

Dermot Healy

**COLLECTED
POEMS**

Edited by Peter Fallon



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Rust

The wind seeds the air with salt
and, like weeds,

all bad news,
rust spreads fast,

snapping the handles off cars
and cracking the heads of spades.

Hinges give
and doors fall open

suddenly, in the middle of the night;
then enter the mermen

with bags of winkles
they've been collecting

since before Christ.

Coal Bags

The half-empty bags of Polish coal
blow in a July wind
like monks' cowls.

On a cold winter evening
this ceremony
goes on for hours

in what was the cart shed.
The monks go.
Now it's the turn of the nuns.