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## Books

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*College of DuPage*

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# Books

*by Roberta Stewart*

Multiplying on shelves in stores  
breeding like rabbits  
populating a world of ideas  
waiting to be picked up read forgotten  
replaced by a shiny new spine

with bright letters and a catchy title  
one that tells you

how to do it

where to go

what happened

draws you into its pages in fantasy  
come hither fingers and enveloping embrace  
reach out from between the covers  
seductive

they find their way into my arms  
with promises of excitement

intrigue

escape

information

and set down before the gatekeeper  
ka-ching  
extracts a price and

my plastic lays down in compliance  
    pinched by strangers' hands  
    run roughshod through plates  
    its soul read in a second's scan  
books in a bag  
heavy with promise  
swing at my side  
brushing my thigh  
it is the last  
they'll beckon from a new home  
    congregate on new shelves  
    spines lined up  
    fade seduction into a blur of colors  
brief infatuations  
left longing for a finger's caress  
now fortify each other  
pages yellowed  
squirreled away concubines  
they hold their promise of a rainy day  
that never seems to come

