

- POETRY NI -

# COVIDIOMS

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Edited by Geraldine O’Kane and Colin Dardis

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1.

After an initial success against the virus,  
The human race was ultimately overwhelmed,  
Falling on darker times

2.

I wave say hi mum  
Through the lone ward window  
Both knowing it's goodbye.

3.

Covid, I don't care!  
Life is happening out there!  
Be Life, laugh and live!

4.

Watching eerie sur-  
real silence all over the world  
more news from nowhere

5.

One piece of good news  
Looking for a miracle  
No matter how small

6.

Before, there was fear.  
High pressure and racing pulse.  
Why now am I calm?

7.

Breathe do not breathe  
Touch do not touch  
But most definitely keep in touch

8.

Polite but guarded  
Wolf packs mirror, hackles up:  
Dodge an airborne death.

9.

Yesterday I got  
An imaginary dog  
Whose name I don't know

10.

These windows are filth  
While the cleaner stays away  
Four quid in purgatory

11.

And Catalan spring  
is summer to me,  
so I clutch it vainly from a balcony.

12.

Coronavirus  
Eased by humour, joy, amour  
Watch these tulips bloom

13.

Creativity,  
comfort, and connection help  
keep panic at bay.

14.

Fresh air cuts  
Like wounds of isolation  
Feel my solidarity

15.

Time is mine again  
Spending the days with my wife  
She seems pretty nice

16.

Amidst it all, retired poems  
back on the front line  
and books staying open late.

17.

spring already here,  
she wears garden eyebrows –  
he remains at home

18.

We all walk with death  
in our eyes, wondering when  
it will come claim us.

19.

Standing in the balcony,  
trying to make sense of it all  
Beep! Another message from the boss

20.

corona virus  
yet the birds continue  
to nest

21.

Laying amongst the grass  
I see my favourite bough flexing in the breeze  
Surrounded by ruinous crowds

22.

Support your NHS  
Support each other  
Be appreciative of what we have.

23.

The earth is healing  
Beneath the shadow that grows  
People are dying

24.

working from home now  
garden never looked better -  
splendid isolation

25.

cornflower sky  
hope springs from isolation  
and goes viral

26.

despite this silence  
birdsong bursts still in my heart  
high note on low days

27.

Yesterday the bees  
made test flights to my garden  
humming busy hope

28.

quarantine----  
the potted begonias turn  
toward the light

29.

your smile  
contaminates me  
love in lockdown

30.

Cloudless day in Cork,  
we have forgotten ourselves,  
outside the world burns.



31.

How faith is a verb  
I exercise daily to  
manage my sad heart.

32.

Lying like, Buddha  
No senseless agitation  
No rush just nothing

33.

The earth springs alive!  
Fear is inside us. But yet,  
We will bloom again.

34.

Silent through my streets.  
Overpowering my lungs.  
Vanquishing my life.

35.

Will trees be empty  
When the sun comes back to us  
The virus murdered?

36.  
panic-buying craze  
creates mayhem with t.p.  
family ties strengthen

37.  
keyboard chirps its song  
The flock perch on couch pillows  
All I need is this

38.  
many adventures  
days full of family time  
wishing for my friends

39.  
corona virus  
staying home waiting for death  
Afraid everything

40.  
Vulnerable age  
Finds me self-isolated  
Alone in my house

41.

time to reflect  
time to meditate  
towhees visit

42.

My son, he who fails  
To listen, to quarantine,  
Gives this virus hell.

43.

"Save lives, stay at home"  
Washington freeway sign,  
traffic speeds southward.

44.

Just outside my gate  
Paths lead through unfolding Spring;  
Time now to walk them.

45.

The stale air presides,  
I stew in solitary -  
seconds, a sink hole.

46.

On-line poetry  
Delivered by Zoom. Applause  
From each living room.

47.

We fight together,  
everyone counts in battle  
with the king of plague.

48.

the streets long, empty  
an endless labyrinth sings  
uneasy quiet.

49.

The pigeon loft broods;  
Un-fed birds forage in my yard -  
The skyline will change.

50.

When I wake there is  
the certainty of breath  
sight, feet, floor, the next breath.

51.

we have not yet eaten  
corona forbidden apple  
in our muzz to live

52.

In a changing world,  
Complete obliteration -  
Of normality.

53.

What time's lunch mum?  
No lunch today son, sorry  
Stay in your damn house

54.

No library trips  
Withdrawal symptoms big time  
Book buying online!

55.

Life overpowers art  
In social isolation!  
Endurance tides over

56.

The constant rumble.  
Starved not for food but faces,  
Baking fills hollows.

57.

create a routine  
sleep, eat, exercise, and work  
despite pandemic

58.

Washing the shopping,  
Ridiculed by my family.  
Blind, I battle on.

59.

Buses wait empty  
Ghosts claim the streets they call home  
Sanitised city

60.

Iron butterfly  
pressing on my fragile chest  
I beg you take flight.

61.

Families united  
Communication revived  
Quarantine thank you

62.

The universe doesn't spin, it rolls.  
So little to lose our world can hardly end  
with this line still unwritte

63.

Tissue at my foot  
But I do not pick it up  
I know where it's been.

64.

Crescendo of storm  
raging over me. I bend.  
But I do not break.

65.

Quarantine morning-  
The long day stretches ahead.  
The birds keep singing.

66.

I haven't hugged my  
father in weeks. Last night I  
held him with poems.

67.

Trapped away from all  
Isolation killing my  
Thoughts and me in tow

68.

While working from home  
Mitigating kids disputes  
Mute the microphone

69.

Passing each other on  
a sunlit street  
two strangers ignored

70.

The four walls, ceiling.  
My voice resounding off the  
four walls. The ceiling.



71.

Blind I still see your  
sad eyes begging me to  
spring outside and play.

72.

Shut up like a monk  
cloistered in contemplation  
seeking light in dark

73.

Kingcups in marshland  
bluebells in dappled sunlight:  
no one to see them.

74.

permanent wet play  
get out forgotten board games  
no toilet paper

75.

Locked down, stuck in doors.  
Getting to know my children.  
Think I still love them.

76.

Waiting for the dawn :  
watch grey light intensify;  
blackbirds sing colour.

77.

Your hair reminds me  
of Tiger-King Joe's mullet  
on a bad hair day.

78.

I'm not safe...the walls  
groan, thoughts concuss like thunder,  
they say, "welcome home."

79.

Foamy white blossom  
Framed by clear blue sky -  
Waves rushing in from the sea

80.

Dawn walk. I do not  
know the man at the window  
but I wave.

81.

At the local branch  
a masked man gives sage advice  
on my overdraft.

82.

Missing: Katie's hugs,  
Kissing brand new mum and dad,  
Precious baby's breath.

83.

sun on ivy  
I read of the Great Plague  
and the Great Fire

84.

pure by my absence  
primrose beech buds in Spring wash  
orange and purple

85.

Is boredom worse than  
The existential fear? Well,  
At least we have snacks.

86.

from an open window  
a violinist  
serenades his neighbours

87.

Stay home and stay safe  
heavier is the storm  
Roar from afar to near

88.

Long days of stillness,  
no hurry to reach  
the end of the rainbow.

89.

the window is my  
new favourite screen, with nature shows  
and weather channels

90.

Shifting weight  
from foot to foot  
still standing still

91.

cabin fever  
the yorkie zips past  
wild violets

92.

An attack of Corona Virus  
Man became Saint, Serene and modest  
Nature was healed and purified!

93.

So, three weeks ago  
I'd have sped off to Spin class;  
fine going nowhere

94.

Clapping on doorsteps  
thunderous for nightingales  
together we win

95.

Monk Comgall long gone  
new hermits now walk along  
Bangor's sheltered shore

96.

Look out the window  
All is very beautiful  
You will be free soon

97.

Countless army trucks  
carrying coffins for burning  
roar of helplessness.

98.

Try to stick it out  
The way stalks stick it out in spring  
Green meadows grow still

99.

spring lockdown  
I dance around the garden  
in pyjamas

100.

flouting  
the social isolation order  
pink moon

101.

walking

six feet

apart : not under

102.

Coronavirus

neon signs black

deserted city

103.

Sense of time crumbles

Hope in shambles as fear

And hunger kicks in

104.

A wonky veg box,

tins, pasta, spices and oil

And dinner is served

105.

grey eyes, unplucked brows

pony tail unravelling

hope stirs in my tea

106.

Cocooning: is the danger  
greater outside the window?  
Incurable age.

107.

We can survive this:  
everyone superheroes,  
saving each other.



## CONTRIBUTORS:

In the spirit of togetherness and collaboration, the editors decided not to put individuals' names beside their own contributions. Rather, we wanted to present a single, unified piece of work that still encompassed everyone's voice.

The contributors are listed below, and we thank them all for sharing their work and helping this small idea grow.

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