



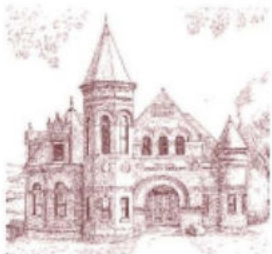
**If I love you
(2009, revised 2024)**

If I love you any more
my heart would
become
flannel pajamas
folded neatly in your dresser drawer

a bus on time in bad weather
an elevator as fast as your haste
a fish in the ocean
madly evolving
so it could speak your name

my heart would become
car keys always
in the first place you look
socks that pair themselves
and
a line on your palm
foretelling long and
fortunate life

**Margaret Lark Russell
Pike, NH**



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