



## Sunday out of Nowhere: New and Selected Poems

**Brian Swann**

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Sit next to me, Brian Swann. Be my companion. I sense in you what's missing from my life: a voice of reason, tranquility, unmistakable originality. The author of all manner of work—anthologies of Native American literature, children's books, fiction, and several collections of poetry—Swann teaches at Cooper Union in New York City.

### ISTANBUL

*I wonder why I've returned to this place  
that behaves as if a city is cinder-blocks and planks,  
sheepskins nailed to the sides of houses,  
forgotten, going rank. Where the people  
live in coal smoke and kids swim in wide  
slicks of garbage after work, and I remember when  
I was a boy, seeing older kids like a foreign race,  
black with pit or shipyard, drifting  
through coal smoke, crumbling streets,  
and thinking: that is how things are,  
that's real life, the sizing-up of a  
sharp look, the thick gob of spit,  
the crushed stub of a cigarette, the breath  
that takes in foul air like a joke.*

MATT SUTHERLAND (September/October 2018)

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