

Hypocrisy

When the hated liberty bodice

started unravelling

or Easter bonnet time

came around

Mum and Nana

took me and my sister

on a bus trip

to Wishaw

where two old sisters

had two wee shops

with everything

a mammy could want

for her weans

they were like

Jack Spratt and his wife

Miss Chalmers pleasantly rounded

with her soft white perm

her sister Miss Redfern

all bony and thin

she sold the bonnets

delicious confections
of white straw
with teeny fake flowers
wee daffs and primroses and violets
we couldn't wait
for Sunday Mass
to show off
our new Spring coats
preening as we sashayed
down the aisle
just like adult worshippers
blessing the poor of the parish
with their latest fashions
look what I've got
and you haven't
as they piously
genuflect
before a statue
of the homeless mother
who gave birth in a stable.

40 lines

