

Thy fingers make early flowers of

Thy fingers make early flowers of
all things.

thy hair mostly the hours love:
a smoothness which
sings,saying 5
(though love be a day)
do not fear,we will go amaying.

thy whitest feet crisply are straying.
Always
thy moist eyes are at kisses playing, 10
whose strangeness much
says;singing
(though love be a day)
for which girl art thou flowers bringing?

To be thy lips is a sweet thing 15
and small.
Death,Thee i call rich beyond wishing
if this thou catch,
else missing.
(though love be a day 20
and life be nothing,it shall not stop kissing).

1923

in Just-

in Just-
spring when the world is mud-
luscious the little
lame balloonman

whistles far and wee 5

and eddieandbill come
running from marbles and
piracies and it's
spring

when the world is puddle-wonderful 10

the queer
old balloonman whistles
far and wee
and bettyandisbel come dancing

from hop-scotch and jump-rope and

it's
spring
and
the

goat-footed

balloonMan whistles
far
and
wee

1920, 1923

O sweet spontaneous

O sweet spontaneous
earth how often have
the
doting

fingers of
prurient philosophers pinched
and
poked

thee
,has the naughty thumb
of science prodded
thy

beauty .how
often have religions taken
thee upon their scraggy knees
squeezing and

buffeting thee that thou mightest conceive
gods
(but
true

to the incomparable
couch of death thy
rhythmic
lover

thou answerest

them only with

spring)

1920, 1923

Buffalo Bill 's

Buffalo Bill 's¹
defunct

who used to
ride a watersmooth-silver

stallion

5

and break onetwothreefourfive pigeonsjustlikethat

Jesus

he was a handsome man

and what i want to know is

how do you like your blueeyed boy

10

Mister Death

1920, 1923

the Cambridge ladies who live in furnished souls

the Cambridge ladies who live in furnished souls
are unbeautiful and have comfortable minds
(also,with the church's protestant blessings
daughters,unscented shapeless spirited)

they believe in Christ and Longfellow,¹ both dead,

5

are invariably interested in so many things—
at the present writing one still finds

delighted fingers knitting for the is it Poles?
perhaps. While permanent faces coyly bandy
scandal of Mrs. N and Professor D

10

. . . . the Cambridge ladies do not care,above
Cambridge if sometimes in its box of
sky lavender and cornerless,the
moon rattles like a fragment of angry candy

1923

1. William F. Cody (1846–1917), American scout and Wild West showman.

1. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882), American poet often used as a symbol for tradi-

tionalist writing and values. He was a professor of romance languages at Harvard University in Cambridge.