

A Man You Can Count On

Evan C. Lewis

At school I could cruise through on art,
And I had a fine time in phys-ed,
Sometimes I was even called smart,
Though it rarely was honestly said,

But I hated and spurned mathematics,
The numbers caused migraines and more,
But it wasn't the sums, or even quadratics,
I just can't count higher than four,

I have struggled my life to fit in,
But I've stood out so prominently,
Coz no matter how hard I be thinkin',
I can barely count further than three,

I hid it as well as I could,
And I managed to reach graduation,
But my struggles in maths still withstood,
As I searched for a new lifelong station,

I first tried my hand at the dock,

But was fired when I left behind cargo,
I'd forgotten so much of the stock,
That they thought there had been an embargo,

From there I went on to construction,
Once again it was not a good mix,
While I caused no delay or destruction,
I froze after laying four bricks,

So the beggars and streets I did join,
But even then struggled all day,
For when men gave a note 'stead of coin,
I panicked and threw it away,

Just before I'd reached futility,
The council arranged me a shrink,
He studied my frail numerability,
And he solved it at once in a blink,

He said I'm a bird forced to swim,
Not broken but on the wrong mission,
At most jobs I'd look rather dim,
But could make quite a nice politician,

I told him don't be superfluous,
I knew not of the world and it's troubles,
He told me that it was a huge plus,
Some people liked living in bubbles

So I set forth to practice my smile,
And set out with a sign and some dreams,
To passers-by, I spruiked for a while,
About but a couple of themes,

One man said, "He's mad as them hatters,
He don't seem to know much at all,
He's heard the four most pressing matters,
But not of the plague nor the war,

And yet it's a calming effect,
To not be reminded of warfare,
This crazy man I could elect,
And no longer hear anything awful,"

A woman said, "I blame the news,
The tension has been palpable
We stress over too many issues,

Of that, he's wholly incapable,

He calms me down too, I must say,

I've no need of panic and prattle,

Perhaps I might let my vote sway,

And forget of the blight and the battle,"

It seemed I had finally struck gold,

Half the state loved me it's true,

Or so that is what I was told,

I could only conceive of a few,

So I rose up the ranks in quick time,

And found a position quite high,

Couldn't count all my ranks, but was told it was Prime,

This bird had now learned how to fly,

Celebrations were held, champagne popped,

I had reached the pinnacle of life,

I was exuberant, I couldn't be stopped,

But some scientists were giving me strife,

The nerds told me people were dying,

I said that I'd heard no such fate

They showed articles and were trying,
To point out some news page *ayt*,

I told them I'd speeches to make,
I'm too important for them to encumber,
Then I bid them to leave and to take...,
Away that insane, made up number,

I yelled what I felt to the crowds ,
Several points of the day, but no more,
And although the crowd stilled cheered quite loud,
Even I felt t'were less than before.

Copyright © Evan Lewis, 2021