

Fall 2014

## A Collection of Proverbs and Commonplaces Remixed to Depotentiate Their Potentially Damaging After-Effects

Coco Owen

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank>

 Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

### Recommended Citation

Owen, Coco (2014) "A Collection of Proverbs and Commonplaces Remixed to Depotentiate Their Potentially Damaging After-Effects," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 81 , Article 29.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss81/29>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in CutBank by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mail.lib.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mail.lib.umt.edu).

A COLLECTION OF PROVERBS AND COMMON-  
PLACES REMIXED TO DEPOTENTIATE THEIR  
POTENTIALLY DAMAGING AFTER-EFFECTS

*Instructions for reading:*

As with the “flooding” technique in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or a simple phobia, read through the sections below as able. If you heard these proverbs or expressions repeated, as a child or in school, and they still make you nervous today, you might benefit from this desensitization exercise.

Begin by reading the randomly scrambled text out loud at a steady pace. Repeat as many times as necessary and then at greater speed, until the saying or proverb has lost its power to evoke shame, guilt or anxiety. Remember being a child and repeating a tongue-twister until it just turned into gibberish or you were laughing so hard you couldn't talk? That is what we want to accomplish with this technique. Use with any other sayings or words from the past that continue to have a negative effect on you.

## SHE WAS BAD, SHE WAS HORRID

Was when she good horrid,  
but bad when when she,  
very was when good bad, indeed!

She was she was very  
very was but when she  
good horrid bad was very when.

Good was she horrid,  
indeed when was  
was bad she very but she she.

When when was good,  
bad but good, very  
horrid very indeed, very

horrid, was she, bad  
was she, when but  
indeed very good was she,

good was she when  
indeed very was.

## AND, BUT!!

No ifs ands or buts —  
and ifs, no buts!  
Ands, buts: no: Or....  
Or no. If and but.  
But, and, and! Or, if no — No.

SUGAR 'N SPICE 'N EVERYTHING NICE

That's nice what girls are little made and  
sugar little what and nice spice  
are of 'n little nice that's what  
everything girls made sugar nice  
little of spice 'n what sugar that  
girls nice that's little made and what  
spice 'n everything sugar are of  
of made are girls little what that's  
nice everything and spice 'n sugar  
that's nice what everything little  
and girls spice are 'n made sugar of  
what and everything spice that's made.

"A ROSE IS A ROSE IS A ROSE." (GERTRUDE STEIN)

A is a rose is rose is is a rose a is a a a rose is is  
rose is rose rose a is rose is a is rose is a  
is rose rose rose a a is is a a rose a is rose a  
rose a is rose a is rose is a is is a rose a is rose is  
is rose a is a rose a a is is a is rose is rose rose is a rose  
a rose is a rose a a is is a a rose rose rose is  
a is rose is a is rose is a rose rose is rose  
is is rose a a a is a rose a is is rose is rose is a.