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## Two Poems by Maureen Hynes

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## Everything's Hunky-Dory: Two Poems

### bedside table

after Eve Joseph's "The poet keeps a jar..."  
in *Quarrels*

I keep a silver pillbox of ampersands  
in its drawer & on sleepless  
nights I take a few to reconnect

me with my dreams & to counter-  
act the question marks  
I swallowed all day

the ampersands are so smooth  
& curlicued & much more genteel  
than the pragmatic plus sign

they have been a bit lonely  
ever since being lopped  
off the end of the alphabet

so they are glad to be of service  
in reuniting us with our wishes  
unbidden fantasies dead

relatives & even our worst  
horrors which we can sometimes  
wake up from

I take the professional grade  
they are a bit pliable & elastic  
they can be chewed their effect

stretched out for a whole night  
of uninterrupted oddities hidden  
yearnings surprising reunions

## Everything's Hunky-Dory

after Harryette Mullen's "Jinglejangle"  
in *Sleeping with the Dictionary*

Luckily I have a lot of highbrow  
knick-knacks. A hurdy-gurdy  
& a shipshape buzzsaw. Quicksilver  
shoeshine & flim-flam pyjamas,  
all kinda loosey-goosey.  
Tick-tocks for the stock pot.  
A crackerjack and flip-flops  
that go clip-clop if you jazz up  
the soles with some klunky  
razzmatazz doo-dads. Streams & streams  
of sticky tickertape picked up off the wet  
streetscape after a rainy parade  
to celebrate the wicked war's end, or  
after the snowstorm when the dream team  
was elected, but ding-dong, now  
they're dead. A bright whirly jukebox  
that plays a lot of artsy-fartsy claptrap,  
but one treasure is the old cassette  
of Brendan Behan singing  
*Jingle jangle goes the ould triangle –*  
his party piece. And mine.  
A chock-a-block collection that just  
*looks* higgledy-piggledy but melts  
the hearts of the hoity-toity & tickles

the toes of the whippersnappers  
& the pipsqueaks. What good fortune.

**MAUREEN HYNES** is the author of seven books, five of which are poetry. Her latest collection is *Sotto Voce* (fall, 2019), which was shortlisted for the League of Canadian Poets' Pat Lowther Award and the Golden Crown Literary Awards (U.S.). Maureen's first book of poetry, *Rough Skin*, won the League's Lampert Award, and her 2016 collection, *The Poison Colour*, was shortlisted for both the Lowther and Souster Awards. Maureen's poetry has been included in over 25 anthologies, including twice in *Best Canadian Poems in English*, and in *Best of the Best Canadian Poetry*, 2017. Maureen is poetry editor for *Our Times* magazine.

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