

## COCKROACH IN A CORNER

Climbing the walls of disappointment one more time  
for not getting liked enough,  
and continuing to put myself down hard  
is making me almost feel good again.

I'll admit I got shook up big time today, but it seems  
I will manage after all,  
even though I did crawl under a rug  
like a frightened cockroach seeking cover fast.

Right now, and full of bravado, I'm rolling on the floor,  
content with how the day is going  
as I'm seeing myself  
hiding in a corner, uncontrollably laughing.

## PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT THE GOLDEN HOUR

A woman views the armchair by the window.  
She takes a picture and sits down to read.

A low sunlight gently suffuses the scene.  
A book at arm's length sits on a small table,  
but the woman looks up and out the window.

A flower longingly bends west and sunwards.  
Suspended in time, a golden hour deepens.

As time goes by, the woman remembers  
the empty armchair, a book, a table, a flower.  
The photograph glows, enchants, endures.

## EXTENDING MY HAND THIS MORNING

What we don't quite understand today,  
we may catch up with another day,

and whatever we don't want to know  
can wait till tomorrow, or a year or so,

but whatever we're up to doing now,  
we're always doing now, right now.

I'm awake, intent on speaking from my heart.  
How many of us want that too, from our hearts?

I'm going to extend my hand today. I'll do it,  
and if I can't, go back to sleep and sleep on it,

the hand that is...

## LOOKING AT OLD PICTURES

As these old pictures age  
and slowly fade away,

so will over time  
so many half-remembered memories,

and yet, right now  
I'm being pulled into the past,

and who can tell  
why all those half-forgotten people

come alive with piercing, ageless eyes  
across the years,

as if these very images  
were captured only yesterday?

## ONE DEEP MOMENT OF REGRET

To My Late Mom on Her 115th Birthday

Long-lingering barriers  
came suddenly down  
in one deep moment of regret,  
revealing all your love,  
forgiveness  
and more love  
so calmly beaming  
from your heart at mine

12-29-20