



2020 VISION:

A HAIKU A DAY

KELVYN KONING

Cover Art by Adam Gurczak

Copyright © 2021 by Kelvyn Koning
All rights reserved.

About the Book

2020 Vision: A Haiku A Day perhaps unsurprisingly contains a haiku (or even a double or triple haiku) that I wrote for each day of the year 2020, or to put it in haiku form:

A haiku a day
In the year 2020
Became my mission.

I wrote about how I see the world around me and what it could be, with the goal to improve my vision with what I've learned. I tried to write a poem every day, but in all honesty there were some days where I didn't write any poems and others where I wrote more than one. Reading back through all of the poems after the year was over, I observed recurring themes of things I think about, care about, and notice in my daily life, such as music and mythology, religion and relationships, nature and patterns. It was fascinating also to see periods where I felt sassy, sweet, naughty, nostalgic, whimsical, orderly, or a whole host of other moods. Finally, if you lived through 2020, I don't have to tell you that it was a trying year with an extra dose of solitude and personal reflection. I have always valued solitude, but I think I learned to appreciate and take advantage of it in a completely different way this year, and I am grateful that I had this project to stay motivated and to track my train of thought throughout the year. I hope that you,

dear reader, are prompted to laugh, ponder, or feel free to react how you need to as you read these haikus.

~Kelvyn Koning, 2021

Also by Kelvyn Koning



Humors. Heartbreak. Identity. *Teaching Snakes to Sing* covers it all! In this compelling book of poetry, musician Kelvyn Koning takes you on an artist's journey of growth in achieving their greatest potential.

~Kelvyn Koning, 2020

January

1 - 2020 Vision

I never quite saw
The future with perfect eyes
And still it arrives.

2 - Hollow

The day you left me
I felt like a rainforest
Without any trees.

3 - Battle Chant ~ for Brysien & Laura

Prophet, King, and Knight -
When we combine our forces,
We shall win the fight.

4 - Teacher's Guilt

A teacher's first guilt
Is the inability
To be quite perfect.

5 - Determined

Don't deter yourself
Determining to undo
Decades of damage.

6 - Icarus

Gen-X tells their young:
"Follow your solar-bound heart
On Icarus wings."

Meanwhile, the old ones
Keep stable jobs and no debts
And the young plummet.

7 - Jarring

It can be quite jarring
To have saucy red failures
Staining the white floors.

8 - Oddly

Some things are oddly
Not quite important enough
To even write down.

9 - Marathon

The first marathon
Literally killed the guy.
Learn from the past, folks.

10 - Roses

Success is knowing
What you can and can't control
And smelling roses.

11 - Spent

My time is best spent
Whenever I'm not thinking
About paying rent.

12 - Funeral for a Frosty

The last dregs of your
Short, sweet life were slurped up, but
You'll be in my heart.

13 - Unspoken

Cool black and soft pink
Twirling together to an
Unspoken love song.

14 - Two-way Street

Room for only one
On a two way street - that's how
Relationships fail.

15 - Band-aids

Band-aids don't fix wounds
That require deep attention
And time's healing hand.

16 - Morpheus

Sleep is not a drug,
But it certainly struggles
To leave my system.

17 - GPS

Bartering with the
GPS be like nah bro
I can walk faster.

18 - Apple

The forbidden fruit
Consumes each penny for thought
Till it owns us all.

It plants magic seeds
Enticing us with its glow
So it can trap us.

19 - Fame

Fame doesn't matter
As long as I know my life
Is helping someone.

20 - Will

The will is a fire
Lighting the solar plexus,
Igniting desire.

21 - Piece

When all is broken
I can still find delight in
All of the pieces.

22 - Fruition

Things in the making
At last come to fruition
And my joy abounds.

23 - OP

Cute and muscular:
That is just too much power
For a single guy.

24 - Read

Please don't gorge yourself
On too many sweet sweet words;
Take your time to read.

25 - Feelings

I am a Pisces:
I have a lot of feelings
That I want to share.

26 - Growing pains

Growing old is like
Learning to be young again
But with different pains.

27 - Acting

In a world of death
And, worse yet, monotony,
The actor brings life.

28 - Dreams

We laugh at our dreams
And yet for all that we know
They might come to pass.

29 - The first

I would rather be
The first me than the second
Of somebody else.

30 - The truth

I can hear your voice
Reminding me of the truth
That I belong here.

31 - Whine & Cheese

Discovered a grape
In my cheese bag, which is not
A euphemism.

February

1 - Power-walker

An old man with a
Cane power-walked past me and
I saw my future.

2 - Sith

Is being a sith
Really anger management
Brought to an extreme?

3 - Efficiency

Places that value
Efficiency tend to treat
People like money.

4 - Simple

Love might be simple
If we didn't make it such
Romantic drama.

5 - Soft Fruit

The softer the fruit,
Though more prone to injury,
The sweeter the taste.

6 - Enough

Loving you would be
Enough if it was also
Able to pay bills.

7 - Perfect

God does not ask for
Anything less than perfect
So we need Their help.

8 - Simmer

“Simmer for an hour?!”
That was the reaction of
A disgruntled cook.

9 - Innocence

Oh, precious children,
Spreading peace simply with your
Innocent laughter.

10 - L8

The feeling of late
Is a feeling that I hate
At quarter to eight.

11 - Mud pies

Mud pies might seem nice
If you are unaware of
Chocolate's existence.

12 - Deadeye Dog

The small dog, so keen
On its course, did not pause to
See the bus coming.

(Do not fear, dear one,
The dog was lucky that the
Driver saw and stopped.)

13 - No Means No

Some fellas just can't
Take the damn hint that when I
Say no, I mean no.

14 - Unplugged

What am I to do
When the wifi doesn't work?
Must I talk to folks?

15 - Hanabi

Fire flowers fill
The night sky as friendships form
And love's rekindled.

16 - Magnolias ~ for Johnny

Magnolias steal
Away and feel like heaven
Laughs through tears so real.

17 - Responsibility

It is grand to flee
Responsibility till
You have to come back.

18 - Birthday Bashful

My grandma flees from
Birthday cakes, bouquets, kind words,
And all attention.

19 - Torch ~ *in loving memory of Dorian*

Some light keeps shining
Even after death, for she
Still glows in our hearts.

The torch has been passed,
One generation giving
The next a bright hope.

And with the courage
It takes to shine our own light,
We pass her light on.

20 - Gay Death

When you turn thirty,
The gay community will
No longer want you.

21 - Image is Everything

Calvin trains their young
To mold themselves into the
Image of Yahweh.

BoCo trains their young
To mold themselves into the
Image of Broadway.

22 - Walter's Wings

Walter's wings are just
One of the things that make him
The angel he is.

23 - Fortune Cookie #47

Don't fling yourself at
Ev'ry opportunity;
Some are not worth it.

24 - In-the-way Ray

Some people just know
Exactly how to get in
Everybody's way.

25 - Wrong foot

Starting the day off
On the wrong foot can leave you
Feeling unbalanced.

26 - ComPOSER

Sometimes I fear I
Might be more of a poser
Than a composer.

27 - Towels

The young towel clings
Tightly to the water, but
The old one lets go.

28 - Our Father

God is probably
Nonbinary, so we should
Stop worshiping men.

29 - Leap Year

My ex-roommate had
Her seventh birthday today,
But she's so mature.

March

1 - Why you gotta be so Rudoi?

I still beam with pride
Thinking of my friends who told
A composer “no.”

2 - Choir

There are times when your
Voice should be heard and there are
Time when it should not.

3 - Grounded

He's grounded in his
Personality, which is
Really not grounded.

4 - Music and Religion

Practice and theory
Are both needed, but practice
Is more important.

5 - Truth

Math and science find
The Truth while history and
English show mistakes.

6 - Close-minded

I can't go on dates
Because I think of you and
Nobody comes close.

7 - Ann Marie's

Two chairs surrounded
By a nest of fresh-trimmed hair
And caring people.

8 - Resolutions

I'm looking at my
New Year's Resolutions and
Laughing at myself.

9 - Runners

You don't run for fun
Or for exercise, but to
Show off your body.

10 - Name

I don't need to make
A name for myself since I
Already like mine.

11 - Type A

I'm a Christian so
I'm used to doing someone
Else's work for them.

12 - Dear Mom

Jesus put his mom
Through a lot of grief, so you're
In good company.

13 - Silver and Gold

We're silver and gold,
To have and to hold in the
Cold till we grow old.

14 - Spring Cleaning

The sun is back and
Corona has started her
Spring cleaning early.

15 - Viruses and Kings

Viruses and kings
Stop the world at a whim with
Their oily green hands.

16 - Shit

Some people like to
Take a shit, but I like to
Give a shit sometimes.

17 - Baby Daddy

The way you take care
Of your nephew makes me want
To have kids with you.

18 - Together

Nothing pulls people
Together like the weather
And shared suffering.

19 - Ass

Sometimes haikus just
Come right out of my ass and
Then I write them down.

20 - Income Out

If the income stops
Coming in then the outcome
Is no coming out.

21 - Wise Guy

I have been called wise
Only because I have had
More than a few tries.

22 - White

Warm bodies in white
Sheets and a white-trim mirror
Reflecting snowfall.

23 - Crosswords

I've learned I'm dreadful
At crossword races because
I take time with words.

24 - Shit Tea

Sometimes shit comes up
And sometimes shit goes down, but
Shit always happens.

25 - Pretty Shitty

It's pretty shitty,
Life in this gritty city,
So have some pity.

26 - Simple Prayer

Forgive me, dear Lord,
For making it about me.
Fill me with your will.

27 - Sun and Moon

Help me to unite
Pisces and Aquarius,
My soul's sun and moon.

28 - Super Bottom

You're such a bottom
That you're willing to become
A top just for me.

29 - Psalm 56:1

Have mercy, O Lord,
For men hotly pursue me;
All day long they press.

30 - Typhoid Mary

It's Typhoid Mary,
Peaches and cream might kill folks
'Cause her hand's not clean.

31 - Insomniac

I've heard sleep is good
But I can't seem to master
The art of it yet.

April

1 - Vocal Athletics

Singing is a sport:
You have to practice daily
To stay in good shape.

2 - Reese's Graveyard ~ for Jen

Black and silver husks
Discarded in the battle
For abiding love.

3 - Roommates

Four singers in one
House exponentially fun
And loud as a gun.

4 - Coffee

Your dark twinkling eyes,
The only coffee I'd drink,
Wanting one more cup.

5 - To Be or Not to Be

Why would you be flat
When you can be natural,
Or better, be sharp?

6 - Laundry

I never thought that
Laundry would be a quand'ry
Till Corona struck.

7 - Safety

My friend bought a gun
Because he doesn't feel safe
Around white people.

8 - Staccato

I learned staccato
Is like touching a hot pan
And snapping away.

9 - Legato

I learned legato
Is like smearing ruby jam
On the smoothest bread.

10 - Toilight

The toilet lights up,
Jewel tones slide down the drain,
Fading to pastels.

11 - Capricorn

You know that I'm right,
Even when I'm wrong - which is
Never - I am right.

12 - Aquarius

Do clouds have thoughts too -
Sometimes light and fluffy, but
Sometimes dark and sad?

13 - Pisces

You know what'd be fun?
We should have a giggle-off;
The first to cry wins.

14 - Aries

Get over here now
Because the flame in my chest
Needs a good quenching.

15 - Taurus

I'm gonna stay here
Because I already know
What I like and don't.

16 - Gemini

I really think I'm
A Taurus or a Cancer,
Not a Gemini.

17 - Cancer

I want to hold you
And make sure you know that you'll
Never be alone.

18 - Leo

I don't mean to brag,
But I'm probably the most
Romantic you've met.

19 - Virgo

Thanks for trying, but
You should try a bit harder
At being less dumb.

20 - Libra

I'd take a selfie,
But I have an image to
Maintain for myself.

21 - Scorpio

No one has to know
The dark power I possess
Until they hurt me.

22 - Sagittarius

I HAVE A PLAN THAT
EVERYONE IS GONNA LOVE
BECAUSE IT'S SO FUN!!

23 - Surprise!

I said, "I am gay!"
And they all shouted, "No way!"
They knew anyway.

24 - My Face

My canvas since birth,
Showing sorrow, fear, and mirth
Beyond any worth.

25 - Your Eyes

Round, dark orbs of fire
Filling me with hot desire;
Never shall I tire.

26 - Young Love

Young love is still love,
It just grows sweeter with age
Like expensive wine.

27 - Call Me Maybe

A man I just met
Is winning my heart and yet
I have no regret.

28 - True Love

Life is far too short
To hesitate to share love
When you feel its truth.

29 - 3 Words

You said "I love you"
And a thousand angels sang
The sweetest chorus.

30 - Trust

I trust you with me
More than I trust me with you,
But I'm glad you do.

May

1 - Exercise

Bodies need to move,
Which is why we exercise
And feel much better.

2 - Do you?

Do you really care
About what I have to say
Or do you pretend?

3 - Insomnia

I'd rather not sleep
If it meant I could turn dreams
To realities.

4 - Checkers

Moral decisions
Rarely resemble checkers
Where it's win or lose.

5 - The mail carrier

The mail carrier
Also carries the hearts of
The neighborhood cats.

6 - Hungry

I want you so much
That my body is hungry
For a taste of you.

7 - Thirsty

I'm a thirsty boy.
You're a tall drink of water.
We're a perfect match.

8 - Boundaries

Saying no is hard
When you care what others think,
But yes can't be all.

9 - Congraduations

Congraduations
To many of my dear friends
Who made it through school.

10 - Inspiration

Inspiration hits
Like an unexpected truck,
But less painfully.

11 - Love

I was made by Love
And filled with Love's Spirit so
I was made for Love.

12 - Undone

I feel unworthy,
Unlovable and ugly,
And you undo that.

13 - Good Enough

Am I good enough -
Or even merely enough -
For you to love me?

14 - Fun in the Sun

Sunlight burns my skin,
Summer's bitterest warning:
Sun is not just fun.

15 - Students

Teachers are learners,
Falling on our faces and
Guarding students' steps.

16 - Stardust (Mini)

We are all stardust,
Matter recycled through time
To create new stars.

17 - Cultures

To know and to do
Are needs for some cultures, but
Others need to be.

18 - Others

Prejudice is made
By those who can't let others
Be without a why.

19 - Tiny Justices

Ants pillage the food,
Making antagonists scream
Tiny justices.

20 - Enneagram 1

I need to make sure
My actions exactly match
What I say I'll do.

21 - Enneagram 2

Do you still need me,
Because I will gladly stay
If you want my help?

22 - Enneagram 3

I will be the best
No matter how long it takes
To climb to the top.

23 - Enneagram 4

When the leaves fall down,
Does it hurt to hit the ground
Without making sound?

24 - Enneagram 5

Perhaps new models
Will shed light on old patterns,
Improving their worth.

25 - Enneagram 6

If we all pitch in
And trust we will do our parts,
We can make it work.

26 - Enneagram 7

Let's go do something,
And let's make it a surprise
So we keep things fresh.

27 - Enneagram 8

Let's do it my way
And if it doesn't work out,
We'll try it your way.

28 - Enneagram 9

Everyone relax
And remember why you're here,
And then we can share.

29 - Ankle politics

Ankle politics
Say that the right nor the left
Move after running.

30 - The pits

I'm not a crumbs guy;
I want the first fruits and not
The leftover pits.

31 - Because

Love people because
Of who they are, not just in
Spite of who they are.

June

1 - Bubble

There's a stray bubble
Slipping from the sky without
A care in the world.

2 - Black lives matter

Black lives still matter
Even if you ignore them
Or treat them poorly.

3 - Hid'n flow'r

Ev'ry hid'n flow'r
Comes out to the sun of spring
With gay abandon.

4 - Clouds

Snow banks in the sky,
Lofty glacial majesty,
Cold and wet and white.

5 - Civilization

Civilization
Comes in all sorts of queer shapes
Carved out of the earth.

6 - Old Tunes

Return to childhood,
Singing with old favorites
And old but fresh ears.

7 - Jazz in June

You are new to me
But you feel familiar,
Autumn jazz in June.

8 - Peaches & Clean

Bandaid on a peach
Don't make me feel peachy keen
Till I know I'm clean.

9 - Fair Weather

Everyone seems proud
Of fair weather that they had
Nothing to do with.

10 - Love Languages

We love differently:
You like providing service,
I like words and touch.

11 - Nerdy Dancing

I can't stop laughing
When you dance in the kitchen
And sing in my neck.

12 - Care-free

You are so care-free,
Moved by the rhythm of song,
And you care so much.

13 - Soul

We sing together,
Souls lifting up as one voice
And hearts coming close.

14 - Wed dream

We're so domestic
I dreamed of our wedding day,
Light-hearted and fun.

15 - Compromise

You like loud mornings,
I like a quiet morning;
Where's the compromise?

16 - Afro

Black metallic coils
Tightly wound in a bouquet,
Clean and freshly picked.

17 - Tell me

I know my own worth,
But when you don't tell me it
I feel like you don't.

18 - Venus

When your face lights up
I could fly right to Venus
In a single breath.

19 - Eros

Love is my driver
And I've buckled my seatbelt
For a bumpy ride.

20 - Softness

I will strive to keep
My sense of softness and hope
In the bleakest fights.

21 - Ownership

I am not my own,
But belong, body and soul,
To my faithful God.

22 - Patience

Short-term patience is
A bit easier for me
Than long-term patience.

23 - Gifts

Each day is a gift
And each song I have to sing
Is a bow on top.

24 - Dwarves in the Kitchen

Dwarves in the kitchen
Dancin' to the drum rhythms
Dope beats are bitchin'

25 - Democracy

I'm as good as you,
Yet those very words reveal
My doubt of their truth.

26 - Between Homes

I'm between homes now -
The one where I live full time
And the one with you.

27 - Barely Gone

Do you miss me yet,
Even though I'm barely gone
And never quite home?

28 - Milk & Water

You like to drink milk,
But I like to drink water;
Still, we can be friends.

29 - Missing

You said you got sad
When I walked away that day
And that means the world.

30 - Summer Daze

June left way too soon
And July comes swinging by,
But August or bust.

July

1 - Soul Search

What am I after,
Who am I trying to be,
And what will I give?

2 - Better and Worse

How did I get here,
So far from who I once was,
For better and worse?

3 - Try

Sometimes you must try
To learn you really don't want
Any part of it.

4 - Pink Plantation

Cotton candy clouds
Cooly cover creation
Crying can't come close.

5 - Compromise

You don't have to give
Up your integrity to
Succeed in your work.

6 - Baby Daze 1 ~ for Aly

I would gladly die
To see your sweet little smile
And hear your bright laugh.

7 - Baby Daze 2 ~ for Aly

I hate when you cry,
But I love holding you close
And being needed.

8 - Baby Daze 3 ~ for Aly

Nothing else matters
Except making you happy
And keeping you safe.

9 - Scrap

If I die today,
Finish my scrapbooks for me
Or throw them away.

10 - Catch

I'm also a catch
So you need to pursue me
Just as I do you.

11 - Instrumental ~ *for Karine*

Music simply is
Good of its own accord, not
Instrumental good.

12 - Intimacy

Are you holding me
At arm's length to protect you
From intimacy?

13 - Happiness

It is not your job
To make sure that I'm happy
Because that job's mine.

14 - 26 and counting

How many times can
I be lonely in a day
When you are away?

15 - How to Haiku

Five syllables first,
Seven syllables second,
And lastly five more.

16 - Passion Prayer

Pray quite fervently
If you really care about
What you're hoping for.

17 - So So Good

You are so so good,
But is that enough for me
To keep chasing you?

18 - Crises Pisces

Two friends in crises
Summon their Pisces and I
Use my devices.

19 - Redeemed

Oh, you're really straight?
Well, don't you worry, honey,
'Cause God still loves you.

20 - House Fire

I'm trying too hard
To keep the candle lit, but
The wax still ran out.

21 - Not-Boyfriend

I may be single,
But my heart would disagree
As he pines for you.

22 - Solitary Confinement

I just want a hug,
But I'm not allowed to touch
For fourteen full days.

23 - Mozart's dead; get over it

I've endured my fill
Of Mozartian music,
So let's move on, please.

24 - Mozart was not a genius

Mozart was just white
And his dad a musician
And his sister too.

25 - Mozart or Most art?

Let's stop worshipping
Basic privileged people
For being famous.

26 - Zoom

Five hot guys on zoom.
Wish we were in the same room.
Maybe someday soon.

27 - Roboo

I must be the one
To initiate feelings
Since you don't know how.

28 - Hey Tremayne

Hey Tremayne, guess what?
I'll still love you, even when
I break up with you.

29 - Breakup Blues

I broke up with you
And I don't like it at all;
Was it the wrong choice?

30 - Tangents

You rely on me,
But you would never tell me
Until it's too late.

31 - Awesome

“Do you not realize
How awesome you are?” He said.
I guess I forget.

August

1 - Hurricane

The pain of others
Can be heard for many miles
In the howling wind.

2 - Approval

You say you're okay,
Yet you need more approval
Than you can admit.

3 - Treat me

If you won't treat me
As good as my friends treat me,
Then you can just leave.

4 - Twisted Grove

Place for a hot date
Or a pagan sacrifice -
It's all perspective.

5 - Green Eyes

I'm glad to see him
Smiling and free, but I wish
That he smiled with me.

6 - Hawt

The hard, throbbing beat
Of the thick midsummer heat
Lays me in defeat.

7 - Delft

Like Dutch porcelain,
I am white and blue and smooth
And very fragile.

8 - Gold moon and red sky

Gold moon and red sky,
Are dreams but pale prophecies,
Vividly waiting?

9 - Synergy

What do others need
And how can my work supply
Some semblance of that?

10 - Prophecy

Pisces predictions
Of upcoming birthday boys
Are proven correct.

11 - Psy-phy

Physics or psychics -
What is really moving us
In modern living?

12 - Tough Love

Christianity
Is not about conversion;
It's about tough love.

Tough love refers to
Loving different people,
Even when it's tough.

13 - Beautiful

Beauty is not art;
Though some art is beautiful,
Art can be much else.

14 - Desperation

If you want something,
You'll find a way to see it,
Even if not there.

15 - Above and Beyond

“Meets expectations”
Is not enough to date me;
You must go further.

16 - Parrot

I am a parrot;
I am cute and I will eat
All of your damn fruit.

17 - Politician

Empty rooms for eyes,
Cold handshakes and a smile that's
All lipstick and teeth.

18 - Numb

Cloudy, empty street;
Shrivelled blossoms fall to dust;
I'm losing feeling.

19 - Acknowledgement

Made some poor choices;
Learning fast from my mistakes;
I will be better.

20 - Enemy of my Enemy

Big man with a drill;
Motorcycle growls, eyes roll;
“Some people,” we laugh.

21 - Lil Cutie

Little red glasses
And a periwinkle hat
Win me compliments.

22 - Lesbian Warlords

Lesbian warlords
Gonna take over the world
And it will be great.

23 - Kind words

Let my words be kind,
Meant to build others higher
With justice and hope.

24 - Thoughtful words

Think about your words
Before you say or write them:
How is this helping?

25 - Encourager

Building up the core
By giving strength to the heart
And courage inside.

26 - Slay

Slay every day
In a gay and playful way
Despite what they say.

27 - Watch

Watch who you deal with,
For people are watching you
But won't watch your back.

28 - Faerie Queen

The faerie queen sings
And with a beat of her wings
She can transform kings.

29 - Hope

Deep roots, short branches,
Always reaching for the light,
Never done with hope.

30 - Tree Variety

Tree variety
Makes the garden more thrilling
Than just one tree type.

31 - Healing

Music is healing
And musicians are healers,
Giving life and joy.

September

1 - Zest

A new beginning
Refreshes a weary soul,
Restoring life zest.

2 - Love Variety

I feel you love me,
But I can't make myself feel
The same love for you.

3 - Candle

Fire fades with smoke screen,
Wax water freezes over,
Cooled as fast as hot.

4 - Fuck Yes!

Don't pursue people
Unless they are a "fuck yes"
And reciprocal.

5 - Hey, Stranger

Stranger on the train
Driving me insane with his
Tall, dark, handsome frame.

6 - Junk Food

Bad food can look good
And taste good too, but it's not
Good for you at all.

7 - Barefoot

I would go barefoot
Even if it meant I must
Scrub my feet for days.

8 - Laundroman

It's man crush Monday
At the laundromat and all
The hot guys wash clothes.

9 - The Freudian Slip

Starting a new line
In lingerie fashion called
"The Freudian Slip."

10 - WASPitality

It's not just the south
That shows hospitality;
It's good Christian folk.

11 - In Memoriam ~ *for Rachel Koning*

Day of death take two.
You were only two that day.
Now your tower fell.

12 - Marker ~ *in loving memory of Rachel*

Marker drawings fade,
But the one who makes a mark
Will not be forgot.

13 - Seed

The soil around me
Contains everything I need
To grow big and strong.

14 - Growth

Growth is rarely felt,
But that doesn't mean you should
Give up on the plant.

15 - Art

To be good at art,
You have to be willing to
Get your hands dirty.

16 - Real Estate

Two neighbor buildings:
Taco Bell and Urgent Care,
A perfect pairing.

17 - Butting Heads

Two men butting heads...
That sounds gayer than I meant...
But I'm not upset.

18 - Bedtime Blues

I just want someone
That I love to hold me close
And say they love me.

19 - Apple Picking

Sometimes when you go
To pick a certain apple,
A new one picks you.

20 - Naturalism

Walden Pond is closed
Because people erect walls
Where nature had none.

21 - Komorebi ~ for Manato

Sunlight streaming through
The sighing reach of branches,
Longing leaves aglow.

22 - Knockout

Sometimes a door slams
And it pulls you back to face
Your reality.

23 - Rainbow

If not for the rain,
We wouldn't have gotten the
Rainbow to ourselves.

24 - Upper Neighbor

Constantly pounding,
The bass, the bed, the building
Shaking above me.

25 - Clones

I have many clones
That people I would date are
Already dating.

26 - Crisp

The apple crisp spills
Onto my lap, giving me
Apple bottom jeans.

27 - Apple Butt

Two apples conjoined
Into a butt at the base
Make low-hanging fruit.

28 - Eggony and Irony

All egg yolks matter!
Who the shell would execute
Chicken abortions?!

29 - Grandma F Visits

Grandma F visits
With her big black bingo bag
And generous laughs.

30 - Grandma F's House

Bad tapioca,
Thick perfume mixed with cat hair,
And matching outfits.

Princess Kia hides,
Fashion shows and Madeline,
And nutcracker stares.

October

1 - Animal Archetypes

Animal archetypes
Show characteristics of
How we perceive them.

2 - Cat

Grace and strength balanced
In a soft but deadly frame,
A silent goddess.

3 - Dog

Loud and loyal friend,
Cocky and brave to a fault,
A cute protector.

4 - Horse

Power and freedom,
A beautiful wild spirit
That chooses who rides.

5 - Fish

Slippery swimmer
Floating in the sparkling deep
With no agenda.

6 - Lion

Handsome and lazy
With smug confidence and might,
King of the jungle.

7 - Bird

A powerful voice
That sings sweet songs or stabs you,
Then flaps far away.

8 - Scorpion

A small, dark secret
With thick skin and ready claws,
A mystical tail.

9 - Ram

Seemingly sheepish,
But always butting its head
Into your business.

10 - Bull

Simple and stubborn,
Wishing things would never change,
Gentle till provoked.

11 - Crab

Seemingly crabby,
Ready to dodge in a pinch,
But rarely shellfish.

12 - Fox

Sexy, sleek, and sly,
A clever and cunning guy,
A ginger most shy.

13 - Flamingo

The most flamboyant
And ostentatiously pink
With long legs for days.

14 - Snake

Cold, dark, and slimy,
A slithering suggestion,
A glittering death.

15 - Rat

A snivelling sneak,
Stealing his way through houses
To sleep in the streets.

16 - Eagle

Majestic and fierce,
The commander of the skies
With all-seeing eyes.

17 - 10/10

Nothing makes me cry
Like a clear October sky
And a leaf rainbow.

18 - Dolphin

A smooth criminal,
Laughing at ev'ry damn thing,
A slick, sleek slacker.

19 - Shark

A toothy nightmare
Craving blood in the water
For its gaping jaws.

20 - Owl

A nocturnal prince,
Sagacious inquisitor
With all-knowing eyes.

21 - Penguin

A small, classy gent,
Adorable and perky,
Always on the go.

22 - Flying Squirrel

Quirky and perky,
A quick burst of energy,
A unique creature.

23 - Frog

A leggy jumper,
Quick and quiet till he croaks,
A potential prince.

24 - Bee

A striped buzzing drone
Prefers doing to being
The queen's lil honey.

25 - Hornet

A furious prick
Determined to make it sting
And will die trying.

26 - Pig

A greedy loafer
With a smelly, squealing snout
But a cute curled tail.

27 - Skunk

A total stinker
Who looks cute until he sprays;
Then you're stuck with him.

28 - Turtle

Stuck inside your shell,
Timid or really patient,
A cautious mover.

29 - Rabbit

Anxious listener,
Impulsive and desperate,
Yet cute and fuzzy.

30 - Crocodile

Always excited,
Smile that welcomes anyone,
Quick to take you in.

31 - Bat

Upside-down vampire
Singing silent lullabies
For featherless birds.

November

1 - Summer

Watermelon beach,
Vitamin D vacation,
And brightest colors.

2 - Autumn

Crisp apple picking,
Fresh air and pumpkin magic,
And fiery earth hues.

3 - Winter

Glittering snowfall,
Quiet-clinging cleanliness,
And rich jewel tones.

4 - Spring

Newborn blossom rain,
Fragrant garden paradise,
And gentle pastels.

5 - Pink lemonade trees

Pink lemonade trees
Breathing sunshine in the park
And sharing their life.

6 - January

Garnet sun watches
Indigo snow in the heart
Of winter wonder.

7 - February

Amethyst lovers
Consume dark chocolate to
Warm frozen feelings.

8 - March

Aquamarine eyes
Adapt to a new climate
With hot tears of hope.

9 - April

Diamond showers
Awaken sleeping flowers
With a quiet mist.

10 - May

Emerald blades guard
Nobles in all their splendor
Till they're mowed and plucked.

11 - June

Pearl clouds start to drift
In pure imagination
And lazy sunlight.

12 - July

Ruby tongues of fire
Igniting secret passion
In midsummer heat.

13 - August

Peridot leaves cling
Desperately to branches
To delay the fall.

14 - September

Sapphire sky opens
A new beginning for most
To dive into work.

15 - October

Opal irises
Gaze at rainbow foliage
With sweet contentment.

16 - November

Sardonyx light peeks
Through the passionate embrace
Of dying embers.

17 - December

Turquoise frost kisses
The numb tree limbs to remind
Them how to sparkle.

18 - Hawks

Hawks are powerful
Independent kings and queens,
Yet they mate for life.

19 - Weakness

God reveals their strength
In our biggest weaknesses
To show their glory.

20 - Inspired

Sometimes I can feel
So inspired and yet I don't
Have that much to say.

21 - Dating

Taking on a new
Person can be a lot of
Emotional work

22 - Stalker

Stalker in the park...
I'm glad that it is not dark...
Hope I'm not a mark...

23 - Premonition

That awful feeling
When you dream of someone's death
And it might be real.

24 - All I Want for Christmas

Hang on till Christmas
So I can see you again -
That's the gift I want.

25 - Dark Humor

My mom has cancer
And my dad is a Cancer.
Guess she has a type.

26 - Connect

Tearing others down
Tears you down as well because
We are connected.

27 - Respect

Tearing yourself down
Tears others down too because
When one falls, all fall.

28 - Protect

Building others up
Builds you up as well because
We hold each other.

29 - Reflect

Building yourself up
Builds others up too because
We rise together.

30 - Acknowledge

We need each other
Whether we like it or not,
So learn to like it.

December

1 - Hermaphrodite

A love messenger,
Hermes and Aphrodite,
God and goddess merged.

2 - Kind your business

Kindness makes me cry
For it is in high demand
And too short supply.

3 - Cost of Kindness

It doesn't cost you
To be kind to someone who
Is different from you.

4 - K.Chen

Kitchen Chenoweth
Lights up the room with her warmth
And luminescence.

5 - According to Him

A striking beauty,
Uma or Angelina,
Not a barbie doll.

6 - Mom's Golden Rule

How you treat others
Is how you are treating God,
So be kind to them.

7 - Affirmation

Give affirmation
Even if you don't receive
Affirmation back.

8 - I'm Positive!

Positivity
Is one of the greatest gifts
To give to others.

9 - I'm Negative!

Negativity
Is only desirable
For health test results.

10 - Legacy

We need to be told
Greatness lives inside of us
To start believing.

11 - Gift

Each day is a gift
And ev'ry interaction
A chance to uplift.

12 - Mt. Shampoo

Fountain of bubbles
Cascades down curling black peaks
In frothy glory.

13 - Table Manners

Forks go on the left,
Knives and spoons go on the right.
That's called etiquette.

14 - Fancy Date

Bougie boys being
Baffled by sea bass and steak
At Capital Grille.

15 - Taking it slow for once

I like you, but I
Don't know if I love you yet,
Which is weird for me.

16 - Glory

Live for God's glory,
Not for your own glory, and
You will be at peace.

17 - Snow Way

And to top it all,
Covid can even prevent
A snow day's powers.

18 - Dear Lyft Driver

The car door won't close
No matter how many times
You press the button.

19 - Excellence

I will not settle
For acceptable because
I want excellence.

20 - Mr. Right

To me, everyone
Is worthy of love, but not
What I'm looking for

21 - Careful

Kindness shows care for
The other while niceness shows
Care for appearance.

22 - Great or Good

Give me a man who
Is good - better yet, give me
A man who is great.

23 - Bible Thumpers

Little did they know
That they were the Pharisees
In their own story.

24 - Yacht Club Christians

Some Christians seem bent
On club membership more than
Openness to all.

25 - Happy belated birthday

Jesus wasn't born
As a Capricorn, but he
Sure got some shit done.

26 - Breakup

A breakup is hard,
Even when you see it come
And it goes smoothly.

27 - Ground Sounds

Does the ground make sound
To let us know that it's there?
Does our walking hurt?

28 - Nostalgia

Memories flood back
Seeing the snow-capped structures
And fields of my youth.

29 - An odd Christmas gift

Four pictures of one
Become a shrine to the boy
With phoenix red hair.

30 - Rainbows

Don't wish away life,
Even when it's difficult;
Rain leads to rainbows.

31 - The End

The end of a book
And the end of a chapter,
But still not the end.

About the Author



Kelvyn Koning (he/him) is a poet, composer/lyricist, actor/singer, and pianist from McBain, MI. He completed his Master of Music in Composition from the Boston Conservatory at Berklee and has been gaily writing choral music for ensembles he's sung with and the ensembles of his music teacher friends. He has also co-written three full-length musicals and four children's musicals and teaches piano, voice, and musical theatre at the All Newton Music School, Boston Latin School, and The Music Box. He is in the podcast *Darkened Hallways*, is a founding member of the Nightingale vocal ensemble, and freelances as a writer and performer, primarily around the city of Boston. He works as music director at the First Baptist Church of Melrose and has written two poetry books now:

Teaching Snakes To Sing and *2020 Vision: A Haiku A Day*. When he's not making art or enjoying the splendid humans in his life he...sleeps? It is Kelvyn's goal to foster empathy, healing, and social justice for individuals and communities through music and writing.



Website: <http://www.kelvynkoning.com/>



Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/kelvyn3koning/>



Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/kelvyn.koning/>



SoundCloud:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-421421699>



Twitter: <https://twitter.com/KelvynKMusik>



YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiuHuml8MtShVwwFGLsMG-g/videos>

**Photo by Wesley Verge*