

ALL THE COMFORTS OF HOME

Front door lock knows my key
fumbling in the shadows
Red bench at the entrance invites me
to sit take off my shoes
Hanger welcomes my coat
Others shuffle over to make room
for their enviable outgoing friend

Coffee cups vie for their turn in rotation
second-shelf camaraderie near the kettle
soup pot hungry for onions and garlic
My journal rolls over with yearning
when I walk by its bed in the kitchen

African quilt on wall catches my eye
like meeting a pal on a park bench
Upstairs or downstairs
books in piles jostle for attention
Framed photographs contend
one with another, to show and tell

Trees out back wave greetings
sing with cardinals, coo with doves
Balcony gathers my restlessness
setting me down with mug and book

Ellen B. Ryan