

SHARON SCHOLL

At Alonzo's

Alonzo's Country Store leans
its wooden bones
on a handy horse trough.

Loose screens flap as white chickens
chatter through. The door sighs
on its hinges as I enter.

The floor has buckled downward
with the weight of generations,
a decay so gentle one could not

forecast the point of ultimate collapse.
I pick my way instinctively
past rusting sleds, old Christmas

ornaments, a yellow-edged brides' book,
down the row of hoes and lanterns.
I have only come to be here,

to recognize, finger and exclaim
over all the things I used to have
and threw away.

Alonzo knows, of course,
and sucks his teeth impatiently
as he tracks me through the maze.

Eventually, I'll buy something,
not to use, but to remind me
who I was and how far I've drifted.



ABOUT SHARON SCHOLL

Sharon Scholl is the author of *All Points Bulletin* (Closet Books 2004) and *Message on a Branch* (Yellow Jacket Press 2007). Recent work of hers has appeared in *Third Wednesday* and *Mason's Road*. She earned a PhD in music from Florida State University and is now retired from a long career as a professor of humanities at Jacksonville University. She organizes A Gathering of Poets, a group for poets in northeastern Florida, and she team-teaches a seminar each year at the Florida Heritage Bookfest. She has posted readings of some of her poems at soundcloud.com/sylaphant and makes her musical scores available for free downloading at *Songs for the Spirit* (www.freeprintmusic.com).

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