

Take It



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ungovernable press
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Note

A few of these poems appeared in *The Onion Union* and *Pinstripe Fedora*, and a few others appeared in *Free*, a (self-published) mini book from Teeny Tiny.

All of the poems in this collection borrow bits and pieces of text from ads which were posted in the “free” section of craigslist communities in various cities.

The cover image is a collage by Wendy Lee Lynds (<http://badabling.blogspot.com>)

Free from a Garage Sale

Garage sale leftovers up for grabs
on the curb at 4525 Warner Ave—

two TVs, bright yellow high chair,
bag of toys with some Elmo

and Buzz Lightyear, knick knacks
for the bathroom and kitchen,

five tomato cages. Everything
used but usable. Free, so why not?

Free 1977 Ford Thunderbird

All or nothing. No parts picking.
Come and get it! Solid front end,
decent interior, nice doors and glass.

Straight body, except rear end
is crunched a little. No engine
or tranny. Must tow away.

No title, but have the registration.
Previous owner is deceased.

Free Wedding Cake Topper

Tiny cowboy groom and cowgirl bride.
Free to good home, hopefully

a couple planning to get married
but I'll give it to anybody

who really wants it.

Free Bicycles

Three old bikes found in a shed.
Flat or missing tires and needing

serious cleaning. Vintage boys' 3-speed,
all chrome with spots of rust,

probably late 60s. Women's 10-speed
with basket on the back, could use

some TLC but looks pretty good.
Battered men's 10-speed. The first two

are worth restoring. Must take all.

Free Pool Table

First person who shows up
for the pool table gets it. It does
have scratches in the wood

which should sand out easily.
Felt is like new. Balls and cues
not included. Don't ask me—

I won't hold this. You hurry,
you haul, and it's yours.

Free Reading Pillow

I think they call these husbands.
I'm not certain, but this pillow

is comfortable and made of corduroy.
I paid forty dollars for it and now

I want you to take it. I never
have time to read in bed anymore.

Free Computer Desk

This computer desk might look nice
in your dorm room. It's small—

square top, keyboard tray
and a tray by your feet. Black metal

except chrome-look handles
and the top, which is fake wood

and could use some cleaning. Cheap
to begin with but always well-loved.

Free from a Moving Family

You'll find boys' clothes,
gently used blankets,
a Radio Flyer sled and red wagon,

a couple hand puppets,
a few dolls and stuffed animals,
a baseball bat, a football,

a slightly chipped punch bowl,
two hamster cages with wheels,
two cozy cloth chairs,

four bags of charcoal briquettes,
several metal gas cans,
and some neighbors' items, too.

Please do not take tables! Thank you.

Free Chairs

Furnish your basement with two
clean chairs, not so pretty

but plenty comfy. Vinyl recliner
still reclines smoothly, perfect

for napping or TV. Plush armchair
has two broken legs. I kept

blocks underneath and never noticed.
Blocks free, too, if you want them.

Free Good Stuff

I have to leave the state next week
so everything goes by Monday.
How about a four-drawer wooden dresser

painted pale green? It's three feet tall or so,
good for kids or adults. There's also
a little white cabinet with two drawers,

good for storage. I kept it by my computer
for disks, papers, pens. All drawers
open and close well. Repaint them,

make them pretty. Good stuff.

Free Mattress

I have a queen-sized mattress,
foam insides, with matching box spring.

The fabric has rips you won't notice
under a sheet. It's not new or anything

but it's clean, it's a bed and it's free.

Free Video Games

Pre-rented with tiny scratches
but all still play. Grand Theft Auto,

Virtual Tennis, old Mario stuff
my brother threw away. Happy gaming!

I got these free and so can you—
pick them up near downtown.

Free Wedge of a Sectional

We're upgrading to an actual couch and won't need this wedge of a sectional we've been using for the past

five years. It's like a loveseat without arms. It's sandy brown with a pattern I'd call Southwestern.

It's pretty comfortable for two people so help us get it out of here.

Free Gas Grill

Gas grill with cover, not ready
for the landfill. It works, so we won't

throw it away. Get a gas canister
and fire it up. It's perfect as a back-up

for large parties. It works
but doesn't heat totally evenly.

Free from My Basement

Framed world map, great for an office.
Stereo with working tape deck,
AM/FM radio, but CD can be touchy.

Area rug that needs a shampoo
but from a home without pets
or kids or smoke. Sears treadmill,

hardly been used. I don't have pictures
but it's all nice. Take what you want.

Free Large Window

Three-piece white vinyl window,
sliders on the sides. A fine looking window

is what I'd be saying if its middle pane
weren't broken. But if you're handy

one pane is a snap to replace.

Free Fencing

170 feet of chain link fence. Not sure
if each post is cemented in. At least some are.

I didn't install it. Latching gates
to make your yard kid- or dog-proof.

Looks fairly new. Come dig it out.
You might wrestle a little with a vine

clinging to parts of it. No thorns, I promise.

Free Beach Gear

Collection of sand toys—shovel, bucket, rake, and graduated molds. New in the package. Good

to occupy the kids as you relax in matching plastic chairs. Set of two in yellow and blue. In need

of scrubbing but hardly used.

Free Firewood

Are you ready for winter?
We have an extra half cord

of cottonwood from last year,
roughly cut and very dry.

First person who can pick it all up
can have it. Needs splitting.

Burns great. We'll help you load.