

Poetry from the Salesfloor

THIS ISN'T ONE OF THOSE fancy-pantsy magazines, and usually, old AC/DC lyrics are the most highfalutin verses we traffic in. This year, however, in celebration of National Poetry Month, INSTORE presents four masterworks, slightly altered. (April is the cruellest month, so don't say we didn't warn you.) — JOSH WIMMER



THE CUSTOMER NOT WAITED ON

Two customers diverged as they walked through my door,
And sorry I could not wait on both
And be one salesperson (for I was alone in the store),
I looked them over as they crossed the floor,
And one was poorly dressed, with a hairy growth;

So I waited on the other, who was young and fair,
With bright blue eyes and a pretty smile;
She was getting married and needed something to wear —
Though as it turned out, she was just looking to compare:
Her fiancé had already bought a stone on Blue Nile.

But by the time she'd said so, it was too late —
The poorly dressed woman had left while we yakked,
And called my boss that night to complain about the wait.
It turned out her family owned a rather wealthy estate,
And she said that she would never come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
At my next job, in an effort not to be so dense:
Two customers came into my store, and I —
I ignored one because she didn't please my eye,
And that has made all the difference.

THE FEDEX GUY

so much depends
upon

the FedEx
guy

delivering this
ring

before the bride
starts crying.



HOPE IS THE THING WITH DIAMONDS

Hope is the thing with diamonds
When a husband comes into your store,
And says he forgot his anniversary,
And is going to get what-for,

Unless you can show him the perfect gift;
And he doesn't care what the cost —
Just tell his wife he ordered it last month,
And that somehow, it got lost.



A PURCHASE DEFERRED

What happens to a purchase deferred?

Does it turn all green
like a piece of moldy cheese?
Or get lost track of
like a set of car keys?
Does it go out of style?
Or just sit in the safe
for a long, long while?

If the guy couldn't afford it,
why didn't he just buy a CZ?

Man, why can't anything be easy?