

Chad Parenteau – Two Poems

The Road You Don't Want to Take

is unimpeded with biased fate.
No train derails, no busses waiting
on the side of the road
to remove an angry passenger.
No sidewalks packed with
parents pushing multi-seated carriages.

The gremlins so attuned to you
wait where you'd rather be,
no gears to grind against.

Instead, you are greeted
by angels singing gibberish
made to sound like Latin
and verses penned
by the patron saint of sarcasm
named after the first cerebral bully
you knew in high school.

You can't get there too soon.
Streets retract to pull you nearer
paths crinkle like paper maps
between you and point omega.

Look forward
to the anti-goal.
A world-sized weight
takes a running start
to leap on your shoulders.

Boss Out

While away
open door policy:

If door's open
close now or

workers wonder
what do they all do?

Drones make
poor scouts

rumors labeled
state secrets.

Break into
head office

(you know you
have the key)

shuffle papers
make noise

until they
think they're there

tin pots
covered up

before workers rise
against each other.

Chad Parenteau hosts Boston's long-running Stone Soup Poetry series. His work has appeared in journals such as *Résonancee*, *Cape Cod Poetry Review*, *Tell-Tale Inklings*, *Off The Coast*, *Ibbetson Street* and *Wilderness House Literary Review*. He currently serves as a regular contributor to *Headline Poetry & Press* as well as Associate Editor of the online journal *Oddball Magazine*. His second collection, *The Collapsed Bookshelf* was nominated for a Massachusetts Book Award.