

**I'LL SHOW  
YOU ROOM**

\* \* \*

**JORDAN  
STEMPLEMAN**

**JS**

*for Mary McNaughton*

one  
by any other means  
is a universe

by children  
I mean assumption  
and the time to bend

and suppose  
equally  
and in person

\*

If I notice what I set aside, explain  
what I've kept, and understand what I left,  
can I imagine for a moment  
and leave it at that?

\*

There is a plea  
having nothing to do with guilty.

It hits the jackpot  
by managing one person at a time.

It helps others  
by whispering

the song: "As long as we live,  
it's you and me baby,

and there ain't nothin' wrong  
with that."

\*

a man followed me  
today, and I couldn't wait  
for him to catch up—

it's here the sun's to rise  
from staying late, here  
days, days  
lean on

\*

There are three parts  
body language  
to one part hose. The resulting muscle

responds to pain  
by sullen looks and squirts.

There is pressure  
in all conditions. Something really concerned  
decides, it's either allergens

or a piece of toast—it says,  
it's now down to counting

what bites  
and what isn't, what then qualifies

as markings, and what's feigned  
as an eager sensation.

\*

by error I mean  
driving around



hair in a ponytail  
eying

the bridge  
as it approaches

the far off touch  
of the almanac's

dream  
taking sound predictions

to air  
watching them camp

back to earth  
these sunken ships

dug  
from a previous thought

\*

Even the genie has a monkey  
that screws things up.

Brings out the eruptions  
in the quietist of places, a bungalow  
one instant, lava and hell the next.

\*

Weakly, I'm getting heavier.  
There are fragile possibilities

to consider, such as, how to set the table  
for the upcoming season, so whatever I touch

can twist my arm, treasure  
what no longer moves.

\*

The animals like water  
sometimes. The redness in each  
could be a clearing,  
what sheds  
for another human being, or  
the good currency  
of nerves.

\*

down and still sick  
but chewing

the paid and crook  
still fragile the same

the hopeful  
need six legs

to sit upright  
to maintain

little into useful  
into keep up

your living  
most in common

## **Author's Note:**

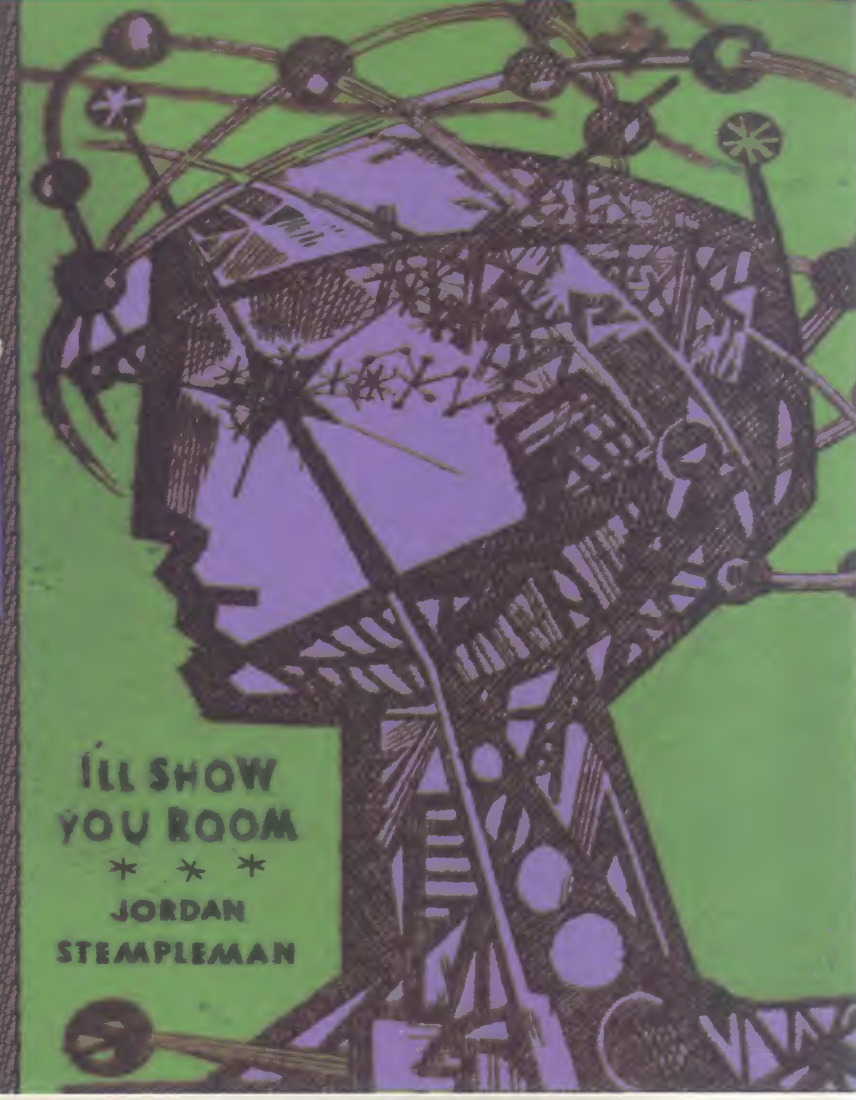
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## **Colophon:**

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