

TAKE HEART

A Conversation in Poetry

*Edited & Introduced by Wesley McNair,
Maine Poet Laureate*

Today's poem for Valentine's week comes from *The Next Hunger*, a new poetry collection by Kimberly Green of Kittery Point.

What Now, Praying?

by Kimberly Cloutier Green

Heart, you softy, you sap--you're getting fat,
breaking into dumbfounded tears in your sleep
and waking bedazzled by ordinary light,
the old cat in a heap of dreams beside you.

There was a time I hardly knew you
were there--thin as air!--
cool customer, smart answer.

Now you babble like a fool,
you're a thief in my throat--
I can't tell anymore where joy gives way
to grief and grief to joy.

Sack in my chest, common store of wishbones,
see how you greet the day?
Leaving the house in slippers?
Opening wider as if you could bear more?

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