

2015

# Trébuchet

Danniel Schoonebeek

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Schoonebeek, Danniel. "Trébuchet." *The Iowa Review* 45.3 (2015): 26-32. Web.  
Available at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview/vol45/iss3/4>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact [lib-ir@uiowa.edu](mailto:lib-ir@uiowa.edu).

DANNIEL SCHOONEBEEK

## *Trébuchet*

These poems were written to land you on a government watch list.

And published at \$14.95 paperback (hardcover edition  
unreleased) by an impostor of Faber & Faber of 1232 NE Prescott  
Street, Portland,

inside a warehouse formerly occupied by six pinkerton deserters  
in this year of our lord 2015 the year of “the accident.”

Or maybe to throw a brick through the wall of the White House  
and no note attached is their business.

These poems come pepper-sprayed for your health with dirty words  
particularly on pages 3, 6, 23, 40, and 83  
and were written by D. Schoonebeek  
an oftentimes troubled and defamatory young girl  
living among the worst generation of profiteers in balaclavas  
and who keeps herself violent through love.

Or maybe to start a riot inside the insurgence  
inside of the skirmish is their business.

Their weight is 9.356 ounces,  
they will travel 732 feet in 12 seconds when fired from a trébuchet,  
their burning temperature is Fahrenheit 451,  
and they were printed in the United States by  
McNaughton & Gunn of Saline, Michigan.

Or maybe to smuggle the anthem back inside the chrysanthemum is  
their business.

On the day of its publication this book  
would buy you 3 loaves rye peasant bread,  
8 white bootlaces,  
1 liter vodka filtered through cheesecloth,  
5 lbs. goose feathers,  
o theater tickets,  
6 single rides on Manhattan-bound bus lines,  
3 boxes baby diapers,  
11 yards steel chain,  
o paintings, 3 cartons eggs,  
or a starred review in *Publishers Weekly*.

What else do you expect

for \$14.95?

No really: what do you demand of your money.

What is the *function* of police?

Their International Standard Book Number

is nine seven eight

one nine three six nine

one nine two five four

and this is the number of school shootings since 1986.

This is the number of school shootings since you were first broke.

This is the number of school shootings since you were last fucked.

This is the number of school shootings since you lost the use of your left.

This is the number of school shootings since the so-called accident.

This is the number of school shootings since Flight 370 vanished.

This is the number of school shootings since god said I defect.

This is the number of school shootings since you laid down your weapons.

These poems will offend a number of people who will refuse to ignore them,  
some of them people with *fathers*,

fathers in law or fathers on Capitol Hill,  
and men and women of influence with fathers of money in Iowa.  
Their commercial potential is laughable,  
the Big Five publishers will spend zero money printing these poems,  
zero money ordering cured meat for the book party,  
the ruling class will read them but only on days  
when a family member is assassinated or during nationally televised  
tragedies,  
and they will tell you the middle class is vanishing,  
but the middle class will beat itself to death with this book,  
the middle class will call this young girl a woman of hatred of men,  
the middle class will critique her,  
the middle class will call her a national treasure,  
the middle class will market her,  
the middle class will interrogate her about her sex,  
they say the middle class has vanished  
but it's the poor of this country who should rear up and throw books  
of poetry  
through the walls of the White House  
and no list of demands attached.

These poems are dedicated to no man or woman who's yet been born,  
to the slugs that will never leave your gun,  
to milkmen Miss Universe snake oil salesmen  
Russian volleyball champions grave diggers  
bribed congressmen waste managers astronauts  
deserters zookeepers mega-millions lottery winners  
knife collectors ex-military tax evaders careerists  
doomed politicians musicologists bread and butter men  
buskers anti-defamation lobbyists government shills  
bad feminists okay feminists slander enthusiasts postal workers  
wall street propagandists gunrunners unfamous poets  
advice columnists javelin throwers failed nuclear  
warhead designers beauty school dropouts  
spam writers cocktail artisans viola wunderkinds  
Brazilian crust punks mall cops secret service men  
taxidermists web hackers hypnotherapists stunt actors  
card sharks bible thumpers porn stars manchildren  
fire eaters lumberjacks bodyguards and whistleblowers  
conspiracy theorists hijackers children born without throats  
hung juries and hangmen and whomever death will not love.

If these poems don't throw themselves through your windows burn them.

If you are the same person building himself a ham sandwich  
in his living room after you finish them  
shoplift every edition of this book you can find  
tear out the pages  
and burn them to warm your house through the winter.

The time of writing books that don't send us to jail is dead.

Drinking vinho verde under the harvest moon and puttering our lines is  
dead.

Asking yourself and asking yourself why a poem is the enemy of money is  
dead.

If you will leave this book on a wood slat and gaping down at the world  
throw it on the floor instead.

Or instead burn it.

Instead fire it out of a trébuchet at the White House.

This book was written to terrify the fucking.

Like the last poems you read before the hostile takeover.

Like first lines you speak when the plane disappears.

This book was written to break the back of the sawhorse between you  
and the police.

A book like the earth you might salt if you warred against you.