

# 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 Runfolo
2013	Norma Kassirer
2013	William Sylvester
2014	Robert Giannetti

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