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## Two Poems

by Denise Sandra Kenny

### Cabbagetown, Toronto, Ontario 1957

After the honeymoon  
I followed him  
to Cabbagetown.  
He lived with his parents  
at number 10 Clark Street  
behind a butcher shop  
where rats fed on offal  
from overflowing bins.  
It was small, the house, rotting  
from the inside, filled  
with faded 1930s furniture;  
we had his boyhood bedroom,  
his mattress steeped  
in adolescent sweat.  
His mother loved me, let me use  
her rusted washer which chewed  
and spat my lingerie;  
I remembered how it looked  
placed on my bed a month before  
when friends and family gathered  
for my trousseau tea.  
I helped his mother cook,  
made up our bed with pristine sheets,  
new pillows; did the things  
my mother taught me.  
I thought of home;  
clean, familiar –  
my parents disappointed  
with my choice.  
We worked, had little money,  
stayed at number 10  
until we found a flat  
we could afford.  
I was 18. He was 20.  
We should not have married  
in 1957 or any other year.

### Dream Babies

The telephone interrupts my reverie.  
York University calls from Toronto.  
A survey, they say, of Kingston's Public Health.  
As if I know anything  
*about pregnancy*  
*and fetal alcohol syndrome; as if a baby*  
*ever sucked my breast, or a fetus fluttered*

*in my body for more than two expectant weeks.*

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Canadian writer, poet and former newspaper publisher **Denise Sandra Kenny** has been fascinated by words since childhood. Encouraged in 1979 by renowned playwright John Herbert, Denise has spent the last three decades honing her craft. Her work appears most recently in the anthology *Art's Buoyant Felicity* (Evolutionary Girls Publishing, 2010).

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