

Introducing Frank Waterman's Poems in  
the Key of Carlin

*You know who I am, I'm just like you*

*You've got stories to tell, I do too*

*Now hear this, my confession*

*Writing is my obsession and my  
profession*

*Franklin's my name, words are my game*

*From the first time my brain barfed  
random consciousness onto a blank  
page to be sorted into coherent  
thought I just haven't been the same*

*Now spilling ink is how I think*

*It's what keeps my sanity back from  
the brink*

*Even when I write something that  
stinks*

*Verbal onslaught is my only greatest  
crime*

*I write everywhere all the time*

*I write on a paper, write on a napkin,  
write on my phone, write on the walls,  
write by the rails*

*All in excruciating detail*

*Even when my imagination fails*

*This compulsion is mandatory*

*My free will is ambulatory*

*When I'm not at a desk, I'm on the  
road*

*Experiencing endless sights, sounds,  
smells, it's a sensory overload*

*It's a wonder my head doesn't explode!  
Yes, traveling between the Blue Ridge  
and the Eastern Shore is a hassle and  
a chore  
But hey, quoth this raven, at least I am  
never bored.*



Frank Waterman's  
**POEMS IN THE KEY OF CARLIN**  
Vol. I Carlinesques  
Vol. II 9 Levels of Publishing Hell



Michael Sensale

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Poems in the Key of Carlin

GRAMMAR

In this case, I'll speak plain,

These mechanics make me insane,

I can't tell where a sentence ends or begins  
The language nuances make my head spin.  
My mind feels subjugated  
Looking at the paper and drawing blanks  
I don't know what I just conjugated  
Tell me to be an editor, I'll tell you "no thanks"

My brain is in a haze,  
Is that an adverb clause or a gerund phrase?  
I don't think I'll ever get it right  
As John O'London might have said, "The more I study  
grammar, the less I understand."  
That's no good, 'cause I need a hand.

I can't stand this futility exercise!  
Should I capitalize or parenthesize?  
Turns out neither; big surprise!  
A language artist I ain't  
What I do with words, dogs do with paint

All this punctuation is stressing my finger joints  
Should earn a merit badge  
Instead I get exclamation points.  
Is there an end to this melodrama?  
No, just a serial comma.  
Please someone stop this crazy myriad.

Just end my sentence PERIOD!