I pulled my collar up and my hat down, securing my sunglasses. The only reason I took the trip outside was because the mutt would pee at my doorstep without fail if I didn't. He was scared to go outside on his own, the little jerk. Not as scared as I was, though. The ride down the elevator with some lady. Pain. The doorman asking me how I'm doing. Agony. Smiles from strangers on the street. Unbearable. I made sure to mutter things back to [illegible]em, just loud enough to enter their [illegible]ious once I'd walked away, to mess with them. [illegible]e,' 'Better than you,' or 'Contemplating world [illegible]u,' or 'Shove off.' Sowing little seeds of [illegible]s as I walked, fostering buds of aggravation. a chuckle to see the frown as they scratched [illegible]

[illegible]you stop it?"

[illegible]t nearly knocked me down every couple yards. [illegible]g short in front of me to look up and make [illegible]till following him. Checking me out with [illegible]lopsided eyes. What an ugly dog. But then again [illegible]

[illegible]reathed in the frigid air and smelled smoke. Everyone [illegible]d a chimney on the block, pumping away to keep their [illegible]ly families from whining about the temperature. [illegible]umb, ugly fa[illegible] Putnam Park and that mangy, [illegible]ded the corner to [illegible] bolted. The smoke We rounded [illegible]a creature [illegible]ded the psychotic stupid, use[illegible]less spaz of a [illegible]ing building, and that [illegible] was comi[illegible]coming from a burning building, and that psychotic ug thou[illegible]thought it would be a good idea to run toward the e. Smart guy.