

On the Bridge

Vox Humana

David Cope: On the Bridge, 1986

Kip Zegers: The Promise Is, 1985

David Cope: Quiet Lives, 1983

Antar S. K. Mberi: A Song Out of Harlem, 1980

On the Bridge

Poems by

David Cope

Humana Press • Clifton, New Jersey

Dedication: again, for Suzy.
Special thanks to Jim Cohn,
James Ruggia, and Bob Rixon.

Acknowledgments: *Big Scream, Long Shot, Friction #5/6, Action, Pay Up Dead Beat, Ahnoi, Planet Detroit, La Voz, New York Quarterly, WFMU 91.1FM (New Jersey), Poetry Flash, Lactuca, Pineal Grip.* The final lines of *Horns of Light* include quotes from William Blake's *Proverbs of Hell* ("Eternity is in love with the productions of time") and from *To Daphne and Virginia*, by William Carlos Williams ("A new world is only a new mind.")

Copyright © 1986 by David Cope. All rights of any nature whatsoever reserved.

Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 1986

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data:

Cope, David, 1948–
On the bridge.

(Vox humana)

I. Title.

PS3553.0633305 1986 811'.54 86-21074
ISBN-13:978-0-89603-114-2 e-ISBN-13:978-1-4612-4830-9
DOI: 10.1007/978-1-4612-4830-9

Contents

On the Bridge

On The Bridge	2
Hot Street	3
At Flanagan's	4
Party Talk	5
You Want A Million?	6
Bright Eyes	7
Pines Point	8
The Great Tree Down	9
Bucolics	10
Big Dealer!	11
Christmas Coming	12
Further Progress	13
Nothing But Our Bodies at Last	14
Old Wood	15
Indian Mounds Drive	16

New Windows

New Windows	18
Big Thaw	19
The Cigar	20
Stolen Bike	21
"Take Care Of Yourself"	22
Moonlight in West Virginia	23
Antietam	24
Landlady On The Stoop	25
June	26
Come Down & Go With Your Father	27
He Sighed, Looking Out The Window	28
At The Croyden	29
Hoagy	30

Lips to Lips

Winter Storm Watch	32
Headed For Work	33
Sail Skating	34
Lips to Lips	35
Mid-Winter Cleanup	36
Modern Art	37
Easter	38
The Breakwater	39
Catch	40
Bright Sun, Clear Shadows, Early Afternoon	41
The Old Stebbens Place	42

Taylor Bridge to Pines Point	43
After The Fourth	44
Rhubarb	45
Superior	46
Tiger Stadium	47
Two Girls	48
Huron	49
The Lights of St. Ignace	50

Leaves & Roots

Sears Service Center Waiting Room	52
Spanish Dance	53
The Flags	54
CIA Manual / Looking Back	55
My Father	56
Shooting Gallery	57
"Praise The Lord!"	58
The New Breed	59
Leaves & Roots	60
Lucy	62
Cricket / Waking	63
Farewell	64
The Old Man	66

The Main Road

Old Woman in the Cafe Window	68
Blue April	69
Three	70
Four Work Poems	71
The Flood	73
Dunes at Hoffmaster	74
Taking a Breather	75
Niagara	76
The Liberty Bell	77
Try the Hammer—Ring the Bell	78
Appalachian Trail	79
Dark Evening	80
Memorial Stone	81
Stuck	82
Mackinac Wedding	83
Mottled Wings	84
Soft Rain	85
Horns of Light	86
Moonlight & Sunrise	88
Author's Note	90