Three Poems

Sally Cook

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An Education

One fractured hillside, houses spilling down
Both sides, in two irregular white rows
Into the center of the little town.
There, sidewalks lined two-storied shops where we
Bought trifles, cheap perfume, a pink nightgown
For someone's mother, shiny rayon; throws
For baby showers made of eiderdown,
Tin toys and teddy bears. Eternity
Is filled, I think, with all the junk we bought;
The gifts for friends and teachers. Every song
Saved up till we could buy a single sheet
Of music for it, verse and words complete,
To carol out the windows of our homes,
Much sharper and more sweet than dusty tomes.

Two Worlds

The room is small and holds a chair,
A bureau and a closet there;
A small rag rug clings to the floor.
Some room to sleep, but just one door.
Two windows open to the air,
Lush leaves entice, but a dark stair
Leads to a larger, colder place
Where you must always hide your face.

The Sun Bather

When, in the fire of the sun
You lie upon your languid spine
And, though the day has just begun,
Thick green leaves rustle, then a wing
Of flashing blue taunts you, and one
Fine sniff of air, like new May wine,
Floats from a faded horizon.

You dream, in that forget the sting
Of bee, the heat stroke that can stun,
The deadly and incessant whine
Of those so sure that you should be
Filled with incessant enmity.

about Sally Cook

A former Wilbur Fellow and five-time nominee for a Pushcart award, Sally Cook was one of two finalists in the 2013 Aldrich Press Poetry Book Award, judged by Marly Youmans. The resulting book, titled *The View From Here,* is her third.

Her poems, essays, and reviews have appeared in *Blue Unicorn*, *Chronicles*, *First Things, The Formalist Portal*, *Light Quarterly, National Review*, *Pennsylvania Review*, *Tower Journal*, *Trinacria, The University Bookman*, and many other venues, both print and electronic.

An original participant in Manhattan's Tenth Street Co-operative Galleries, Cook's work has been exhibited at many leading galleries and museums. Her paintings are represented in national collections such as the Burchfield-Penney and the N.S.D.A.R. Museum in Washington, D.C.

The Poetry Collection is proud to celebrate National Poetry Month with this publication of Sally Cook's *Three Poems*, the eighth in a series featuring the work of poets living in Buffalo.

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2011	Jorge Guitart
2012	Ross Runfola
2013	Norma Kassirer
2013	William Sylvester
2014	Robert Giannetti

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Published in an edition of 300 copies,
of which the first 50 have been numbered and
signed by the poet.

The Poetry Collection
of the University Libraries
Buffalo, NY | April 2015
library.buffalo.edu/pl

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