Change Of Venue

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I've just been shopping in the wrong kind of store

Those shining places with background music

And well-planned gourmet shops with English tea

Their fruits and vegetables sheltered in cellophane

Hygienic, well managed, the most for your money

But no time for people and nothing quite real.

Have you ever shopped in a really old store

With smells of cheese and barrels of things

Not restored for tourists as a holiday place

I mean the kind that has bumpy floors

And people with aprons and time to talk

Where old women gather as they have for years.

I think I'll try to find one again

And take my time and weigh things out

And maybe some shopper will come along

Inhaling and thinking and reaching out

For the very same things that I'm reaching for

For food, or laughter and an answering gleam

ANITA CHIRCO