

Bourne
toWrite...
creative writing
workshops

Out from Taganrog

by Steve Brown

'Rebellion is for serfs. I had to squeeze
the slave out of myself, drop by resisting
drop; resentment is the devil, it can
curdle milk. As a doctor, I knew well
all the metastases of deflected wish,
the sirens of self-pity. From out of
Fragments, I wrote myself to freedom,
the ironist's escape to movement,
shifting tones – always fluent,
ever-mobile, not crazed into some
fresh servitude to self, preferring
the width of empty landscapes, against
the tyranny of roads. Being almost dead,
I dreamt of trekking across Antarctica,
that promise of breathless silence,
being struck with awe, the skyline open.'