

soliloquies

Written by Ryan El-Ouardighi

“snow”, 2026 January 1, 12:20

theres some
snow
on the
ground outside

last night
when
everybody stupid
was
out for NYE (theyre
probably
sick now) it
snowed a little

it
snowed the other
day too (i
think it
was last week
at like 6pm) but
it was heavier
then

someone
probably
came and shoveled (is
it shoveled or
shovelled?) the
driveway because
theres no
snow

in it (well
it was all
pushed to
the sides)

probably the
neighbours (definitely
the
neighbours), the
upstairs ones (definitely
the
upstairs ones)

“jeep at 1220”, 2026 January 1, 12:26

that jeep
outside
looks just
like my
brothers (or
maybe his was
a bit taller) but
the tires
look
different (then
it doesnt
look just
like the
other one) or
maybe thats
just
the snow on
it that makes
it look that
way

its 1223 (already?)
everyone stays up
late
on NYE (not everyone
because thats an
indefinite
pronoun)

maybe no
pronoun is

defined and
all are
arbitrary (politics)

why can
you take
the doors
off a
jeep? (portability)

that doesnt
make sense (which
is exactly why
its correct)

touché (how
french)

“rarified”, 2026 January 1, 12:30

rarely is
it that
i see
them eat
meat anymore (good)

its only
not good
for you
because its
expensive (what?)

its called
unhealthy because
its expensive (huh?)

im not
repeating myself (ok)

my
back hurts (its
the way
youre sitting) im
in bed (thats
the issue)

“synthetics”, 2026 January 1, 12:33

and

to a world

filled

with synthetics (my

bookshelves filled with

synthetics) get well

soon (you must)

“time wasted”, 2026 January 1, 12:37

i

sit in bed

all day (and

you aren't

tired) i

sit on the

computer

all day (as

long as you

enjoy it) i

am unproductive (you

aren't a

machine)

“(race)”, 2026 January 1, 12:38

(write about

race) i

did (when?)

in the

other

book (not

enough) how

about i

choose what

i

write? (race)

“appetite for destruction”, 2026 January 1, 12:44

maybe i
should be
an
outlaw (no)
like n.w.a. (who?)
i cant
say their
name but
they were
famous and
talked about
guns and
“bitches” (sound
like a bunch
of
YNs) sure
i guess (youd
never do
that) how do
you
know? (youre
too sheltered)
good (good)

“(poison) ivy”, 2026 January 1, 12:54

why do

ivy

leagues matter? (they

dont besides a

nice name)

“(security)”, 2026 January 1, 14:29

(you need
security) i know
my whole
familys
poor (not all
of them) most of
them (one went into
accounting) i
wont ill go
into
voice acting (thats
insecure) its my
life though (your
life to be
a
fuckin
bum) if i go
hard
at it itll
pay off (sure)
stop
doubting me (im
just
being realistic)

“(homework)”, 2026 January 1, 14:51

(do your
homework) im
busy right now (youll
be busy and
have cs and
ds) not from
missing a single
assignment (its
not just one
assignment you
dumb
fuck) im not
dumb (how?)
i just
forget occasionally (feels
like all the time
nowadays) oh
shush (dont
talk to me
like that) youre
bothering me,
what
else do you want
me to
do? (do your
homework)

“inauguration”, 2026 January 1, 15:04

mamdani being
elected (someones
gonna shoot
him) stop
it (think of
charlie kirk) that
was in september (doesnt
matter) this speech is
long as hell (what
do you expect of
an
inauguration?) touché
but hes just making a
bunch of promises (all
politicians do even when
they dont
follow up on
them) especially when
they dont
follow up on
them (mamdani
seems like a
nice guy) every
politician wants to
seem like a nice
guy (look now youre
the
sour one) im
just
being realistic (you
think youre

mocking
me but youre
not) hes still
talking (as
expected) he
has a nice
haircut (his coats
nice too) its
january in nyc
so everyone needs
a coat (where
are the
homeless today?) they
disappeared, probably (he
looks like hes
gonna cry) id
cry too if
i was the
mayor of
such a
shitty
city (you just
dont have
faith) neither do
you (touché)
jadakiss is there (who?)
jadakiss (who?)

“mcdonalds wrapper”, 2026 January 1, 15:36

theres a
mcdonalds
receipt stuck to
the back of
my
notebook (which
one?) the
composition book
one (thats
not funny) i
know (just
interesting) im
vegetarian (how
long?) five years
this june (i dont
care) i knew
you
wouldnt

“this order”, 2026 January 1, 16:51

im autistic but

dont really

feel

autistic (what

would

feeling

autistic entail?) i

dont know, but

probably not

me because ive

met other

autistics

and none were

like me (what

did you

do?) nothing (what

did they

do?) everything (thats

just you

trying to

end it on a

profound

note and i

wont let you) touché

“(dismissal)”, 2026 January 1, 17:00

(you know
thats how
theyll
view you now) what?
(your poem
about
this order) what
about it? (now
theyll look
back at
everything and
say it was
just because
oh hes autistic) i
think youre
right (they wouldve
known anyway) how?
(you act
retarded) fuck
you

“removal”, 2026 January 1, 17:12

ill just
remove
it (remove
what?) you
know
damn well
what im
talking about (this
order?) yes
they dont
need
to know (but
could you
really
live with
yourself?) youre
just
trying to seem
profound
and i wont
let you (im
just
being realistic) that
doesnt make
any sense (i
know
but the point
was you cant
remove it) yes
i can (no
you cant) no

i cant

“regret”, 2026 January 1, 17:18

i (no)
what? (stop
writing poems
about this
wimpy shit
you
wrote it and
now you have to
deal with it) ok
im sorry (dont
be sorry
be smart) thats
what
my father used
to say (i
know)

“rimbaud”, 2026 January 1, 17:25

maybe i
should quit
writing altogether (like
rimbaud?) like
rimbaud (you
wont) why
do you think? (its
too important
to you) he
was
too important
to me but
i cut him off
anyway (false
equivalence) i
knew it was but
hoped youd
buy it (youll
never stop
writing even when
it starts
hurting you
like a
brain virus or
a bad habit that
you just
cant stop doing) a
bad habits called
a vice (stop
correcting me
smartass) ok ok

go on (like a
goal you
have but know
youll never
reach) like
touching a
star but you
just keep
trying until it
burns you? (yeah
but an even
weaker
and less
noble
goal than that because
its just
writing) i can
quit anytime i
want (no
you cant) yes
i can (no you
cant) yes
i can (then
prove it) how
am i
supposed to
do that? (stop
writing
right
now.)