

THE MYSTERY OF PUT-POCKET POETRY



A LEGENDARY PUT POCKET

about clowning as the art of turning things upside down and inside out. And what better to turn inside out than a pocket?

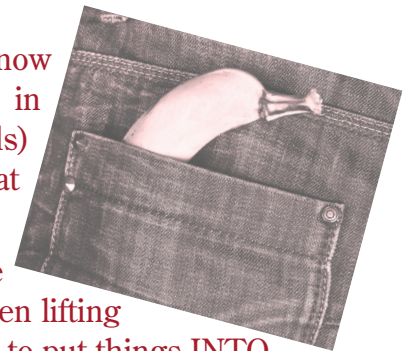
Of course, we all know the tradition of pick pockets. From Old London in the days of *Oliver Twist* to Turk & Hyde in Tenderloin days, pick pockets have been lifting everything from wallets to handkerchiefs, but Oscar wanted to teach Kay how to put things INTO people's pockets.

Well, one thing led to another, first little slips of paper and then pens and pencils until the ultimate put-pocket feat: a banana in some unsuspecting soul's back pocket. You are surprised, aren't you?!?!? How could someone be so distracted that they don't notice a slip of paper slipping into their pocket?!?!?

Well, the answer, my friend, is poetry. Yes, poetry. Poetry slips into a pocket as gently and calmly as it slips into one's heart and mind. Poetry comes to us in times of need, bringing courage, joy, insight, comfort, and even surprise. Poetry is the all-purpose combination of words and spaces and rhymes and synecopation that brings us closer to ourselves and our neighbors.

Every year when April rolls 'round, we remember the joys of poetry. We take poetry wherever we can, although none of us is as adept at the art of Putting Poetry in the Pockets or Hearts of Fools as Oscar, the clown, or Kay, founding Fool, but we do try.

Psst, don't look now, a poem is coming your way . . .



THE LOST THOUGHT

By Emily Dickinson

I felt a clearing in my mind
As if my mind had split;
I tried to match it, seam by seam,
But could not make them fit.
The thought behind I strove to join
Unto the thought before,
But sequence ravelled out of reach
Like balls upon the floor.