I can't bear
to even think of you.
I couldn't talk to you,
or look at you.*

*I wonder
if it will ever be the same.
We were once friends,
now I'm not sure.
What I feel, I guess,
is we'll just go back
the other way,
and I'll always hope
we'll stop to stay.*

*I can't tell you what I feel,
the pain is still too hard.
You almost took me,
the first you would have been.
I couldn't do it,
the time wasn't right.*

EDWARD continued . . .

*Maybe there will be a day
when it will all be okay.
I'll see you there,
and I'll be here.
If it ever changes,
I don't think it could.
It's the best way
to just remain friends.*

"Edward" ©1979 Deborah O'Toole. All rights reserved.

Sad Passing

Personal tribute to John Lennon...

*Murder. Assassination.
December 8, 1980.
Why?
I wondered.
Why did it have
to be him?
A peaceful man,
a passivist.
Happy in his life,
no longer crying for revolution.
A man of substance.
A true man.
Tell me why he died.
Oh, Lennon,
you were so good.
Truthful and blunt.
The best way to be.
Remember this,
I can see.
And I know
you wouldn't give a piss.*

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Collective Obsessions

*Trapped incandescent swirls;
like raptly churning ocean waves.
Through milky, translucent pearls
and collective misty mind caves.
Kith and kin disavow as one;
twelve decades and seven of obsessive love.
No one has forgotten, and no one has won;
and yet forever dwell spellbound thereof.*

***Note:** The poem "Collective Obsessions" also appears in the fiction novel *Megan's Legacy*, which is the eighth and final book in the Collective Obsessions Saga by Deborah O'Toole writing as Deidre Dalton.

"Collective Obsessions" (*poem*) ©2011 Deborah O'Toole. All rights reserved.

"TORN BITS & PIECES" INFORMATION

Torn Bits & Pieces by Deborah O'Toole is available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Kobo Books.

Amazon (*Kindle edition*):

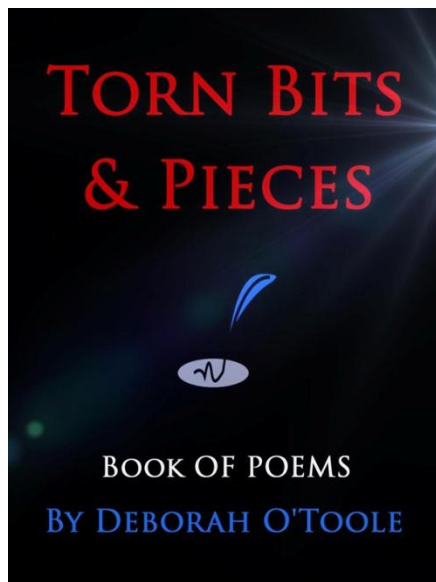
<http://www.amazon.com/dp/Bo034KZ1IE>

Barnes & Noble (*Nook edition*):

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/torn-bits-pieces-deborah-otoole/1101476487>

Kobo Books (*multiple formats*):

<https://store.kobobooks.com/en-us/ebook/torn-bits-pieces>



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EXTRAS:

Torn Bits & Pieces (web page):

<http://deborahotoole.com/poetry.htm>

Torn Bits & Pieces @ Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/TornBitsPieces>

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Deborah O'Toole is the author of *Celtic Remnants*, a novel of enduring yet impossible love and betrayal set in the turbulence of Ireland, glamour of London and wilds of Scotland. She is also author of the mystery/suspense novel *Mind Sweeper*.

In addition, she writes short-story juvenile fiction (*Short Tales Collection*) and darkly abstract poetry (*Torn Bits & Pieces*), and is the author of a series of historical essays, articles and book reviews for *Ambermont Magazine* and *Class Notes*.

Writing as Deidre Dalton, Deborah is author of the "Collective Obsessions Saga," which chronicles the extraordinary loves and dark obsessions between two families sweeping a span of more than one hundred years, all set against the backdrop of a magnificent seaside mansion in Maine. Books in the eight-part family saga include *The Advent*, *Quixotic Crossings*, *The Twain Shall Meet*, *Enthrallment*, *The Keeper's Journal*, *Hearts Desires*, *The Twilight* and *Megan's Legacy*.

Using the pseudonym Shenanchie O'Toole, she also writes for the cooking/recipe web site Food Fare. She is writer and co-editor of the *Ambrosia Cookbook*, *Breakfast Cookbook*, *Community Garden Cookbook*, *Food Fare Cookbook*, *Furry Friends Cookbook*, *Global Seafood Cookbook*, *Larkin Community Cookbook*, *Quirky Snacks Cookbook*, *Recipes-on-a-Budget Cookbook* and the *Soups & Stews Cookbook*, along with more than forty titles in the *Food Fare Culinary Collection*.



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