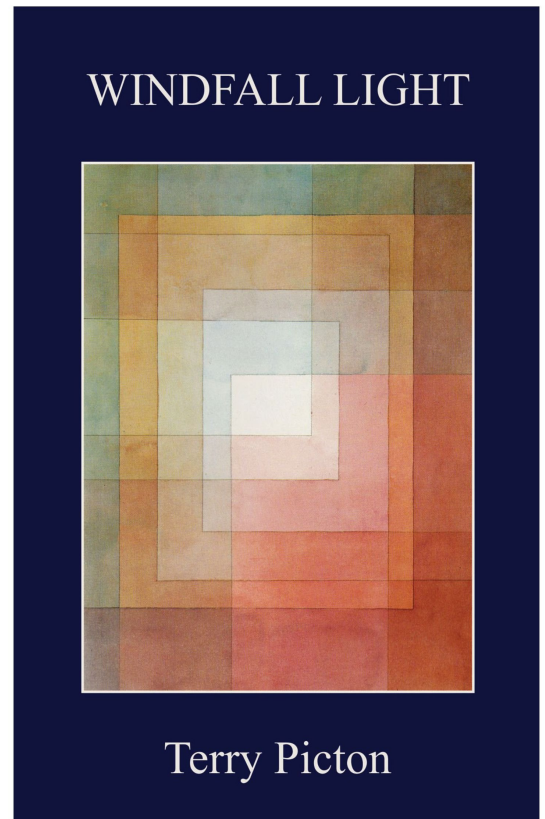


# Windfall Light



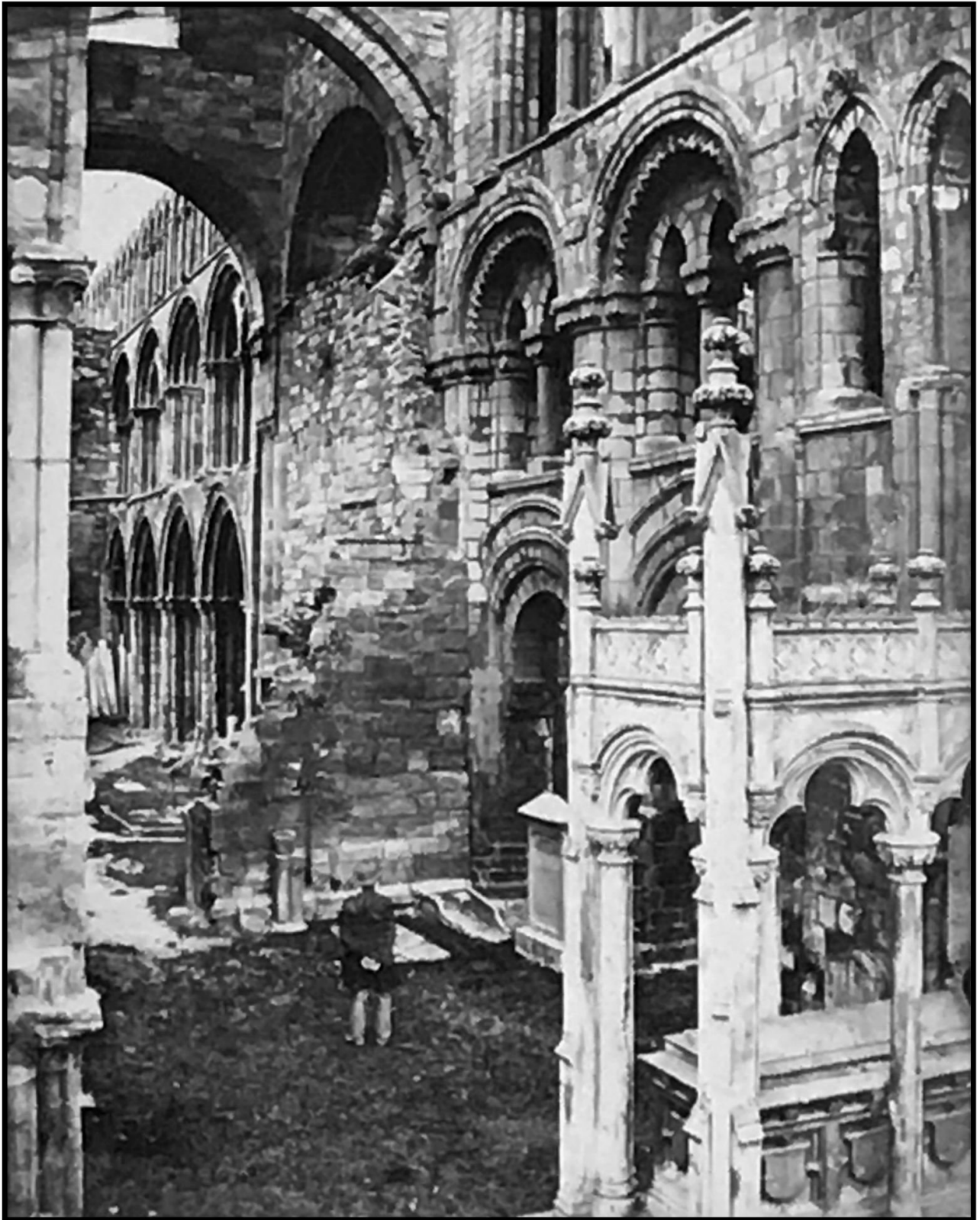
*Windfall Light* is an old man's self-indulgence: a small book of poems written over the course of my life. The cover shows a painting by Paul Klee. The title comes from a poem by Dylan Thomas. Most of the poems are formal in style, although the rhymes are as often slant as regular. This post presents three poems from the book.

This poem is about a mother comforting her child

### **Hush**

A mother picks  
Up her fussy child  
And slowly rocks  
From side to side  
Gently jogging  
Up and down  
Thrice each swing  
Above the ground  
Lightly patting  
Baby's back  
With a descant  
Melody  
That finds a meter  
For the why  
And resolves the need  
To cry.

The following poem is about a photogravure of the ruins of Jedburgh Abbey (below). One can see through the photographer the outline of the grave before which he stands.



### **Francis Frith at Jedburgh**

In the early days of photography,  
and ever since, to catch a light that's low

or change a sparkle into sheen,  
the exposure of the film was very slow,  
and in this passing time the photographer  
could come into the field of view  
and wait unmoving for a while, before  
covering the lens to start anew.

The walking-in and walking-out were all  
too fast to cause a lasting trace  
upon the film, but the standing still  
would leave upon the record of the place  
a clear, faint outline of the person,  
through whose quiet transparency  
the ruined abbey, in all its undone  
truthfulness, we now can see.

The roof is open to the sky, the walls  
arrayed in sunlight, a grassy floor  
now covers the crumbled tiles,  
and through the camera's open door  
the old light of graves and broken stone  
takes through time a gentle passage  
through the fading record of the man  
who caught himself within his image.

The following sonnet is about the meeting in Emmaus after the  
crucifixion between two disciples and someone who they thought  
was Jesus (*Luke 24:13-32*)

### **Emmaus**

I am not the one who died upon the cross –  
You really do not recognize me.  
That easy way to remedy your loss  
Is just what your sorrow wants to see.

Look not for miracles to stop your grief –  
Death is not followed by resurrection,  
And mystery is not solved by false belief.  
You heard him clearly say that “It is done.”  
We should simply remember what he taught:  
I fill with wine our glasses to the brim  
And new bread now break for us to eat;  
Blessed be our life, though it be far too short.  
And if you truly would remember him,  
Love each and every one that you will meet.

If you wish to obtain a physical copy of this book, I can send you one for 10 CAD (mainly to cover mailing costs) if you give me your mailing address. Payment can be made through an **Interac e-Transfer** to terry.picton@gmail.com. If **Interac** is not possible, please contact me to suggest some other method of payment. Or if you would like a pdf copy of the book, just send me your email address.