



Poems  
from the  
street  
up

That Little Hobo



# Poems from the street up



West Yorkshire - Finding Independence  
Delivering Fulfilling Lives:  
Supporting People with Multiple Needs Programme

## That Little Hobo



#seethefullpicture

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## About the author

That Little Hobo lives in Halifax and has travelled a lot. He says, "I'm at my happiest when I don't know where I'm going".

Over the years, he's experienced poor mental health and self-medicated with drugs and alcohol as a way of coping.

He started writing poetry as part of his therapy whilst he recovered from homelessness and addiction. He's created over 100 poems.

His first poetry collection takes us through his story of homelessness, addiction, mental ill health and recovery - as well as his views on the stuff of everyday lives...mobile phones, Brexit and football.

## Acknowledgements

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My WY-FI Multiple Needs Navigators from Foundation for supporting my journey of recovery.

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Inky Jim's for my logo.

Finally, Ocean Print for printing my book and making it seem so easy right from the start.

That Little Hobo

## Charitable donations

You can show your support for this book and its author by making a charitable donation to Mental Health Concern (registered charity number 519332).

Mental Health Concern is the parent charity of Insight Healthcare.

Scan the QR code to make an online donation via the charity's Just Giving page.

Scan me!



or visit

<https://www.justgiving.com/mental-health-concern>

## The life of a junkie it ain't easy

The life of a junkie it ain't easy  
Spends his lifetime being greasy  
Got to graft now for his next score  
Paranoia for who comes thru the door

Selling, scamming, making cash  
Been shoplifting, got to dash  
Never in one place too long  
You're on the hard stuff, way past the bong

Some days they laugh some days they cry  
Some days they have to ask themselves why  
See once it's got you, it won't let go  
No matter how many times you say no

How long can you live this life  
All the trouble, all the strife  
Not everyone who lives this life is bad  
But I bet you nearly everyone is sad

## Sleepless

A sleepless night unable to rest  
With snotty nose and creeping skin  
God I hate this feeling  
Every time I say no more  
but when I've cash I rush to score

I pass on food to save my money  
I'm skin and bone now, it's not funny  
Although I laugh every time I use  
Time is ticking, I've lit the fuse

It's so damn hard to quit this stuff  
Every time I say enough's enough  
Sounds so easy in your head  
24 hours without it and you're better off dead

I'm out of control, deeper every day  
I need a miracle, God help me pray  
My feelings I cannot hide  
For years and years pushed them aside

I do not sleep, I do not eat  
With my inner voice I can't compete

## It's so easy to borrow some cash

It's so easy to borrow some cash  
But they're the last to laugh when you can't pay it back  
Should you borrow again and get another loan?  
It's oh so easy it's at the end of the phone

You're up to your ears and there is no way out  
You start pulling your hair and scream and shout  
Now your credit history gone up in smoke  
You come to realise that it's not a joke

It's so easy to lose your home  
You reach out for help but you're all alone

## Copycat

He sat with a vacant look on his face in front of the tv screen  
Every murder he saw he pictured himself, it was like he was living a dream  
Those three little words he had never really heard a copycat killa to be

His mind it did race, he quickened his pace with a loaded gun in the dark  
He ran over murders he had seen in a film and it was all going to start in the park  
For every bad thing that had happened to him someone will pay with their life  
He shot the neighbour and his two kids and followed it up with his wife

By now he felt great but he'd made a mistake, his shots were heard by a man  
He ran home and phoned the police who said they would get there as fast as they can  
Four more quick shots down by the shops and three more people lay dead  
He wasn't the best with a gun but he was having such fun  
An' it all played out in his head

People weren't aware he was brought up in care and abused since the age of five  
He had now just reached his old care home and no one would come out alive  
The police weren't far off as he took aim and shot another young man in a car  
Eight people lay dead, to the press he then said "I just want to be a star"

## Bed sit

In a cheap as bed sit that smells of piss and shit  
You lay on your bed one thought in your head  
This is what life's become no wonder you stay so numb  
The place is so small, eight foot, wall to wall  
The colour off white and mould  
By Christ it is cold  
You just stare at the door  
Can't wait for your next score  
Get high on your rush  
The toilet won't flush  
How did it come to this?  
In a bottle you piss  
The meter's wired up  
You couldn't give a fuck  
You play with a knife  
And think of your life

## Bastard

Heroin's a bastard it's something I despise  
Heroin's a bastard it's filled my mouth with lies  
Heroin's a bastard it's always there for you  
Heroin's a bastard take a line or two  
Heroin's a bastard I wish I'd never took  
Heroin's a bastard now look my life is fucked  
Heroin's a bastard looks like it is here to stay  
Heroin's a bastard it just won't go away  
Heroin's a bastard there is no other word  
Heroin's a bastard it makes your life so absurd  
Heroin's a bastard leaves your nose full of snot  
Heroin's a bastard then takes everything you've got  
Heroin's a bastard it keeps you nice and warm  
Heroin's a bastard helps you ride out the storm  
Heroin's a bastard I wish it would go away  
Heroin's a bastard there is nothing left to say

## As your love for her begins to fade

As your love for her begins to fade  
Your relationship is in the shade  
You try to cling on to what you had  
No matter what you do it all turns bad

Your heart is broken you're all in bits  
That's the trouble with relationships  
One day you might just find the one  
Your rain clouds passed, here comes the sun

## A little piece of me died when you went away

I'm all alone, not much to say. It's not easy being on your own  
When all you have for company is your mobile phone  
We used to laugh a lot when we went to the pub  
An' I always had to help you finish your grub

I miss you now more than you know  
But God must have thought it was your time to go  
I hope you've found mom and you're free of pain  
And I hope one day I'll see you again

Now all I have are memories of the both of you  
And no one can take them away, no matter what they do

## It's the way

It's the very last time I'll walk this path  
I should be sad but begin to laugh  
They're going to take my life for the things I've done  
They are going to use a rope, I preferred the gun

## Mr Cox

Professor Brian Cox makes me think  
He makes me think when I'm at the sink  
He makes me think when I have a drink  
Tells us all we're made of stars  
A very deep concept when propping up bars  
Eating pork scratching and smoking a fag  
When one of the drinkers starts to brag  
Pretends to know more than the Cox himself  
When all his theories are from the top shelf

You stay and listen to this drunken drivel  
Then pick up a bar mat and start to scribble  
About a time when we're deep underground  
Will Cox's theories then turn around?  
Do we all return to the stars  
and hang around in the night sky  
like we hang around in bars?

## Visions

I must get a grip on the way that I feel  
I keep hearing voices, I know they're not real  
Sometimes I have visions, they're as scary as hell  
I have come to the conclusion I am not well

## Why Oh Why

Why Oh why do they think I'm dumb??  
Chatting shit so they think you're having fun  
But underneath they're after one thing  
Later on they will rob your cash and bling

I've heard it all before and I'm getting kinda wise  
I'm finally beginning to open my eyes  
You tag along when people have got cash  
When it's spent you're gone like a rash

See it don't take long to see through folk  
Believe me when I say I'll have the last joke  
People think they can borrow and not pay back  
Cos their money's always spent on crack

Not every junkie is a thieving rat  
Some use to expand their minds and.....that  
So please don't try to worm money out of me  
I'm on to you ....as you can see

## Like a mouse

Like a mouse on a treadmill my life spins around  
All the things that I long for I still have not found  
The older I get seems quicker the years  
But try as I might I still can't face my fears  
They say there is someone for everyone upon this earth  
So I will keep on looking for what it is worth

## Who will miss me when I'm gone?

Who will miss me when I'm gone?  
I fear not many, not even one  
Without a wife, children or friends  
You called it life and then it ends

You tried your best to turn it round  
You tried to put both feet on the ground  
I did my best, went to many lengths  
But I'm afraid my life just didn't make sense

If a guardian angel is watching me  
A lonely downtrodden man must it see  
Just a little love, light and affection  
To steer this poor soul in the right direction

I hope a change comes and soon  
And stops this life of doom

## Let it bleed

Not long now, it's near the time, I feel no fear, made up my mind  
There's no way out of that I'm sure, a sudden fix, no long term cure  
I have failed so many times to care and if I don't make it with you up  
there

Then let it be and let it bleed, at least I'll be with more like me  
I'm not the first, won't be the last, but if I could change things in the  
past

I would not be the fool in the crowd, but try my best to make you  
proud

Not be selfish and absurd, try not to have the final word  
To make amends and be a man, not live for now but have a plan

## End of

Work, work and work some more  
just to keep the bailiff from the door  
All around you prices rising  
except your wage, it's not surprising

Try and try to keep it together  
But what's the point? Coz you will never  
crawl from out that pit  
where you have tumbled in the shit

It's just the modern way, they say  
But I tell you I hate the way  
No one has time for his fellow man  
But it don't matter, I have a plan  
to take a knife or a length of rope  
An' put a fucking end to this joke

## Silence

To suffer in silence is really no fun  
It's like Russian roulette, your turn on the gun  
Sometimes I think what's the point in it all?  
Every obstacle I climb I know then comes the fall  
Stay strong, hold your chin up, is the English way  
So I will suffer in silence forever and a day

## Shadow people

They're hidden in the shadows just out of sight  
Not easy to see in the dead of night  
They can see you but you can't see them  
Something's going to happen, it's just a question of when

They always target someone who won't be missed  
So make sure you don't end up on the list  
Another missing person and no one has a clue  
The only thing for sure is that they took you

## Trying

I'm trying to get some help but it's so hard to find  
Seems people don't want to know when you're losing your mind  
Been pushed from pillar to post but I'm getting nowhere  
But surely to God there has to be help out there  
I'm going to keep on looking but I'm running out of hope  
Coz I can't keep on medicating myself with a bag of dope

## Hands of time

I miss you so although I know  
there's nothing I can do  
if I could learn how to turn  
back the hands of time  
I would turn back mine  
Undo all the things I have said  
all those horrible things inside my head.  
But would it do any good  
when you are so misunderstood?  
I try to hurt the ones I love but end up hurting me  
Will there come a time in life where I can finally see?

## Searching

It's like I'm lost in a forest and I can't find my way  
I went to the doctor to hear what he had to say  
I need to see a shrink to get to the root of all the pain  
I just hope it happens pretty soon before I go insane

See I'm hearing voices nearly every day  
I try not to pay attention to what they have to say  
I was never worried when I was on my own  
Now I cannot stand when I am alone

When I feel deep with despair  
I just want to end it and I don't care  
I'm slipping into madness and I have no-one to tell  
Deeper and deeper every day I feel like I'm in hell

I'm 50 years old with nothing to show  
No-one'll miss me when it's my time to go  
All my life I've searched for something or maybe it's someone  
I hope I can fulfil my life before my life is done

## Please leave me

Will you please leave me alone?  
I just want to be on my own  
No more messing with my brain  
You're going to make me go insane  
All my friends, no they can't see  
That you have invaded me  
You're in my brain, can't get you out  
But you have to go, there is no doubt

## Help

I've a feeling they will be here till the day I die  
But I'm too scared to ask them the reason why  
They want me to fail in everything that I do  
You won't understand if they're not after you

When I hear voices, sounds like someone I know  
So I pick up my pen and hope they will go  
It's getting slowly worse, they're here every day  
I'm getting quite scared wondering what they might say

I've been to the doctors but I'm too scared to tell  
That every day is like walking thru hell  
I just want someone to finally help me  
Get rid of these demons so I can be free

## Shadow

There's a shadow follows me it's everywhere I go  
The more I try to fight the stronger it seems to grow  
I know I can beat this thing I've done it once before  
It's just so damn hard when all you want to do is score  
I find that writing's positive and gives me a sense of hope  
Plus, it's a lot damn cheaper than a bag of dope

I have reached out and asked for all the help I can  
I hope one day in the future I can be a better man  
There's help out there and people who care  
See you need to get up and make a start  
Before your life falls apart

## Walk on my side of the street

Would you wear my shoes for just one day?  
I'd like you to try and live for as long as you could  
At least after 24 hours I could hear you say,  
"That's so terrible and nobody should"  
Being made to sleep on the streets at night  
with drug dealers, pimps, paedos and mad men  
All waiting to make another victim of them

Every year goes by and people have less love for each other  
Sister and brother  
In the ancient scriptures we've heard it all before  
It's nothing new to us and we must find it a bore  
There is no civilisation that has ever done it right  
Something is going to shock them one dark night  
Then it's too late for the masses but not the few  
The ones that were humble and knew what to do

## Travel

I have never felt happier than travelling light  
No idea where I'm going, no ending in sight  
All the people you meet and the places you see  
The only time in life when I'm finally free  
No more bills, no 9 to 5  
Travel the world and feel alive

## Stopped

I am going to see my man  
I've been to DIP I have a plan  
I must stop using every day  
Food and electric I cannot pay  
For every day now and a year  
All I think of is my gear  
There is a war and it's an uphill battle  
I need to smoke so I don't rattle  
See I'm not really into crack  
And I'm dead glad about that  
See this could be the end  
And I know that now, my friend  
I don't care how long it takes  
I've made many countless mistakes  
See my body's gone into shock  
But I know now that it must stop  
I think that I've taken the last  
Now it all ends in the past  
Now I know that I can  
I've become a better man  
And never no more  
Every day will I score  
See I've lost my frown  
I no longer use the brown

## Paper

A blank piece of paper don't chat back  
A blank piece of paper not full of crap  
A blank piece of paper can be what you want it to be  
A blank piece of paper understands me

## Blank

A blank piece of paper

Now what do I say?

I have stared at this paper all day

Words are like love

They're so hard to find

I know that they're in there

somewhere in my mind

I have hit a wall and there's no way around

That's why I sit here and don't make a sound

## Talkin

Never been much of one for talking so I put it in a book  
Never been much one for walking so I stand and look

Never been much one for saying 'less it needs to be said  
And if I think it's going to sound stupid then I keep it in my head

Never been much one for doing tho I know it must be done  
Never been much one for smiling tho I know I'm having fun

Tho I know I need a break, I speak the truth, I am not fake

## Brown beetle

When your gear's a shade of red and runs like shit  
You try and you try but you can't get a hit  
Another £20 down the drain  
You chase and chase but can't get rid of the pain

I won't be the first, I won't be the last  
There is some young kid out there having a blast  
Thinks it's fun till he wakes up with a rabbit  
Legs ache, eyes water, nose runs, now he's got a habit

Every time you tell yourself just one more hit and you will stop  
But it's not so easy when you pass five dealers on the way to the shop  
I suffer with a stutter and have anxiety in a crowd  
I wish I could stand up and speak out loud

Fear is such a small word but has massive consequences  
But just because I don't talk a lot don't mean I'm dumb and senseless  
So if you want to get to know me, read the words that I've wrote  
Then you'll understand I'm not some junkie scrote

## Conversation is dead

The art of conversation is dead  
If you ain't got a phone better keep it in your head  
It won't be long before what you mean  
will be on a mobile screen  
Rows of people sitting next to each other  
and not a single word do they utter  
You might think he's deaf and dumb  
It's just that his text thumb  
is numb

What's the point in learning words when not a single one is heard?  
See it won't matter if you're born without a tongue  
But you really got a problem if your fingers are gone  
The click click of a heated debate  
But what will happen if you make a mistake?

They will say that guy's got a stutter  
coz he puts two letters next to each other

A leap in the future for the human race  
It's a hell of a lot quieter with a phone in your face  
So bollocks to the English language and PHDs  
Just buy the latest mobile and your life is a breeze

## Brexit

There's a word too often said  
 A word I can't get out my head  
 A word that's far too often spoke  
 For some it's serious, for some a joke  
 A word that speaks of hidden fears  
 A word that's built up over the years  
 A word that shows what people think  
 A word that's took us to the brink

A simple word that can divide  
 but it's not so simple, they can't decide  
 A word that we're so sick of hearing  
 A word that most don't know the meaning  
 A word that means you don't belong  
 With our European brothers we once were strong

## Jay's poem

Family and friends is what it's all about  
 I have a new mate and I really must shout  
 These past two months have been a blast  
 I know our friendship's bound to last  
 I've been made to look a fool so many times before  
 But I'm certain about you, that's why you're in the door  
 We own things now I've never had  
 Life's took a turn and it's not that bad  
 So this goes out to you my friend  
 I hope our friendship never ends

## It just came to me

It just came to me  
Earth get ready to receive a guest  
This noble man is laid to rest  
For all the time he did live  
He found a peace so he could forgive  
In the desert of his heart  
He made a fountain and did start  
He made a move and it was right  
Was hard to find in the middle of the night  
He could leave the prison of his days  
A free man now full of praise  
Many a dog began to bark  
As he rested in the park

## In the dark an angel's face

In the dark an angel's face  
With a wry smile for the human race  
Standing proud and oh so bold  
Shining bright she broke the mold  
To fight all the demons in your head  
The ones that come when you're in bed  
She's on your side with God's good grace  
With her in tow you'll win the race

## Friend

Friends like this are very rare  
You can see it in the way they care  
But talking and talking is so absurd  
When actions speak a thousand words

I hope our friendship goes on and on  
because what we got is really strong  
I keep on telling you you're a top lad  
One of the best friends a guy could have

I have a feeling we will be friends for years  
And that you can help me face my fears  
I don't want to come across as being cheesy  
But being friends with you comes oh so easy

## That Little Hobo

I call myself the Little Hobo which is self explanatory  
Coz when I stand up in my shoes I'm only 5 foot 3  
I like my tattoos, I love the ink, of which I have a lot  
I get them done at Inky Jim's, to me it's the top shop  
I'm a top fan of the Wu Tang Clan, I've got them up my arm  
And when I get stressed out and need chillin out  
They're the group that keep me calm

## For all the things I've never had

For all the things I've never had  
For all the times that I've been bad  
For all the things I've never said  
For all the words up in my head

I find the time to write them down  
I say the words and hear the sounds  
Sometimes they're good, sometimes they're bad  
They tell of things I've never had

## A beach in France

On that day I stood and saw  
Blood wash up a foreign shore  
On the dead weight of the land  
It changed the colour of the sand  
Within the day I would cry beware  
You could smell the blood in the air  
Many dead upon the beach  
The man of faith began to preach

Bodies on the ocean tossed  
Feel for mothers and what they have lost  
Salty taste and sky so dull  
Ebb and flow of tides pull  
Cold eyes and dead bodies lay where they fell  
An osprey screams in this vision of hell  
Bare flesh burns as cold as frost  
Bloated cadavers upon ocean tossed

In the future will anybody remember these dead  
and pay praise to the heroes and the lives they have led?  
The sea surrounds every one in dark splendour  
Push forward my comrades and never surrender  
The screams of the dying can mess with your head  
You're sweating and shaking and wish you were dead

## Give without receiving

I hope it didn't take too long  
To find out where you went wrong  
I hope you learn from your mistakes  
No matter how long it takes

I hope before you trip and stumble  
You have no ego and can be humble  
I hope you understand my meaning  
That you can give without receiving

There are times in life where you must fight  
To see who's wrong, to see who's right  
There will come a time in life where I hear you say...  
"I wish I'd gone the other way"

I hope that you will learn more stuff  
And never say "enough's enough"  
I hope your life's not full of greed  
And you don't get more than you need

I hope you'll do all that you can  
So you will become a better man  
You live in the moment and you're free  
This is how your life should be

Poems  
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That Little Hobo's first poetry collection takes us through his story of homelessness, addiction, mental ill health and recovery - as well as his views on the stuff of everyday lives...mobile phones, Brexit and football.