
POETRY | FALL 2015

Acoustic Tiles

By Carol Smallwood

Doctor visits are lying on tables looking at ceiling tiles,
looking down on tile floors while weighed on scales
all the time thinking you'd like to be visiting the British Isles,
picturing extravagant meals in the garden of Versailles.

Looking down on tile floors while weighed on scales
you count the white flecks in one of the beige squares
picturing extravagant meals in the garden of Versailles
and what life must be like for a charge d'affaires.

You count the white flecks in one of the beige squares;
do you have time to count them all—
and what life must be like for a charge d'affaires
to not wonder what made a dent in the white wall.

Do you have time to count them all
while not looking at the long scissors on tables?
To not wonder what made a dent in the white wall
you try to guess how many others thought of fables.

While not looking at the long scissors on tables
waiting for the doctor to walk through the door
you try to guess how many others thought of fables
any other thing to take you away, make your soar

waiting for the doctor to walk through the door.
All the time thinking you'd like to be visiting the British Isles,
any other thing to take you away, make your soar.
Doctor visits are lying on tables looking at ceiling tiles.

Carol Smallwood's most recent books include *Divining the Prime Meridian* (WordTech Communications, 2015); *Women, Work, and the Web* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2015); *Writing After Retirement* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2014); *Water, Earth, Air, Fire, and Picket Fences* (Lamar University Press, 2014). Carol has founded and supports humane societies.