

## **(From) The Electric Chair Poems**

**Christopher Barnes**

### **In The Heart Of The Electric Chair**

Spirited off the characters of ledgers,  
Your fable might be a rough-and-tumble clangour  
In steam-lapse teeters.

This power-swell stun seat  
Won't let you scarper; as you plunge,  
Unflinching journey's end.

A blood-curdling scream  
Flips round the corner.

### **Multiple Shocks**

The brain as burger becomes tender  
Through the swelling grip of The State.  
Moods coil the heart.  
One switch shocked you blank.  
Hangmen as forewarned  
Are jettisoned –  
Release catches its illuminating pathway.

Photos have actions. Who'd strain for this  
Hard-line resolution? Push button close-up?

### **A Good Execution?**

The turnkey hoists the humdrum  
To excessive points of vigilance. Pure white socks  
Tremble with milliamperes –  
He quits dilemma's horns  
For almost fathomless dilly-dallying.

You're not unique, a somebody  
Blindfolded in dark.  
At the extreme's terminal fix,  
Perched, tightened in this guilt-cell shaker –  
Hang on for stone-dead volts to flash.