

 HarperCollins e-books

You Get So
Alone at Times That
It Just Makes Sense

Charles Bukowski

**You Get So Alone at Times That It Just Makes
Sense**

Contents

[1813-1883](#)

[red Mercedes](#)

[retired](#)

[working it out](#)

[beasts bounding through time—](#)

[trashcan lives](#)

[the lost generation](#)

[no help for that](#)

[my non-ambitious ambition](#)

[education](#)

[downtown L.A.](#)

[another casualty](#)

[driving test](#)

[that's why funerals are so sad](#)

[cornered](#)

[bumming with Jane](#)

[darkness](#)

[termites of the page](#)

[a good time](#)

[the still trapeze](#)

[January](#)

[sunny side down](#)

[the man in the brown suit](#)

[a magician, gone...](#)

[well, that's just the way it is](#)

[the chemistry of things](#)

..

[rift](#)

[my friend, the parking lot attendant](#)

[miracle](#)

[a non-urgent poem](#)

[my first affair with that older woman](#)

[the freeway life](#)

[the player](#)

[p.o. box 11946, Fresno, Calif. 93776](#)

[poor Al](#)

[for my ivy league friends:](#)

[helping the old](#)

[bad times at the 3rd and Vermont hotel](#)

[the Master Plan](#)

[garbage](#)

[my vanishing act](#)

[let's make a deal](#)

[16-bit Intel 8088 chip](#)

[zero](#)

[putrefaction](#)

[I'll take it...](#)

[supposedly famous](#)

[the last shot](#)

[whorehouse](#)

[starting fast:](#)

[the crazy truth](#)

[drive through hell](#)

[for the concerned:](#)

[a funny guy](#)

-

[shoes](#)

[coffee](#)

[together](#)

[the finest of the breed](#)

[close to greatness](#)

[the stride](#)

[final story](#)

[friends within the darkness](#)

[death sat on my knee and cracked with laughter](#)

[oh yes](#)

[O tempora! O mores!](#)

[the passing of a great one](#)

[the wine of forever](#)

[true](#)

[Glenn Miller](#)

[Emily Bukowski](#)

[some suggestions](#)

[invasion](#)

[hard times](#)

[longshot](#)

[concrete](#)

[Gay Paree?](#)

[I thought the stuff tasted worse than usual](#)

[the blade](#)

[the boil](#)

[not listed](#)

[I'm not a misogynist](#)

[the lady in the castle](#)

[relentless as the tarantula](#)

[their night](#)

[huh?](#)

[it's funny, isn't it? #1](#)

[it's funny, isn't it? #2](#)

[the beautiful lady editor](#)

[about the PEN conference](#)

[everybody talks too much](#)

[me and my buddy](#)

[song](#)

[practice](#)

[love poem to a stripper](#)

[my buddy](#)

[Jon Edgar Webb](#)

[thank you](#)

[the magic curse](#)

[party's over](#)

[no nonsense](#)

[escape](#)

[wearing the collar](#)

[a cat is a cat is a cat is a cat](#)

[marching through Georgia](#)

[gone](#)

[I meet the famous poet](#)

[seize the day](#)

[the shrinking island](#)

[magic machine](#)

[those girls we followed home](#)

[fractional note](#)

[a following](#)

[a tragic meeting](#)

[an ordinary poem](#)

[from an old dog in his cups...](#)

[let 'em go](#)

[trying to make it](#)

[the death of a splendid neighborhood](#)

[you get so alone at times that it just makes sense](#)

[a good gang, after all](#)

[this](#)

[hot](#)

[late late late poem](#)

[3 a.m. games:](#)

[someday I'm going to write a primer for crippled saints but meanwhile](#)

[help wanted](#)

[sticks and stones...](#)

[working](#)

[over done](#)

[our laughter is muted by their agony](#)

[murder](#)

[what am I doing?](#)

[nervous people](#)

[working out](#)

[how is your heart?](#)

[forget it](#)

[quiet](#)

[it's ours](#)

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[About the Author](#)

[Other Books by Charles Bukowski](#)

[Copyright](#)

[About the Publisher](#)

listening to Wagner

as outside in the dark the wind blows a cold rain the

trees wave and shake lights go

off and on the walls creak and the cats run under the

bed...

Wagner battles the agonies, he's emotional but

solid, he's the supreme fighter, a giant in a world of

pygmies, he takes it straight on through, he breaks

barriers

an

astonishing FORCE of sound as

everything here shakes

shivers

bends

blasts

in fierce gamble

yes, Wagner and the storm intermix with the wine as

nights like this run up my wrists and up into my head and

back down into the

gut

some men never

die

and some men never

live

but we're all alive

tonight.

red Mercedes

naturally, we are all caught in
downmoods, it's a matter of
chemical imbalance
and an existence
which, at times,
seems to forbid
any real chance at
happiness.

I was in a downmood
when this rich pig
along with his blank
inamorata
in this red Mercedes
cut
in front of me
at racetrack parking.

it clicked inside of me
in a flash:
I'm going to pull that fucker
out of his car and
kick his
ass!

I followed him

into Valet parking

parked behind him

and jumped from my

car

ran up to his

door

and yanked at

it.

it was

locked.

the

windows were

up.

I rapped on the window

on his

side:

“open up! I’m gonna

bust your

ass!”

he just sat there

looking straight

ahead.

his woman did

likewise.

they wouldn't look

at me.

he was 30 years

younger

but I knew I could

take him

he was soft and

pampered.

I beat on the window

with my

fist:

“come on out, shithead,

or I'm going to start

breaking

glass!”

he gave a small nod

to his

woman.

I saw her reach

into the glove

compartment

open it

and slip him the

I saw him hold it
down low
and snap off the
safety.

I walked off
toward the
clubhouse, it looked
like a damned good
card
that
day.

all I had to do
was
be there.

retired

pork chops, said my father, I love

pork chops!

and I watched him slide the grease

into his mouth.

pancakes, he said, pancakes with

syrup, butter and bacon!

I watched his lips heavy wetted with

all that.

coffee, he said, I like coffee so hot

it burns my throat!

sometimes it was too hot and he spit it

out across the table.

mashed potatoes and gravy, he said, I

love mashed potatoes and gravy!

he jowled that in, his cheeks puffed as

if he had the mumps.

chili and beans, he said, I love chili and

beans!

and he gulped it down and farted for hours

loudly, grinning after each fart.

strawberry shortcake, he said, with vanilla
ice cream, that's the way to end a meal!
he always talked about retirement, about
what he was going to do when he
retired.

when he wasn't talking about food he talked
on and on about
retirement.

he never made it to retirement, he died one day while
standing at the sink
filling a glass of water.

he straightened like he'd been
shot.

the glass fell from his hand
and he dropped backwards
landing flat
his necktie slipping to the
left.

afterwards
people said they couldn't believe
it.

he looked
great.

distinguished white

sideburns, pack of smokes in his

shirt pocket, always cracking

jokes, maybe a little

loud and maybe with a bit of bad

temper

but all in all

a seemingly sound

individual

never missing a day

of work.

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