

# Unsuitable Things

Lipstick the colour of Hawaiian Fire,  
Field notes and kinship charts thrown on a pyre,  
Being in church when a telephone rings —  
These are a few most unsuitable things.

Ministry windows with different pigeons,  
'Swimming the Tiber' and changing religions,  
Respect and esteem without throbbing heartstrings —  
These are a few most unsuitable things.

Judgment Day sermons with obscure quotations,  
Curates exposing their long combinations  
Or having fiancées off in the wings,  
These are a few most unsuitable things.

When the sponge falls, when the tea's weak,  
When you're feeling sad,  
Just reach for a novel by Barbara Pym,  
And then you won't feel so bad!

Jesuits, woodworm, and bird domination,  
Garden fêtes spoilt by precipitation,  
Husbands debating adulterous flings —  
These are a few most unsuitable things.

Fabergé eggs pinched by clergy housekeepers,  
Cauliflow'r cheese hiding little green creepers,  
Leaving the house without hat or stockings —  
These are a few most unsuitable things.

Spinsters with crushes on celibate vicars,  
Expecting warmth when one wears cotton knickers,  
Women aged thirty without wedding rings —  
These are a few most unsuitable things.

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When you're feeling sad,  
Just reach for a novel by Barbara Pym,  
And then you won't feel so bad!