

shift in public policy. We are cautiously optimistic about an upcoming workshop where we will meet with officials to discuss the details of the funding agreement. Yet, we remain mindful that the powerful are often able to exercise power without thinking because "their exercise of power carries few consequences *for them*" (Hawthorne 120). Therefore, once again, we will push the transportation needs of working poor women and their children, especially those living in rural areas, to the forefront in this discussion. Thereafter, we plan to convene another community forum and invite all of our supporters to join us in a celebration.

Local supporters are now more determined than ever to continue taking action to shape official decision-making so that it makes a contribution to a more equitable and fully human community. We believe that Transit Georgina, while far from an ideal solution to the dilemma of transportation in a rapidly developing and still mostly-rural community, is a part of an alternative development paradigm—one based on building relationships and sharing abundance—which operates in the interests of us all (see Vaughan). We also believe that, anchored in our own community and now widely recognized as legitimate champions of those who are most severely marginalized from decisions that affect all of our lives, Transit Georgina and its supporters are well positioned to continue doing this work.

*Patricia Simpson is a community development worker in her hometown of Georgina, Ontario. She has a Ph.D. in Sociology and Equity Studies from the University of Toronto.*

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## JEANETTE LYNES

### Messages

That fortress called Intensive Care –  
my mother's there. To care intensively  
is a bastion. No phones allowed. White  
sentries barricade even the voice  
of faraway daughters.

I'd like to speak of weather in quite  
an urgent way, the drag May is, here.  
The way a twister in the deep south  
sucked pictures right off the walls and  
aren't we glad we don't live *there*?

Rules are rules. I beg the nurse to bear  
a message, at least. "Ask if she recalls  
the time the elm blew down, barely  
missing the cat?" The nurse calls this  
too complicated. But it was so simple –

merely God being brogue-ish, tossing  
trees like cabers – "besides, it's a happy  
ending." "I'll tell her you said hello,"  
the nurse offers. "Please – more –  
I'm sorry for unhooking my phone

all those years, for being an aloof  
drizzle in a heartland drought."  
(I hear background pages.)  
"Why don't I just tell her you send love,  
flowers to follow?" the nurse returns.

I'd never have said it like that –  
it would worsen a mother's heart, hearing  
from a Hallmark daughter she never had.  
"You don't comprehend – *these* messages  
my mother needs: the girl is sorry, the cat,  
lucky."

*Jeanette Lynes's poetry appears earlier in this volume.*