

Three Poems

Sally Dawidoff

Alison Torres

—If we fill our heads
with flowers, we'll dream
of nothing but flowers. Say
flowers.

—*Flowers*, I said.
Past lights-out. My mom
& her dad in the kitchen,
her mom & my dad
in the nuthouse.

—*Flowers*.

—*A carpet of flowers*.

—*Dandelions!*

—*Shhh*.

—*Dandelions*.

—*Cornflowers*.

—*Clover*.

—*Clover*—

—*Clover blossoms*.

—*Violets*.

—*Bluebells*.

—*Buttercups*.

—*Miles of buttercups*.

—*And miles. . .*

—*Miles. . .*

—*Pretty. . .*

—*Butter*—

—*And of*—

Mad Libs

When I was a young _____ but old enough to _____
NOUN VERB

the bus to New York City, my father would pick me up at _____
NOUN

Authority. We'd go to _____ King and buy _____ and
NOUN FOOD, PLURAL

walk around Times Square eating them. I liked the billboards, especially the gigantic

Right Guard can spraying deodorant into the air. One time, we were waiting to

_____ 42nd Street, and he _____ me on the mouth. I
VERB VERB, PAST TENSE

stepped backwards off the curb (no _____ in the gutter, phew!). Dad
GROSS NOUN

got _____. "You act like I'm trying to _____ you!" he
ADJECTIVE VERB

sputtered. I'm easily startled, which makes people think I'm afraid of them. We went

to his apartment—he was going to broil chicken _____—but I left and
BODY PART, PLURAL

counted the _____ city blocks back to the bus station. In that whole
NUMBER

entire city, there was never a witness to us. One person to say, "
PRONOUN

_____."
VERB PRONOUN ADVERB

Madrigal

I have a lesson with the choirmaster; I just
Have to catch him first. ("Him": my father.)

In a rental car at Foster and Willow, he guffaws,
Seeing I'm winded. He takes off.

I run like a girl. *Weepe, weepe, myne eyen.*
I care not! In my tinny soprano,

I call to my love, who loves me still—*My hart*
Can take no reste! Myne eyen shall ne'er be blest.

I call to my love, who cares not.
Hall-Benedict Drug on Linden Street—

He loiters by the magazines (my father).
Hefts an ancient axe and splits my skull. Cruell

Wynde, what do I care? I'll sing my heart out.