

FROM MEMORY'S WARDROBE  
poems by Philippa Lawrence  
48pp Buff Press 2009 ISBN 978-0-9560658-1-0

*"I'm delighted that a writing suggestion of mine should have sparked off this splendid response. Philippa's poetic wardrobe is richly stocked with natty numbers – the poems are warm and witty and sometimes slightly unnerving as well."*

*Kit Wright*

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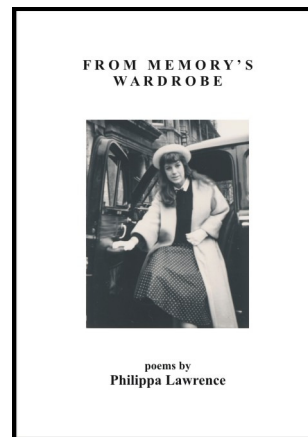
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## THE CASHMERE JUMPER

My memory nestles up  
to a classic sage-green cashmere jumper  
from better days, pre-War –  
twenty seven and sixpence from Harrods –  
matted, neck and wrists stretched,  
sleeves baggy and creased  
after tight rolling up to hide  
the unmendable holes in the elbows  
and keep cuffs out of the stew pot.  
The silk-fine wool smelt faintly of cooking  
and Elizabeth Arden face powder.

Before decay took hold  
the jumper clung to my mother's  
Margaret Lockwood bosom,  
brushed by the dark hair  
I loved to tangle my fingers in –  
a cuddlesome baby's pillow.  
Later it sagged loose; felted,  
all elasticity washed away;  
a grey bloom over the clear colour.

Those comforting cashmere Downs  
will always be a gentle presence  
in my memory's wardrobe  
though the jumper  
and my mother's youthful  
kitten softness and kindness  
are long gone; recollections  
of my first four years.

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