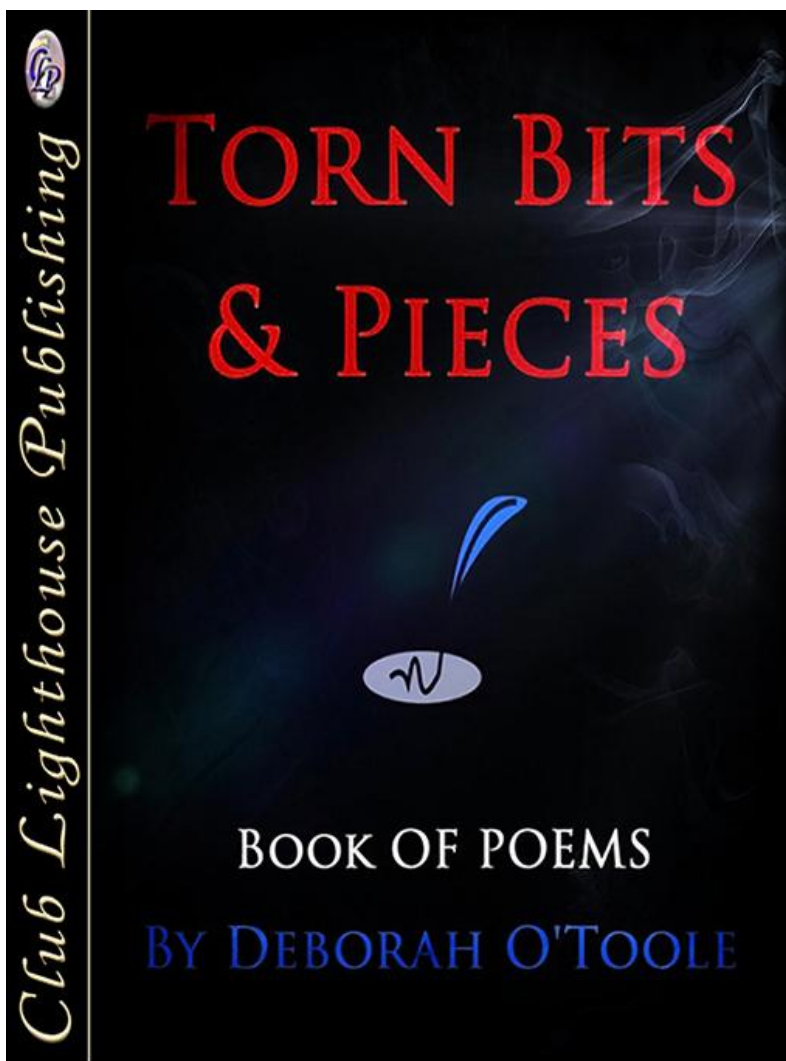


Excerpts from:
Torn Bits & Pieces

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 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

<https://deborahotoole.com/>

Blood of My Father

*It spills and reeks, soaked to the floor.
Pools of liquid ruby red,
hidden by a drawn door.
For all who are gone and dead.*

*This blood is in my veins,
it runs rampant and true.
As thy father does ordain,
the knowing to trusted few.*

*Unbeknownst and bygone,
shall never see the light of day.
Forthwith and near every dawn,
under the seedbed plot they do lay.*

*Swaying bells in the summer breeze,
none too gentle for those gone under.
Nor will any likely feel an appease,
as life and limb are torn asunder.*

"Blood of My Father" ©Deborah O'Toole. All rights reserved.

NOTE: "Blood of My Father" also appears in the fiction novel "Bloodlust" by Deborah O'Toole writing as Deidre Dalton. The poem is depicted as being penned by one of the main characters in the story, Kirk Lester, who also happens to have a rather dark and twisted relationship with his father, Kendrick Lester. As the story unfolds, Kendrick is revealed as the infamous Bluebell Killer, responsible for the kidnap, rape and murder of several women in the Boston area.

Bluebells & Fuchsia

*The dark red path,
littered with blood and bloom
and arced with portents of death.*

Never easy to assume.

*Bluebells and fuchsia,
with hints of loom
and bits of minutia,
points at certain doom.*

*What is hidden,
will be revealed.*

*To unveil the forbidden,
no longer concealed.*

*Bluebells and fuchsia,
with hints of loom
and bits of minutia,
points at certain doom.*

*Bones and flesh,
forever rest
in the rotted mesh
at his behest.*

*Bluebells and fuchsia,
with hints of loom
and bits of minutia,
points at certain doom.*

"Bluebells & Fuchsia" ©Deborah O'Toole. All rights reserved.

NOTE: "Bluebells & Fuchsia" also appears in the fiction novel "Bloodlust" by Deborah O'Toole writing as Deidre Dalton. The poem is depicted as being penned by one of the main characters in the story, Kirk Lester, who also happens to have a rather dark and twisted relationship with his father, Kendrick Lester. As the story unfolds, Kendrick is revealed as the infamous Bluebell Killer, responsible for the kidnap, rape and murder of several women in the Boston area.

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*) ©Deborah O'Toole. All rights reserved.

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.

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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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Foofer's Memoriam

My heart's eternal flame will always burn brightly for you.

I know you'll watch over me, and wait for me . . .

*But for now rest in peace my beloved boy, I'll see you again one day
and we can forever walk healthy and happy along the cloudy shore.*

Or be together, alone, in our little cottage by the sea.

So when it's my time, wait for me on the steps and I'll find you

We'll turn and walk home, where we will never be apart

Where we'll never be sad, lonely or ailing

but rather smiling, tranquil and content - together forever in our eternity.

"Foofer's Memoriam" ©Deborah O'Toole. All rights reserved.

Fringes

*Like a butterfly on the fringes,
fluttering close yet so far.
The wings never feeling sings,
never trapped in a jar.*

*She can control with her mind,
her will be the way.
Never far behind,
and no choice but to obey.*

*Treat her just right,
and she will give you the world.
If not, she will banish you from sight,
as is known when unfurled.*

*Take care with the fringes,
nurture and adore.
Cogs and moving hinges,
or else she will deplore.*

"Fringes" ©Deborah O'Toole. All rights reserved.

NOTE: "Fringes" also appears in the fiction novel "Bloodlust" by Deborah O'Toole writing as Deidre Dalton. The poem is depicted as being penned by one of the main characters in the story, Kirk Lester, who also happens to have a rather dark and twisted relationship with his father, Kendrick Lester. As the story unfolds, Kendrick is revealed as the infamous Bluebell Killer, responsible for the kidnap, rape and murder of several women in the Boston area.

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.

"Sad Passing" ©Deborah O'Toole. All rights reserved.

Screech & Moan

*Through the rafters and floorboards I hear
the screech and moan of many.*

*Childhood full of loathing and fear,
for my thoughts, not even a half-penny.*

The cries never stop, even in my dreams.

The screech and moan of many.

*In our house, nothing is as it seems,
tainted hearts as black as ebony.*

*I pray nightly for it to cease,
the screech and moan of many.
Even thy mother he won't release,
as if that would matter to any.*

*In the quiet of a lull,
I still hear the screech and moan of many.
I cannot erase, extract or pull,
Not even in the darkest hour of agony.*

"Screech & Moan" ©Deborah O'Toole. All rights reserved.

NOTE: "Screech & Moan" also appears in the fiction novel "Bloodlust" by Deborah O'Toole writing as Deidre Dalton. The poem is depicted as being penned by one of the main characters in the story, Kirk Lester, who also happens to have a rather dark and twisted relationship with his father, Kendrick Lester. As the story unfolds, Kendrick is revealed as the infamous Bluebell Killer, responsible for the kidnap, rape and murder of several women in the Boston area.

"TORN BITS & PIECES" INFORMATION

"Torn Bits & Pieces" by Deborah O'Toole was released by Club Lighthouse Publishing in February 2023. It is available at the publisher's website and at Amazon.



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

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EXTRAS:

Torn Bits & Pieces @ Facebook:

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

Torn Bits & Pieces web page:

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

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Deborah O'Toole is the author of *Celtic Remnants*, *The Crypt Artist*, *Glinhaven*, *In the Shadow of the King* and *Mind Sweeper*.

In addition, she writes darkly abstract poetry (*Torn Bits & Pieces*) and short-story juvenile fiction (*Short Tales Collection*), 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 165 years, most of which are set against the backdrop of a magnificent seaside mansion in Maine. Books in the ten-part family saga include *Hearts in Sorrow*, *The Advent*, *Quixotic Crossings*, *The Twain Shall Meet*, *Entrhancement*, *The Keeper's Journal*, *Hearts Desires*, *The Twilight*, *Megan's Legacy* and *Limb of Iniquity*.

Also writing as Deidre Dalton, Deborah is author of "The Bloodline Trilogy." The novels follow the uniquely magical yet ominous journey of three women through time. The trilogy includes *Bloodfrost*, *Bloodlust* and *Blood & Soul*.

Using the pseudonym Shenanchie O'Toole, Deborah also writes for the recipe website Food Fare. She is writer and co-editor of a dozen cookbooks, along with more than forty titles in the *Food Fare Culinary Collection*.



Deborah O'Toole

<https://deborahotoole.com/>

BOOKS BY DEBORAH O'TOOLE

Celtic Remnants

The Crypt Artist

Glinhaven

In the Shadow of the King

Mind Sweeper

Torn Bits & Pieces

WRITING AS DEIDRE DALTON

THE BLOODLINE TRILOGY:

Bloodfrost

Bloodlust

Blood & Soul

COLLECTIVE OBSESSIONS SAGA:

Hearts in Sorrow

The Advent

Quixotic Crossings

The Twain Shall Meet

Enthrallment

The Keeper's Journal

Hearts Desires

The Twilight

Megan's Legacy

Limb of Iniquity

MISCELLANEOUS

Glinhaven Cookery

(Scottish-themed recipes mentioned or prepared by characters in "Glinhaven" by Deborah O'Toole).

Historical Essays by Deborah O'Toole

(Billy the Kid, Anne Boleyn, Jack the Ripper, Loch Ness Monster, U.S. Political Parties)

The King's Table

(Tudor recipes mentioned or prepared by characters in "In the Shadow of the King" by Deborah O'Toole).

Larkin Community Cookbook

(Recipes mentioned or prepared by characters in the "Collective Obsessions Saga" by Deidre Dalton)

For more, go to: <https://deborahotoole.com/books.htm>