

Three Poems

Brian C. Potts

Rough Winds of May

I.

May may mean *might*,
As in “might might make right.”
But *may* may mean *can*,
As in “we can can jam.”

II.

Precisely because
A felon may have a gun,
He may not have one.

III.

May musings:
June looms.
July stands by.
August is almost upon us.

September remembers:
June zoomed.
July passed by.
August? I haven't the foggiest.

IV.

“The Defendant may change his plea.”
Does the court grant permission?
Or merely recognize a possibility?

V.

“You may see me this evening.”
Does your beloved accept your plea?
Or might you simply see her across a crowded room?

Angelic Doc Ox

St. Thomas Aquinas
Was one of the finest
Folks ever to write about law.

But when he was done,
His course nearly run,
He said, “All I wrote is mere straw.”

The Lament of Kent

*“Reading pipe is distinguished from Cohoes pipe . . . only by the name of the
manufacturer stamped upon it”*

— *Hon. Benjamin N. Cardozo, Jacob & Youngs, Inc. v. Kent.*¹

I want Reading pipes, not *sorrys*, not *gripes*,
Not Cohoes not camels not zebras with stripes.

I say what I mean, and I mean what I say.
So give me my pipes now or else I won't pay!

¹ 129 N.E. 889, 891 (N.Y. 1921).