

**PAUL FERICANO**



**THINGS THAT GO TRUMP IN THE NIGHT**  
*Poems of Treason and Resistance*



LITTLE CITY PRESS [2019] POEMS-FOR-ALL PRESS



Mondo Edition, No. 1

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The first in the Mondo Series of  
“large books.”

—

A collaboration between  
Poems-For-All and  
YU News Service / Little City Press

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FIRST EDITION | FEBRUARY 2019

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ISBN: 978-0-578-40224-6

—

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*Cover photo:*

Tinnakorn Jorruang | Dreamstime

*Book design:*

R. Robert Hansen



**Poems-For-All Press**

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**Paul Fericano**



*for the tired, the poor,  
the huddled masses  
yearning to breathe free*

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*“nobody, not even the rain, has such small hands”*

— E. E. CUMMINGS



## FOREWORD

Many of us are unaware of the long, rich history of parody, especially its political manifestation via lampoon, pasquinade, nursery rhyme, and more recently, Charlie Chaplin's *The Great Dictator*. Parody involves a past, and the U.S. has one, even if 230 years as a country is nothing compared to nation-states of the Middle East whose histories and literatures go back millennia. Sadly, for too many Americans a word like "millennia" is as likely to evoke "Melania" as it is to conjure up the world of *I Claudius*.

Paul Fericano has his feet planted squarely on both halves of the divide between tradition and the present moment. An All-American fan of Joe DiMaggio and the Chevrolet, he also bears the scars of a seminary education imposed on him before he rebelled and fled to the countercultural hills and found heroes in Paul Krassner, Dorothy Parker, and the Three Stooges.

Fericano is adept at satire—though that barely scratches the surface of his accomplishments and interests—but satire is not parody. Parody requires a source material and when it works, leads to a doubleness of enjoyment worthy of Juicy Fruit gum.

Never fear. *Things That Go Trump in the Night* is a book of savage, fully realized parody, aimed at one target, a man who loves his own name more than he loves his country or anything else. These are poems written mostly in persona, with time off for unclassifiable behavior. Show tunes are fair game, as is a speech by a blacklisted screenwriter during the McCarthy witch hunts, and the opening paragraph of Mark Twain's greatest novel. Walter Scott sneaks into the mix, as do Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Shakespeare, Humphrey Bogart, Mother Goose, television commercials, and Donald Trump's favorite book of the Bible, *Corinthians*, to name only a smattering of its lines of attack.

We are in a deep, ugly mess right now, and this book provides welcome relief, big laughs, and potent ammunition for the battle ahead.

—klipschutz

*San Francisco*

*August 2, 2018*

## INVOCATION

### SCOTLAND AMENDS ITS TRADITIONAL PRAYER

Good Lord deliver us  
from moochies and huckabees  
and long-leggedy spicers  
and things that go trump in the night.