

Clark Coolidge // From *Hoppy*

## **So Long**

This land used to be flat now it's slant  
the locals call it Anticline Acres you bet  
said to be a good place for guns to go off  
Hoppy's back in black on a megastone like Agamemnon  
everybody shoots but nobody hits instead  
there's a lot of falling off horses until  
Hoppy deadens a guy and Windy lights out  
must think he's in Dogpatch as Hoppy guffaws  
for a dollar they'd all go home and now they do  
as the music tightens up and their mounts shy

## **The Hayburner Blues**

Hoppy's distracted nothing  
but chicken flying  
around the plain so  
they wade outside into a darkness of guns  
as friends but you can't shoot a ghost  
and now the Thirties are gone and  
Hoppy smiles like Benny Goodman  
these eras they have viral benefits  
tails of nags against the rocks  
stony desert tropes you wear black for  
Hoppy's learning to manage his shadows  
you never know when a hero might need to fade  
meet Mister Roberts in the Devil's Playground  
the boys all suffering from saddle pressure  
but we're too far west these rocks are too round  
this yarn is busting its time frame  
and now there's a judge name of Brubeck

## **Trustworthy Locator with Dog**

It seems Hoppy raided the tile factory  
they had a good supply of oats there once  
consult the mat-green Rollodex of plan

Hoppy took a weekend to hike up his pants  
broken silhouette of cog meat in the wind  
see tumult

Then Hoppy ganged up on the other feeders  
shards of the leash rule lay strewn  
It's in the bucket

A lame imitation of Hoppy by Larry  
throne room broken into flame gone  
you'd have to toss your room

And lastly Hoppy has vacated the moon  
his new fall line of Fisticuffs to Fussbudgets  
you all come down

## **Once the Castle is Fixed**

He's a corker  
that's enough talking about the half of it  
probably nails and drugs  
you can see he's just tugging on them  
a bit and we are relieved  
ever seen board rooms and their pests  
props that were specially chosen no reason  
in particular     ask Hoppy  
he got a theme going just past Reno  
the last Winnebago down the mountain  
these boys use their spending money for spells  
now look what I've polluted this with!  
couldn't go much further than packed earth  
slogan moon partition remnant  
commerce and commencement that's life  
here in these our padded shots it's best  
we forget ourselves with our people

## **You Bet They Were**

Agh Lucky's just a nice boy who goes for rides  
Hoppy assures and pats his huge white horse side  
the county seat is never very far better  
stop those horse whistles pot shots  
ring out then Hoppy's horse is Bellerophon and smiles  
the crooks have had their fill and light out but  
nobody's as smooth as Cassidy watch as he enters  
the shack boys are ready for a stew  
now Hoppy's a six-gun monk and blazes  
bows and string-ties Ankrum who wonders  
care to say goodbye to everybody? looks like  
the vast west is under his thumb don't laugh  
California will run into yet another ending  
on which even the boys were planning

## **Reach and Be Quiet**

Hoppy's trussed up the boys are distraught  
but the maniac's a ham he'll lose he'll talk  
too much freezes before Hoppy's eyes  
flags fades down at Pinnacle Rocks  
the home of death Cassidy's even more determined  
Critical Rocks? crosses out the more cynical parts  
leaves he's back nobody can keep tabs  
Tentacle Rocks? something irregular going on  
Hoppy tells his team to get up there!  
they'll be Clinical Rocks soon seems  
anybody can stop anybody on any given day  
if only enough yaps stay shut Hoppy hazards  
certain chance only in business duds  
trouble is everybody gives up too soon

## **As Sung To**

Old Hoppys a woodwind treat  
a shout carries as far as the Crystal Fort  
presence of hepatitis questionable  
early shots and the doggies stray  
these boulders rolled from the Mailsack Range  
now they're permanent there's even a concerto  
it's the morning of perpetual afternoon here  
now they're all going to start to get killed  
horses waltzing around among the hoodoos  
alright boys start to eat  
Lucky's revealed as a fake  
there's this little thing called attention  
it's Hoppy and his gilded steed Rockburn  
most memorable line: we all die facing west