

TAKE HEART

A Conversation in Poetry

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

Marcia Brown, Portland's poet laureate, creates such drama in her description of the birds she and her husband discover, we miss for a moment that her poem for Valentine's week is about the two of them as well.

Valentines

by Marcia F. Brown

Flame in the snow-bowed lilac tree,
flare of yellow beak, coal nugget eye —
I want to call you jubilantly
and I do — Come, quickly — Look!
And you do, and there we are
at the kitchen window, my hands
damp above the suds, you
in your storm coat, halfway out the door
to shovel a foot of new snow. Both of us
suddenly blissful and buoyed
by this eruption of red
in the flocked and frosted
wedding cake of our yard. Now
he is joined by the muted rose
of his mate. If they had something to do,
it seems to be right here, poised
between frozen buds, the storm
moving out to sea, an unexpected sunset
lighting the trees like glass, tinting
the long field coral. Startling too,
how together, they unfold like paper hearts
and are gone.

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