

KATHY ASHBY

Roommates

I splash my face, a warm-water ritual and look up
at eyes happy with the new day and hair wet on the edges
as though all night had been one of rapture, steaming loins and love spent
As if that ever happens
I bow my head and heed the voice from the bedroom
What-time-is-it-I'm-going-to-be-late-is-the-coffee-ready?

I flip the visor down to check my lipstick, then my hair – all still good
eyes sparkle, lips stretch wide with the recent memory of purchases
I got everything on the list but
gaze turns down when next I hear,
What-took-you-so-long-I'm-bored-did-you-get-me-anything?

After the long hike, I wash my hands of good clean dirt then chin up
my face returns a deep-dreamy peacefulness, forest-luscious, pink roses in my cheeks
remembering every solid treasure in every new path taken
My heart drops listening to,
Where-were-you-what-do-you-see-in-that-park-anyway-what's-for-dinner?

Eyes peer around the corner, surprised that feet follow and then the words just before the slam
of the door,
I'm-leaving-you-ciao-oh-and-by-the-way-I'm-taking-the-mirrors.

Kathy Ashby is the author of the book Carol 'A Woman's Way,' published by DreamCatcher NB. Kathy's poetry and stories have appeared in numerous publications such as Descant Magazine, Canadian Woman Studies Journal, and Chicken Soup for the Soul, and have been broadcast on the program Outfront on CBC Radio One.



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