

1--I still ask myself if I did the right thing, abandoning his floating city
2--I don't just mean for the work.
3--The fact is, a friend like that
4--a real friend,
5--you won't meet again
6--if you decide to go on land,
7--if you just want to feel something solid under your feet
8--and then you no longer hear the music of the gods around you.
9--But, like he used to say :
10--"You're never really done for as long as you've got a good story
11--and someone to tell it to."
12--The trouble is that no-one would believe a single word of my story.
13--It happened everytime that someone would look up and see her.
14--It's difficult to understand.
15--I mean, there were more than a thousand of us on that ship,
16--travelling rich folk, immigrants,
17--strange people and us.
18--Yet, there was always one, just one
19--who would see her first.
20--Maybe he was just sitting there eating
21--or walking on the deck.
22--Maybe he was just there fixing his pants.
23--He'd look up for a second, glance out to sea
24--and he'd see her.
25--Then he'd just stand there, rooted to the spot, his heart racing.
26--And everytime, I swear every damned time,
27--he'd turn towards us, to the ship, towards everybody and scream...
28--America !
29--I lost a lot of money betting on who'd be the first to see her,
30--America !
31--It's a miracle, Santa Rosalia !
32--What do you mean Santa Rosalia, it's the Madonna di Lourdes !
33--The one who sees America first. There's one on every ship !
34--And don't be thinking it's an accident or some optical illusion.
35--It's destiny.
36--Those are people who had that precise instant stamped on their life.
37--And when they were kids, you could look into their eyes
38--and if you looked carefully, you'd already see her,
39--America.
40--I've seen a few Americas !
41--Six years on that ship, five crossings a year :
42--Europe, America and back. Always soaking in the ocean.
43--When you stepped on land you couldn't even piss straight in the john.
44--It was steady, the john I mean,

45--but you'd keep bobbing like an idiot.
46--You can get off a ship all right, but off the ocean . . .
47--I was just closing. What can I do for you?
48--When I boarded I was twenty-four years old,
49--and only cared about one thing in life : playing the trumpet.
50--I'm selling it.
51--A Conn.
52--Not bad.
53--Best brass money can buy !
54--Could be, in its day.
55--Been a while since you played, eh ?
56--If you mean for money, a couple of years.
57--But I've never stopped playing it to get rid of the blues.
58--Don't get me wrong . . .
59--The greatest jazz players blew through brass like that.
60--I'm sure they did, but after the war, people want sweet sounds.
61--They want bright sounds, forget jazz !
62--This now, is just a collector's item.
63--Nine pounds fifty, not a penny more.
64--Christ, that's only 25 dollars !
65--That horn's my whole life.
66--Okay, no-one's going to remember me like Buddy Bolden or Satchmo,
67--but even as an nobody I'm worth more than 20 lousy dollars !
68--If you put it like that, I don't think it's worth even half a crown !
69--Shut the door when you leave, please.
70--Okay, Pops, you win !
71--You just bought yourself a piece of musical history.
72--If you want some advice,
73--go out now and get something hot to eat.
74--At least let me play it one last time.
75--I don't have time to waste !
76--All right
77--Hurry up though, I'm closing.
78--Thank you.
79--Two peas in a pod, wouldn't you say?
80--Are you all right? Please don't faint in here.
81--It's the music that you just played. Don't you recognise it ?
82--What is it ?
83--It doesn't have a name.
84--Only a handful of people have had the privilege of hearing it.
85--What style !
86--I've been wondering since this morning,
87--but I can't work out who this amazing piano player is.
88--I don't think you've ever heard of him.

89--Who is he ?

90--If I told you that this pianist never existed, I wouldn't be lying.

91--I don't like secrets. They're like dirty underwear !

92--Come on, Yank, who the devil is playing ?

93--It's my secret.

94--It was the first year of this frigging century,

95--as defined by an unknown coloured coal stoker on the Virginian.

96--Rich ass bastards ! Only lose dirty handkerchiefs and cigarette butts !

97--Never a watch, even a dented one, or an odd cuff-link.

98--Not even a fake fucking ring !

99--Hey, look here, a whole cigar !

100--Must have been some rich pauper at the party.

101--Look at this shit ! Damn rich !

102--They never forget anything, except when they owe you money.

103--What the hell are you doing here ?

104--T.D. Lemons.

105--Hello, Lemon !

106--Immigrant business !

107--Give birth in secret somewhere on deck

108--and then leave on the ship another mouth to feed !

109--That's big trouble with the immigration office !

110--What can a kid like him be when he grows up ? Another immigrant !

111--Don't listen to those bastards. Go on, lap it up boy !

112--It's milk.

113--They left this one in first class hoping some rich guy would take him

114--and give him a happy life.

115---Isn't that right, Danny ?-What do you think ?

116--And who does the little ape get instead ? A poor worthless nigger !

117--Fuck poverty, you stinking sewer rats !

118--T.D. was written on the box, do you rats know what that means ?

119--I forgot, you can't read !

120--I'll tell you what it means, it means Thanks Danny !

121--They left that boy for me and I'm keeping him.

122---What are you going to call him ?-That's a problem.

123--I didn't think of that.

124--To start with, I'll give him my name, Danny Boodman.

125--Then I'll put T.D. in the middle like the rich put on their cuff-links.

126--It's classy to put letters in the middle of a name.

127--All the fucking lawyers have got them in the middle of their names.

128--One of mine was called John P.T.K. Wonder.

129---The one who sent you to jail ?-What a good memory you've got !

130--If my son grows up to be a lawyer, I'll kill him !

131--But his name's going to be Danny Boodman T.D. Lemon.

132---What do you think ?-It's up to you. You're his mother !

133--I like it, but it's short.It needs an ending.
134--He ain't no duke's son, Danny !
135--You found him on a Tuesday,call him Tuesday !
136--That's a good ideafor a stupid nigger !
137--I found him the first month ofthe first year of this new century,
138--so I'm calling him Nineteen Hundred !
139---But that's a number !-It was, but now it's a name.
140--Danny Boodman T.D. LemonNineteen Hundred !
141--Quick,the baby !
142--Stop that cradle.
143--How can something that smallshit so much ?
144--Lemon Nineteen Hundred.Shake him, shake him.
145--Nineteen Hundred's lucky,he was born in shit !
146--Thanks Danny?
147--Thanks Danny?
148--It was likethe second coming of Christ.
149--Maybe it was,with all the miraclesthat kid had up his sleeve.
150--Hell, he did everything on the waterbut walk.
151--And I heard that he'd done that too.
152--And that's howlittle Nineteen Hundred grew up
153--inside that cradleas big as a ship.
154--Danny was afraid that they'd take himaway because of documents and visas,
155--so the boy lived his early yearshidden away
156--in the belly of the Virginian.
157--Now try by yourself.
158--Push your fingera gainst these wordsso the letters can't run away !
159---Man . . .-Okay, Lemon.
160-- . . . go . . .
161---Ma. . .-Just abit more.
162-- . . . Ma.
163--You read like a god, Lemon !
164--Now put them all togetherlike the boiler valves.
165--Go on.
166--Man-go-Mama !
167--Right, keep going.
168--Ya-nk my ch-ain.
169--Danny, why are you laughing so much ?
170--These are the names of horses.I'm crazy about horses names.
171--Read there,that one ran yesterday at Cleveland.
172--Ha-ppy Hoo-fers.
173---I'm pissing myself !-Listen to this one.
174---Sa-ssy La-ssy.-Sassy Lassy !
175--And this one,Red Hot Mama.
176--What's a mama, Danny?

177--A mama?

178--It's a horse !

179---A horse ?-A race horse.

180--Mamas are thorough bred,the best race horses in the world.

181--If you bet on a mama,you always win.

182--Dan, put your finger here and read.

183--T.D. doesn't mean Thanks Danny.

184--Who's this pansy?

185--That's enough reading for tonight.Too much reading's bad for you !

186--What else is bad, Danny?

187--Everything off the Virginian is bad.

188--Everything.

189--They've got sharks on the land that will eat you alive. Be careful !

190--See this here.

191--That was those white sharks.

192--What's an orphanage ?

193--It's a big prison where they lock up folks with no kids.

194--So if I wasn't for me,they'd put you in an orphanage.

195--You bet, little Lemon.Go to sleep now.

196--On that extraordinary floating city,apart from a father,

197--Nineteen Hundred found a whole family made of truly unique people,

198--like the ship's doctor.

199--Open your mouth, like this.

200--Shit, doctor,what's that hanging from your throat ? Are you ill ?

201--What's your name, doctor?

202--Dr Klauserman Spitzwegensdorfentage.

203--What a name ! If they had to call you quickly ,they've had it !

204--That circus of cooks, sailors,radio operators and waiters

205--took good care of him.

206--and in their own way tried to give him what they thought was a good education.

207--Even the ship's Captain, in his way,ended up being part of that crazy family.

208--Captain Smith, a wise man,had only three defects :

209--he suffered from claustrophobia,had a horrible fear of drowning

210--and hated sweets.

211--Nineteen Hundred, how many times have I told you not to come up here ?

212--Especially if it's to steal !

213--Put the booty back where you found it and return to your den

214--or I'll send you to the orphanage !

215--Mr Boodman,this orphan business must come to an end !

216--It's even against the law.

217--Fuck the law !

218--Hey, Mick,what do you think about in the middle of a storm ?

219--What ? Do I think my lawyers should never have been born ?

220--Yes,the storm.

221--You bet he was warned,then I blew off his head !
222--You think of jam and bread ?
223--Yes.
224--Know what I think, Mick ?I think you're loco !
225--I have gusto?
226--Danny, tell Pedro how I cutthat lawyer's head off !
227--The Warldorf?I've never been there.
228--The whites would onlyl et me into clean the shit out the toilets !
229--Watch out !
230---Danny !-Run, quickly !
231---Get out the way, let me see.-Call a doctor.
232--The doctor, quickly.
233--Danny, don't move.
234---Hold on.-It's just a pat on the back.
235--Hang on,the doctor's coming.
236--DDoctor Kla-Kla-Klaus . . .
237--Klau-Klauserman!
238--KlausermanspizwegensFrischerri . . . Kemmanschov . . .
239--Quick on the Trigger was in the lead
240--over Holy Shoot and . . .
241--Times were Good,
242--Saucy Bossy,
243--Brave Victory,
244--Regrets Only,
245--Blue Balls Running,
246--and Hurricane over Open Sesame
247--was past the post in Chicago.
248--It took three daysfor old Danny to go.
249--He let go on the sixth race inChicago,won by Drinkable Water
250--by two lengths over Vegetable Soupand five over Blue Foundation.
251--Dr. Klausermanspizwegensdorfentage
252--declared that if it hadn't beenfor the belly laughs,
253--Danny probably would have survived.
254--But history isn't made of "ifs".The only thing we know for sure
255--is that suddenly,
256--Lemon Nineteen Hundredbecame an orphan for the second time.
257--Music.
258--Nineteen Hundredwas eight years old then.
259--He'd made the trip betweenEurope and America about fifty times.
260--The ocean was his home.
261--Sure, and his skin was covered withscales and he had fins, not arms !
262--It's all true, Pops.
263---You can bet your soul on it.-But that's absurd !
264--That's right.

265--He never set foot on dry land.Never.
266--He'd seen it from the ports manytimes, but he never got off the ship.
267--The only trouble was that as far asthe world knew, he didn't even exist.
268--There wasn't a city, a parish,a hospital, or baseball team
269--that had his name anywhere.
270--He didn't have a country,a birth date, a family.
271--He was eight years old,but officially, he'd never been born.
272--America !
273--America !
274--Kidnapping.
275--Charges of kidnapping could be brought against you, Captain,
276--if one day the boy's kinwere to show up.
277--After eight years,I seriously doubt it.
278--However, I think the time has come toallow the boy to have a normal life.
279--I've written a personal note I'd likeyou to give to the orphanage head.
280--Very well, Captain.Where is the lad ?
281--Boatswain,show these gentlemen the way.
282--Forward.
283--Slowly.
284--Search everywhere, upstairs too.
285--What's in that case?Stop the baggage being off-loaded.
286---Have you seen a little boy?-No.
287--22 days later,when the Virginianheaded for Rio de Janeiro,
288--Nineteen Hundred hadn't been foundand no-one knew anything about him.
289--Everyone had death in their hearts
290--because they had all gottenattached to the little boy,
291--although no-one would say so.
292---Captain ! Wake up !-Let me sleep.
293---Come with me, quickly !-Christ !
294---Are we sinking ?-Worse than that !
295---What's his name ?-Nineteen Hundred.
296---Not the song,the boy.-Nineteen Hundred.
297--Like the song !
298--Captain Smith would have liked toask him many questions right then.
299--For example : "Where the helldid you learn to play the piano ?"
300--Or : "In what damn holewere you hiding ?"
301--Orelse : "Where in Christ's nameare you getting this music from
302--which seems to enterinto your veins ?"
303--But he was a man in uniform.
304--He only managed to say : "All ofthis is against the regulations."
305--Fuck the regulations !
306--His exact words : "Fuck the regulations !"
307--But I don't understand what therecord has to do with any of this.
308--You're not the sharpest knife inthe drawer, Pops. That's his music.

309--The music of Danny BoodmanT.D. Lemon Nineteen Hundred.
310--The greatest ivory tickleron the seven seas.
311--That's amazing !
312--If that's all true,this record must be worth a fortune !
313--This record can make us both rich.
314--That record shouldn't exist.
315--The only existing matrixwas destroyed right after it was cut.
316--Well, this is a matrix.
317--It's one of those that they usedfor on the spot recording.
318--How did you find it ?
319--I spent a whole daytrying to put the pieces together.
320--I found them by accident, hiddeninside one of those two pianos.
321--I bought themfrom a second-hand dealer
322--who emptied out an old hospital shipdown at Plymouth.
323--They're going to destroy itin a couple of days.
324--What do you mean "destroy" ?
325---Where's the old hospital ship ?-That's it.
326--Thank you.
327---Where are you from ?-Liverpool.
328---I'm a barber.-Sign there.
329--Next.What's your trade ?
330---I'm a cook, barber, tailor.-Too many things for us, out !
331---I'm also a good mechanic.-Get out ! Next.
332---What do you do ?-I play the trumpet.
333--We've already got musicians on board.Get out !
334--Next.
335--Where the hell's he going ?
336---What was that ?-I don't know.
337--When you don't know what it is,it's jazz !
338--Jazz !
339---What's your name ?-Max Tooney.
340--Okay !
341--It was the happiest day of my life.
342--All those peoplewith hope in their eyes,
343--the goodbyes, the sirens and thatfloating world starting to move.
344--It felt like one big partyjust for me.
345--But just three days later the oceangot tired of the festivities.
346--Suddenly, inthe middle of the night,she went berserk and hell broke out.
347--Now, a guy blowing a trumpeton a ship
348--can't do muchwhen there's a raging storm.
349--Not playing the trumpet is allhe can do not to complicate matters.
350--But I couldn't bear being down there.
351--The same line kept ragingin my head : "he died like arat."
352--And I didn't want to die like a rat.

353--Damn it, I'm lost !
354--Conn,what's the problem ?
355--Have you lost your sealegs ?
356--You're the new trumpet man,aren't you ?
357--You blow a Conn, right ?
358--Come with me.I have a cure for your misery.
359--Follow me.
360---Take the brakes off.-But that's crazy !
361--Trust me.Go on, take them off.
362--Come and sit near me.
363---You're really nuts !-Get on now or you never will.
364---Tell me, have you got children ?-No.
365--Shit, they'll lock you up in an orphanage one of these days !
366--He's nuts.
367---Whoa, Mama !-I see you know your horses.
368---A little.-Good man !
369--It was like the sea was rocking us and while we were floating around
370--brushing the lamps and furniture,
371--I realised that what we were really doing
372--was dancing with the ocean.Perfect, crazy dancers,
373--locked in a joyful waltz on the golden parquet of night.
374--Want some ?Cheers !
375--Hallo, Captain.
376---Care to go for a ride ?-Nineteen Hundred !
377--Who else on this ship would do anything as crazy as this ?
378--I was just experimenting, sir.
379--When I've perfected it,it won't happen again.
380--For me it's a question of brakes.Fix those and away you go !
381---How much will that window cost ?-I don't know, it was huge !
382--We're going to be shovelling coal on this ship forever !
383--Oh, shit !
384--At least you know what you'll be doing when you grow up !
385--You'll shovel lots of coal.
386---Hey, Conn.-What ?
387---You're from New Orleans, right ?-How did you know that ?
388---I love that town.-How come you know it ?
389--In the winter, it's beautiful.
390--And in March
391--there's always an afternoon,when you least expect it,
392--a roof of fog comes down,a barrier,
393--that hangs just below the street lamps and cuts everything.
394--Like a white sword.It's magic !
395--The houses lose their top floors,trees lose their branches,
396--St Louis Cathedral loses its spires and the passers-by their heads.

397--From the neck up,everything disappears.
398--All you can see in Jackson Square is a bunch of decapitated bodies,
399--stumbling about and greeting each other.
400--"Everyone all right at home ?"
401--Wonderful ! Too bad it doesn't last long.
402--But how do you know all these things ?
403--Who knows ?
404--You know
405--ever since I've been on board,I keep hearing about this guy
406--with a name as long as a Georgia freight train.
407--Seems he was born on this ship and hasn't been off it since.
408--What a crazy story. Twenty years without ever setting foot on land.
409--Twenty-seven.
410--They say this guy makes music that's never been heard before.
411--I've heard of him, too.
412--At first, I thought it was you.
413--But something didn't add up.-Of course.
414--I thought : "If he's Nineteen Hundred how could he know New Orleans ?"
415--I mean, you've been to New Orleans.
416--If I told you that I'd never set foot in that town, would you believe me ?
417--Whoever you are, Max Tooney.
418--Glad to meet you.
419--Hey, you up there, we're supposed to blow it up
420--not wait for it to be eaten by the fish !
421--We're almost done, just laying the last charges.
422--Where the hell are you going ?-I have to look for someone.
423--Do you want trouble ?-I can't explain.
424--What did you want to do ?
425--You bastards, let me on board !
426--Bastards !
427--Can you repeat that ?-Sure I'll say it again !
428--You're not going to blow up anything, 'cause my best friend's on that ship.
429--You'd be responsible for murder.-Get him out of here.
430--Get him out of here !-I'm not crazy, it's true.
431--If I say there's a man aboard the Virginian, it means there is !
432--We cleaned that ship from stem to stern, there's just lots of dynamite.
433--How can there still be a man on board ?
434--If you've got proof, show it, because I'm the one who throws the switch.
435--I'm sure he's there.
436--I spent the best years of my life on the Virginian.
437--Did you find an upright piano in third class ?
438--The Virginian is the only ship to have a piano in third class.
439--Was there or wasn't there an upright piano in third class ?
440--There was a piano in third class, but it was horizontal.

441--What has any shaped piano got to dowith a ghost aboard the ship ?
442--There must be thousands of ghostson a hospital ship !
443--Get out ofhereor I'll call the police.
444--Get your hands off me !
445--Amongst all those dead souls is thegreatest piano player in the world !
446--A bloody piano player?
447--And were you tuning the strings allthose years aboard the Virginian ?
448---What was I doing on the Virginian ?-Yes.
449--What were you doing ?
450--I played !
451--Ladies and gentlemen,
452--Fritz Hermann herewelcomes you aboard the Virginian
453--and wishes you a pleasant eveningwith the Atlantic Jazz Band !
454--Well done !
455--Please, Nineteen Hundred,just the normal notes. Okay?
456--We played becausethe ocean is big and scary.
457--We played so that peoplewouldn't feel the time passing
458--and would forget whereand who they were.
459--We played to make them dance,because when you dance you can't die.
460--We played ragtime, becausethat's the music God dances to,
461--when nobody's watching him,assuming that God is black !
462--End of the line boys !
463--Jesus, I must be areal sinner.Is that it, God ?
464--This is music !
465--But it was in third class thatNineteen Hundred played his music.
466--He'd go in the afternoonsor late at night,
467--when he didn't have to playthe normal notes
468--and his music was made of notesthat were everything but normal.
469--What the hell do you think aboutwhen you play?
470--What do you look at ? Where doesyour mind go while you hit the keys ?
471--Last nightI was in a beautiful country.
472--The women had perfumed hairand everything glowed.
473--It was full of tigers.
474--He travelled and each timehe ended up in a different place :
475--the heart of London, on a trainin the middle of the country,
476--on the edge of a giant volcano,
477--in the biggest church in the worldstaring up at the crucifixes.
478--He travelled.
479--Hey, man, play us a tarantella !
480--Tell mehow the tarantella goes, man !
481--The people getting off the shipwould talk about a strange music
482--and a pianist who looked likehe had four hands, he was so fast.
483--Weird tales circulated,some even true.
484--Like the one about Wilson,an American senator,

485--who used to travel in third class
486--to hear the music of Danny BoodmanT.D. Lemon Nineteen Hundred.
487--America !
488--Why did you stop ?Please, continue.
489--I'm sorry, Senator,I only play on the open sea.
490---But that's absurd.-Ports are land.
491---I don't play on land.-You've never gone on tour?
492--What does that mean ?
493--Long trips on which artists
494--display their talentsaround the world. -That's all I do.
495--In my own way.Excuse me.
496--Would you grant me an interview?
497---An inter. . .what ?-An interview?
498--What's that ?
499--The senator asks : "What do you liketo do when you go back home ?"
500--Nineteen Hundred :In Paris I love to wait at sunset
501--under the Eiffeltower,for thepeople who throw themselves off
502--and try to guess by their screamswhat country they're from
503--before they go splatall over the ground !
504--Why don't you get off just once ?Why not ? Just for once.
505--Why not see the world for yourselfwith your own eyes ?
506--Have you ever thought about it?You could do anything you wanted.
507--You play the piano like a god,people would go crazy for you.
508--You could make lots of moneyand buy yourself a nice house.
509--You could have a family.Why not ?
510--You can't spend the rest of your lifetravelling back and forth like this.
511--The world's out there.There's just a gang plank to go down.
512--What's a gang plank ?Just a few stupid steps.
513--Christ, everything's waitingat the bottom of those steps.
514--Why don't you just do it?
515--one time.
516--Why don't you just get off?
517--Why? Why? Why?
518--Why? Why?
519--I think you land people
520--waste a lot of timeasking yourselves why.
521--Winter comes andyou can't wait for summer
522--and in summeryou live in dread of winter.
523--You're always chasing some placeyou aren't, where it's always summer.
524--Doesn't sound good to me.
525--Hold it,stop everything !
526---Tell them to unhook the detonators.-Unhook them !
527--You'd better pray that we findsomeone hidden here,
528--even somebody who can mistake athree-legged cockroach for a piano.

529--It's like looking for a needle in a haystack.
530--sir i found it.
531--This was his cabin.
532--Forgive me for allowing myself in,
533--but your music was so strong.
534--Northern Italy, I'll bet.
535--Well done, Friuli, to be exact.
536--But don't stop playing.
537--Want a butt ?
538--You don't look happy about going to America.
539--It's not America.
540--It's everything I'm leaving behind.
541--Until a few years ago, my field was the only thing I knew.
542--The world started and ended therein that piece of land.
543--I'd never walked down the main street of a town.
544--Maybe you can't understand that.
545--I understand that perfectly.
546--I know someone who went through something very similar.
547--One fine day did his field go dry, too ?
548--Did his wife run off with a priest ?
549--Did the fever take his five children ?
550---No, but he ended up alone, too.-Then he's luckier than me.
551--I still have a daughter, the youngest one.
552--She survived.
553--It's for her that one day I decided to fight my bad luck.
554--I travelled the world without a destination.
555--Then one day, when going through one of the many towns I never knew,
556--I came to a hill, I climbed to the top and I saw. . .
557--My God, the most beautiful thing in my life.
558--The sea !
559---The sea?-The sea.
560--I'd never seen it before.
561--I was like being hit by lightning.
562--Because I heard its voice.
563---The voice of the sea?-Yes.
564--The voice of the sea.
565--I've never heard it.
566--It's like a huge shout, the voice of the sea,
567--that screams and screams and what it screams is :
568--"You !
569--Men with shit in your brains !
570--Life is immense ! Can you understand that ?
571--Immense !"
572--I'd never thought about it. I had a revolution in my head.

573--That's how I suddenly decided to change my life,
574--to start a fresh.
575--Change life, start a fresh.
576--Tell that to your friend.
577--1900!
578--1900!
579---All we need is a talking ocean !-It's Max Tooney, your friend.
580--Come out, Nineteen Hundred, I'm a friend, too !
581--Even if we've never met. Don't worry, no cops !
582--Where was this piano exactly?
583---It was . . .-It was over there, sir.
584--Nineteen Hundred !
585--Nineteen Hundred !
586--Ladies and gentlemen,
587--Fritz Hermann welcomes you aboard the Virginian
588--and wishes you a pleasant evening with the Atlantic Jazz Band !
589--On the violin, your own Fritz Hermann !
590--On bass, Freddie Loyacano !
591--Max Tooney on trumpet !
592--Jim Jim Breath Gallupon trombone !
593--Sam Scalisi on the drums !
594--On saxophone, Sam Sleepy Washington !
595--On banjo, Oscar Delaguerra !
596--And finally, on piano, Danny Boodman T.D. Lemon Nineteen Hundred !
597--The greatest !
598---I'll ask you once more, just . . .-The normal notes, I know.
599--What are you doing here ? Take your places !
600--End of the line !
601--You've really got it in for me, you son of a dirty nigger !
602--One night the public's not going to appreciate your antics.
603--That night, I swear, Nineteen Hundred,
604--I'll have you thrown overboard !
605---Where do you get it from ?-What ?
606---The music.-I don't know.
607--See that woman over there ?
608--She must be German, look at her.
609--She look like someone, who with her lover, has just killed her husband
610--and is running off with the family jewels.
611---Don't you think this music's her ?-Sure, that's right !
612--And see that guy over there ?
613--He looks like someone who can't forget.
614--His head is bursting with memories but he can't forget anything.
615--Listen to his music.
616--And her?

617--Couldn't she be a prostitute who's thinking of becoming a nun ?

618--Incredible !

619--Now, look at this one.

620--See how he walks ?

621--It looks like he's wearing someone else's suit by the way he wears it.

622--I'd say he's a stow away slipped into first class

623--for a little amorous adventure. He's got American in his eyes.

624--He'll be the first one to see it. I can already hear him screaming.

625--Nineteen Hundred knew how to read.

626--Not books, anybody can do that.

627--He knew how to read the signs that people carry on them.

628--Places, sounds, scents,

629--their land, their story. Everything written on them.

630--He would read and, with infinite care catalogue, organise, and make order

631--in that immense map that he was drawing in his mind.

632--Maybe he'd never seen the world,

633--but for almost thirty years the world had been passing on that ship.

634--And for almost thirty years on that ship, he'd been spying on it

635--and he would steal its soul.

636--America !

637--I went into her room, she jumped on me

638--and I tore her clothes off.-Go on !

639---Do you always make up this crap ?-Sure !

640--Singleton, Lee Claire.

641--Hallo ?

642--You don't know me, but I wondered if we might have a little chat.

643--A little chat ? What are you talking about ?

644--About anything you like, weather conditions, anything you choose.

645--Go to hell !

646--Hallo ?

647---Is that the race-track ?-Yeah, you betting ?

648---Can you tell me if Mama's racing ?-No, it's your sister !

649---I think there's a misunderstanding.-Shove it up your ass !

650--The telephone should bring out the best in people.

651--I know who you are. If you don't stop calling, I come over and kill you !

652--Christ, he's already here !

653--Hey, are you the guy with that friggin difficult name ?

654--Come on out, I'm talking to you.

655--Catch him !

656--Stop !

657--Where are you going ?

658---Hold still.-Stop, you idiot !

659---Keep still, you son of a bitch !-Where are we, in hell ?

660---We don't want to hurt you.-Come on out. Where are you ?

661--We're players, man,musicians.
662--Over there.
663---Bon appetit !-Thanks, have you got some wine ?
664--Are you the one that playsten kinds of jazz rolled into one ?
665--To tell the truth I've never countedthem, I'm just a piano player.
666---It's him.-Well, you'd better start counting.
667--The man who invented jazzsent us here.
668---And what does he want from me ?-He challenges you to a piano duel !
669--A piano duel ?
670--What the hell is a piano duel ?
671--It's a duel,with pianos instead of pistols.
672--It's a musicians thing.No blood, just a little hate.
673--Real hate, under the skin.It riffs like you never heard.
674--It could last all nightand at the end, one would win.
675--Nineteen Hundred !
676--If I were you, I wouldn't beso sure he's still here.
677--If I know him at all,he won't be any place else.
678--I'm sure of that..
679--He must have gone. What would hehave done here without a piano ?
680--Besides, with the war,who knows ?
681--He might not even be any longerin this dirty world.
682--Someone like himdoesn't end up like everyone else.
683---It's not his style.-Think what you like.
684--But I can't ask the ownersto keep this carcass going
685--just because someone who doesn'texist is on board. I can't delay it.
686--Nineteen Hundred, it's Max.I have to talk to you !
687---How did the duel end up ?-It was in Boston.
688--The summer of 1931.J elly Roll Mortonboarded the Virginian.
689--Dressed entirely in white, wearinga diamond as big as a meatball !
690--Even the garters on his sockswere diamond studded.
691--Jelly Roll, what's the reasonfor a trip to Europe on a steamer?
692--Till now, you've only goneup and down the Mississippi !
693--I don't give a damn about Europe !
694--The only reason I'm going on thiscrappy ship is to meet a guy
695--they say tunes a good piano !
696--But I also heard that hedoesn't want to set foot on land.
697---Is he talking about me ?-Sure he is.
698--One day some asshole says to me :
699--"Hey, Jelly, there's someone whoplays the piano better than you."
700--So I says to myself : "Shit !How come this guy plays so good
701--when he doesn't even have the ballsto get off the boat ?
702--Damn it, Jelly,you were the one who invented jazz !
703--Then I says to myself : "You canafford to buy a first class ticket !
704--You can even buy the shipjust by raising your little finger."

705--Get a shot of it, boys !
706---Tell the truth, are you scared ?-I don't know.
707--Why a duel ?What happens when you have a duel ?
708--It seemed like hereally didn't care much.
709--Like he didn't even understand it.But he was curious.
710--He wanted to hear how the devilthe inventor of jazz played.
711--He really believedthat the guy invented jazz.
712--I believe he thoughtthat he could learn something new.
713--That's just how he was,a bit like old Danny.
714--He didn't have any sporting sense.
715--He didn't give a damn who won,it was the rest that amazed him.
716--It's true !
717--I believe you're sitting in my seat.
718---You're the one that invented jazz ?-That's what they say.
719--And you're the one who can't playunless the ocean's under your ass ?
720--That's what I say.
721--Jelly Roll Morton didn't play,he caressed those notes.
722--It was like a slipsliding down a woman's body.
723--His hands were butterflies,so light.
724--He started off in the brothels in NewOrleans, learning to stroke the keys.
725--People making love upstairsdidn't want any uproar.
726--They wanted music that would slipbehind the curtains, under the beds.
727--Without disturbing.He played that music there.
728--And in that,he truly was the best.
729---Bravo !-Bravo !
730--It's your turn, sailor.
731--Go on.
732--What's he doing ?
733--He's nuts !
734--Is it Christmas ?
735---Did he win ?-No, they're just warming up.
736--Bravo !
737---What's up, Nineteen Hundred ?-This music makes me cry.
738--The whole crewbet on you !
739--I put a year's pay on the lineand you're crying ?
740--Start thinking about your music !
741---Can I bet,too ?-Betting on yourself isn't sporting.
742--But I want to bet on him !He's terrific.
743---You're crazy !-But if you lose, I'll give it back.
744--It's the same musicthat the other one played.
745--We've already heard this !
746--He's fooling around.
747---Did he lose ?-Not yet.
748--Well done, Nineteen Hundred !

749--Stick this up your ass !

750--- Max?- Eh?

751---Give me a cigarette, will you ?-You're not doing too well !

752---Just give me a cigarette.-You don't smoke !

753--What's wrong with you ? You couldlick this guy with one hand !

754---Pardon me, I didn't catch that.-I didn't say anything.

755--Bravo !

756---Where's this cigarette ?-We'll be shovelling coal forever !

757--Just give me a fucking cigarette !

758--Clown !

759--Listen carefully.

760--You smoke it.I don't know how.

761--Well done !Bravo !

762--You're the greatest !

763--Divine !

764---Did he win ?-Yes, he won.

765--I knew he would !

766--Jelly Roll Morton spent the rest ofthat trip locked in his cabin.

767--When we got to Southampton, he gotoff the ship and went back to America.

768--I remember Nineteen Hundred watchedhim as he walked off the dock

769--and all he said was : "Fuck jazz,too !"

770--That's just what he said : "Fuck jazz,too !"

771---What an incredible story.-Did I miss anything important ?

772---You could say that.-Damn !

773---He'll fill you in later.-You bet.

774--He's really good at telling tales.

775--This is no tale, my friend !

776--Sure, I've donelots of stupid things in my life.

777--If you were to hang me upside downnothing would fall out my pockets.

778--I even sold my trumpet.Everything !

779--But not this story,I haven't lost that.

780--I've decided to tell itonly because I want to save him.

781--But there's no-one here. Nobody !Understand ?

782--It's because there aretoo many of us, we've scared him.

783--That's enough. Now, you leave thisship or I'll have you arrested.

784--Get back to work. Quickly !

785---Give me one more chance.-Get lost, buddy.

786--At sunrise tomorrowthis ship gets blown up !

787--And yet . . .

788---Here it is.-Stop or I'll shoot !

789---I've got you.-Hey, it's me.

790--Don't you recognise me ?

791---Oh, it's you !-Yeah, lower that canon, will you?

792--Sell your instrument and then stealit back, that's an old trick !

793---I should have known you're a thief.-No, I was looking for this.

794---What do you need that for?-It's a matter of life or death.

795---I need a gramophone, too.-A thief and a liar.

796---Pops, I don't have time to lose.-I do, seeing as I have a gun.

797--Now that I think of it, since when were records made on board a ship ?

798--Impostor !

799--If your friend really did play that music, then he got off the ship.

800---Right ?-Impossible, Pops.

801--Nineteen Hundred cut this recording personally

802--which for me is one of his very best works,

803--but to do it he didn't jump ship.

804--It was an extraordinary, unique event in the history of record-making.

805--You can't imagine the advantages you'll obtain

806--if this record sells. You'll become famous, Mr Nineteen.

807---Can I call you Nineteen ?-Is it painful ?

808--Right, gentlemen, silence please. On the count of three.

809--One, two, three.

810--Wonderful, Mr Nineteen ! An absolutely extraordinary piece.

811--Divine music, what's it called ?

812--It's going to have people crying buckets.

813--It's got to have the right title, like : "Swinging in the breeze . . ."

814--You were great, as usual.

815--You're going to be big time.

816--If only you'd decide to take the big step.

817---The big step ?-Getting off !

818--Getting off these lousy planks and going after. . .

819--Going after fame and fortune.

820--But if you wanted, thanks to our record company, with this,

821--you could have the success you deserve without leaving this ship.

822--We'll print millions of copies.

823--The whole world could listen to your wonderful music, Nineteen.

824--Mr Nineteen ?

825--I won't let my music go anywhere without me !

826---Hey, no ! Don't touch !-What are you doing ? Is he mad ?

827--We have a contract, you can't go back now !

828--I always go back.

829--Miss,

830--I'd be pleased if you . . .

831--Miss, I'd be . . .

832--I'd be pleased

833--if you would accept

834--this small token . . .

835--Hey, what are you doing there all by yourself, counting the waves ?

836--The captain says we'll soon go through the Tropic of Cancer.

837--At last there'll be something to see.
838--The sea changes colour ten times a day.
839--Even more. I could stay and watch it for days.
840--The peasants don't watch the sea at all. They're scared.
841--That's not true.
842--My father told me once that he heard the voice of the sea.
843--Really? And what did it say?
844--I can't tell you, it's a secret.
845---Secrets should be kept. -It's pouring, let's go, quickly.
846--Come on !
847--America
848--Damn it, I wanted to say it !
849--Excuse me.
850--Excuse me.
851--Sorry.
852---Miss ! -Are you in a hurry?
853--Excuse me, miss.
854--I have to talk to you.
855---You're meeting your father, aren't you ? -Yes.
856---How did you know? -I think I met him.
857--On this ship, quite a few years ago.
858---I don't know if he took this ship. -I'm sure it was this one.
859--Did he have a fisarmonica?
860--We played together.
861--I don't know if he'd remember me, but say hello to him.
862--All right, I will.
863--But how did you know who I was ? It's very strange.
864--It's a secret.
865--And secrets should be kept.
866--Even if I think your father felt differently then.
867---Move on, let me through. -Don't push !
868--I'd be really pleased if you would accept . . .
869--What ?
870--I would like you to accept this small musical token.
871---Good luck ! -Thank you. Good luck to you, too !
872--Come and visit some day. We live on Mott Street, number 27.
873---My father opened a fish shop ! -Maybe.
874--He never mentioned her to me again, and I never asked.
875--At least not for the next twelve crossings.
876--Besides, he was happy, as always.
877--His popularity was at its peak.
878--None of us could have imagined what was smoldering beneath his happiness.
879--Then, one evening in spring, halfway between Genoa and New York,
880--right in the middle of the ocean,

881---the painting fell.-Meaning ?
882--Pops, have you ever asked yourself why paintings fall ?
883--No, not really.
884--I've always been impressed by this thing about paintings.
885---What's the painting got to do with this ?-It does.
886--For Nineteen Hundred, that night went the way it does for paintings.
887--They hang there for years and then, without any warning . . .
888--They fall.
889--They're hanging there on that nail, no-one touches them,
890--but at a certain point . . .
891--Down they fall, in absolute silence.
892--With everything perfectly still around them.
893--Not even a fly moving around.
894--And they . . .
895--There's no reason. Why in that instant ?
896--Who knows ?
897--What happens to a nail
898--to make it decide that it just can't anymore ?
899--Does he have a soul, too, poor thing ?
900---Does he make decisions ?-Let's sit down.
901--Did the nail discuss this at length with the painting ?
902--Were they unsure about doing it ? Had they talked about it for years ?
903--Did they then decide on a date, a time, a minute, a precise instant ?
904--Or did they both know about it from the start ? Was it all set up ?
905---"I'm letting go in seven years."-"That's fine with me."
906---"So it's all set for 13 May."-"Okay."
907---"How about twelve noon ?"-"Make it twelve forty five."
908---"All right."-"So good night."
909--Seven years later, on 13 May,
910--at twelve forty five . . .
911--It's impossible to understand.
912--It's one of those things that it's better not to think about !
913--When paintings fall, when you wake up one morning and you don't love her,
914--when you open a newspaper and read that war has broken out,
915--when you see a train and want to leave,
916--when you look in a mirror and realise you're old,
917--when one evening, in the middle of the ocean, Nineteen Hundred
918--looks up from his plate, looks me in the eye and . . .
919--Tomorrow, in New York, I'm leaving this ship.
920--I was flabbergasted.
921--Has the cat got your tongue ?
922--No, I'm pleased.
923--But it's so sudden ! Just like that !
924--Right, just like that !

925--Good !Finally !

926--I have to see something.

927---What ?-The ocean.

928---The ocean ?-The ocean.

929--You're pulling my leg ? You've seennothing else for 32 years.

930--From here. I want to see it fromthere, it's not the same thing.

931--Wait till we dock, lean overthe side and take a good look.

932--No, it's not the same thing.You can hear its voice from the land.

933--You can't from a ship.

934---What do you mean "hear its voice?"-Its voice.

935--The voice is . . .more than a big scream.

936--It tells you that life is immense.

937--Once you've heard it, you knowwhat you have to do to go on living.

938--I could stay here for years,

939--but the seawouldn't tell me anything.

940--But if I get off, live on land fora couple of years, I'd be normal,

941--like all the others.

942--Then one day I'll leave,get to a coast,

943--look up, see the oceanand I'll hear it scream.

944--I don't know who's been bullshittingyou, or if you're making it up,

945--but I think the real reasonyou want to leave this ship

946--is that girl.

947--It's always a girl.

948--But even if that's not the reason,it's fine with me. Know why?

949--I've always wanted you toplay for the people on land,

950--marry a nice woman and have children

951--and all those things in lifewhich perhaps aren't immense

952--but are worth the effort.

953--You'll come and visit me, Max,on land ?

954--Sure I will.

955--That way you'll introduce me tothe mother of your children.

956--And invite me to lunch.

957--I'll bring the dessertand a bottle of wine.

958--You'll tell me thatI shouldn't have bothered and,

959--while you're showing me aroundyour house, shaped like a ship.

960--your wife will be cooking a turkey.Then we'll sit at the table.

961--I'll tell hershe's an excellent cook

962--and she'll tell methat you often talk about me.

963--I want to give you my camel coat.

964--You'll cut a fine figurewhen you get down there.

965--You think I could have a familywith a horse ?

966---Nineteen Hundred !-Hey !

967--I've seen so many people sayinggoodbye on the docks without caring.

968--But when I said goodbye toNineteen Hundred, it was a real blow.

969--Look after yourself, all right ?

970--Take care.

971--We laughed,we kept saying "see you soon",

972--but we knewwe'd never see each other again.

973--There was nothing we could doabout it, it had to happen.

974--And now it was happening.

975--How do you get off?

976---Here he is.-Goodbye, Nineteen Hundred !

977---Bye !-Don't forget us.

978--Wear your woollen vest.

979--Write to us sometimes.

980--Good luck !

981---What's up ? Did he step in shit?-Maybe he forgot something.

982--Perhaps he's forgottenwhy he's getting off.

983--What's he doing ?

984--Whatever he sawfrom that damned gangplank,

985--what kind of thoughtscrossed his mind standing up there,

986--he never told me.

987---No, go away !-Wait !

988--I'll give you all the money I have,take it.

989--He was strange for a long time.He wouldn't talk to anyone.

990--He preferred to be alonefor days and days.

991--He seemed taken upwith very personal matters.

992--Then, one daywhile I was sitting at the bar. . .

993--Thanks for the coat, Max.It fit like a glove.

994--It was a real shame.

995--But I'm better now,it's all done with.

996--He looked like someonewho wasn't kidding,

997--someone who knewexactly where he was going.

998--Like when he'd sit at the pianoand start to play.

999--There were no doubts in his hands.

1000--It was like the keyshad been waiting for those notes.

1001--It seemed like he'd made them upthen and there,

1002--but somewhere in his head, thosenotes had been written all along.

1003--Nineteen Hundred on that day,had decided to sit at the keyboard

1004--of his life and start playinghis most absurd music.

1005--That this music would havemarked the rest of his days.

1006--Look at that guy with the trumpet,he must be drunk or half crazy.

1007---Which one ?-The trumpeter. He's crying !

1008--I left the Virginianon 21 August, 1933,

1009--with my leave papers and back pay.Everything in order.

1010--I knew that sooner or laterI'd have been through with the ocean.

1011--I heard no more aboutNineteen Hundred and the Virginian.

1012--Not that I ever forgot them.On the contrary.

1013--During the war, I asked myself :
1014--"Who knows what Nineteen Hundred would do if he were here,
1015--who knows what he'd say."
1016--"Fuck war", he'd say !
1017--But said by me, it wasn't the same thing.
1018--A lot of time's gone by, maybe he's gone.
1019--Maybe he went to Mott Street, to that girl.
1020--Perhaps.
1021--Hey, Conn, what's the problem ? Did you lose your sealegs ?
1022--Where the hell did you find that record ?
1023--What have you been up to all these years ?
1024--Making music. Even during the war?
1025--Even when no-one was dancing.
1026--Even when the bombs were falling.
1027--The music helped them get better.
1028--The wounded, I mean.
1029--Or else it kept them entertained,
1030--as they slipped away into another world.
1031--Sometimes they didn't even mind the voyage
1032--if they could listen to the music.
1033--Mine was the last face they saw.
1034--I kept playing till the ship got here.
1035--Call this a ship ?
1036--It's more like a mountain of dynamite about to explode.
1037--A bit dangerous, don't you think ?
1038--And you, Max ?
1039--Where's your Conn ?
1040--I gave it up as well, a while back.
1041--But now I'm in the mood for starting again.
1042--I'm busting with new ideas.
1043--Let's start a duo, you and me.
1044--Or our own band :
1045--The "Danny Boodman T.D. Lemon Nineteen Hundred Big Band !" !
1046--It gets the blood going ! What a smash we'd be.
1047--Come with me. Let's watch the big bang from the pier.
1048--Then we'll start again from scratch.
1049--Sometimes you have to go right back to the beginning.
1050--"You're never really done for as long as you've got a good story
1051--and someone to tell it to". Remember?
1052--You told me that.
1053--Imagine how many stories you've got to tell now !
1054--The world would hang on your every word, they'd go mad for your music.
1055--Believe me.
1056--All that city. . .

1057--You just couldn't see an end to it.
1058--The end !
1059--Please,could you showme where it ends ?
1060--It was all very fineon that gangway
1061--and I was grand, too,in my overcoat.
1062--I cut quite a figure
1063--and I had no doubtsabout getting off.
1064--No problem.
1065--It wasn't what I saw that stopped me.
1066--It was what I didn't see.Can you understand that ?
1067--What I didn't see.
1068--In all that sprawling city,there was everything except an end.
1069--There was everything.
1070--But there wasn't an end.
1071--What I couldn't seewas where all that came to an end.
1072--The end of the world.
1073--Take a piano.
1074--The keys begin, the keys end.
1075--You know there are 88 of themand no-one can tell you differently.
1076--They are not infinite,you are infinite.
1077--And onthose 88 keys the musicthat you can make is infinite.
1078--I like that.
1079--That I can live by.
1080--But you get me up on that gangway
1081--and roll out a keyboardwith millions of keys,
1082--and that's the truth,there's no end to them,
1083--that keyboard is infinite.
1084--But if that keyboard is infinitethere's no music you can play.
1085--You're sitting on the wrong bench.
1086--That's God's piano.
1087--Christ, did you see the streets ?There were thousands of them !
1088--How do you choose just one ?
1089--One woman, one house,
1090--one piece of land to call your own,one landscape to look at,
1091--one way to die.
1092--All that world weighing down on youwithout you knowing where it ends.
1093--Aren't you scared of justbreaking apart
1094--just thinking about it,the enormity of living in it ?
1095--I was born on this ship.
1096--The world passed me by,but two thousand people at a time.
1097--And there were wishes here,
1098--but nevermorethan could fit on a ship,
1099--between prow and stern.
1100--You played out your happinesson a piano that was not infinite.

1101--I learned to live that way.
1102--Land
1103--is a ship too big for me.
1104--It's a woman too beautiful.
1105--It's a voyage too long.Perfume too strong.
1106--It's music I don't know how to make.
1107--I can't get off this ship.
1108--At best, I can step off my life.
1109--After all,it's as though I never existed.
1110--You're the exception, Max.
1111--You're the only onewho knows that I'm here.
1112--You're a minority.
1113--You'd better get used to it.
1114--Forgive me, my friend.
1115--But I'm not getting off.
1116--Max.
1117--I can picture the scene up there.
1118--Some poor guy searching a listfor my name and not finding it.
1119---What did you say your name was ?-Nineteen Hundred.
1120--Niemann, Nightingale,
1121--Ninestock, Nittledeen.
1122---You see, sir, I was born on a ship.-I beg your pardon ?
1123--Born, raised and died on a ship,maybe I'm registered there.
1124---Shipwreck ?-No, six and a half tons of dynamite.
1125--Are you feeling better now?
1126--Yeah,fineexcept that I lost an arm.
1127---An arm ?-Yes, in the explosion.
1128--You should be able to find oneup there.
1129---Which one do you say is missing ?-The left, sir.
1130--I'm so sorry !
1131--We only seem to have two rights.
1132---Two right arms ?-Yes.
1133--I'm afraid so.
1134--Would you mind awfully taking . . .
1135---Taking what ?-A right arm instead of a left ?
1136--Well, all things considered, bettera right arm than nothing at all.
1137--I couldn't agree more.
1138--By the way,we have one black armand one white arm.
1139--Oh, matching arms, please.
1140--I have nothing against negroes,it's just a question of aesthetics.
1141--It's no laughing matter, Max.
1142--What a cock-up, spending eternitywith two right arms !
1143--How wouldyoumake the sign of the cross ?
1144--Max.

1145--Imagine the music I could playwith two right arms.

1146--I only hopeI can find a piano up there !

1147--Okay, that's fine like that.

1148---Slowly.-Get hold of it there.

1149--What would you have donein my place ?

1150--I don't know.

1151--I would probablyhave felt quite useless.

1152--Sooner or later all stories end,and there's nothing else to add.

1153--Anyhow,thanks.

1154--Conn,there's something I don't understand.

1155--Who hid the broken recordinside the piano ?

1156---You're looking at him.-So,you weren't useless afterall.

1157--Conn.

1158--Wait.

1159--Here, take your trumpet.I think you'll need it.

1160---But I . . .-Fuck the money !

1161--A good story is worthmore than an old trumpet.