

NOSTALGIA by Jeffrey Mackie

Like you, I yearn for a world
Old fashioned, Homemade
All Natural:

The Greenbelt Field,
The frozen pond
Sunday closings, Rotary phones
Smythe and Adams Divisions
Sit down family dinners.

Now that nothing is good
Everything unreal, inauthentic
We want to bring it all back,
Without preservatives.

We are built to complain
No one playing in the fields,
Or on the rinks.
No one in the libraries
Too captivated by television
By the internet.
What is the solution?
A three channel black and white universe,
Recording songs on cassette recorders,
Off the Radio Top 40?
Shut down Google and
Buy a set of encyclopedias?

We are destined to irony:
Brand Name: Authentic
Careful what you wish for
Careful what you want.
What you wait for,
The dial tone,
On the rotary phone.
There is no Facebook link
On my Smith-Corona

Disney Sundays (I miss them)
And The Beachcombers
Bathed and in your pajamas
Supper on TV trays.
A steady click on your alarm clock
Or the numbers unfolding, digital,
Transistor radio.

Somebody is playing solitaire
At the cottage.
Suburban silence and the steady thump
Of a tennis ball on a garage door

In a towel and a housecoat
I am playing a shepherd
In a Christmas play.

Remember that feeling
When it tasted like blood in your mouth
When your body got slammed against the boards
A life of moments
Deep thoughts and bad jokes
Bad jobs
I am here.

We were talking just the other day
K-Mart, Miracle Mart, Dominion
Is it so bad to remember
Material objects and pop culture?

Now everyone is looking out a window
Looking out for themselves.
In a box
You have letters, Love Letters
Birthday Cards, Letters to Santa

Arena is now a Sports Centre
Named after someone famous
Who came from the area.

Apparently there is nothing you can do that can't be done
Apparently there is nothing you can say that can't be said
Apparently there is nothing you can do
Apparently you can learn how to play the game
It's easy
Apparently all you need.

Jeffrey Mackie is a poet living in Montreal, Canada, he does a regular literary program on CKUT radio in Montreal. He has been published widely and his poetry has been used in academic courses and also translated in Croatia.