

Blue Princess

it was a sixteenth birthday present
from her mother and father
I remember wantin' to rush to install it
and get outta there before she came home
from school so she'd be surprised
on her birthday
so I'm backin outta their driveway
when Mrs. Berard runs to the door and yells
President Kennedy was just shot!
and I was on my way to Moran's house
to install a jack in the upstairs bedroom
spent the next three hours there watchin TV
when I got back nobody said a thing
about me spendin all day on
one princess
and a jack

Wirring Point Judith

I was loaned to the line gang
and all winter in the bitter cold
we ran cable
ran one hundred pair two miles
hands freezin workin in gloves with no fingers
I climbed every third pole on Point Judith Road
and down the Escape Road
to the water at Great Island
another crew took it from there
laid it underwater
I remember lunch at
George's of Galleie
how the heat slammed you first
how good that felt
then the chowder

A Limit To Service

I'm
why do you want me to take my shoes off?
even in my own house
I don't take off my shoes
besides they're clean
and I'm just doing your inside repair
I won't be dragging dirt in so
no I can't take off my shoes
I'll call my boss
have him send somebody else out
to do the job
the new guy
might take off his shoes

Class Education

I ring the doorbell
telephone man I say
she opens the door a crack
you can't come in here
I can't let you in the front door
there's a door around the back
now be a nice man and walk around
go in the back way
what will the neighbors think
seeing a tradesman come in my front door?

Please recycle to a friend.

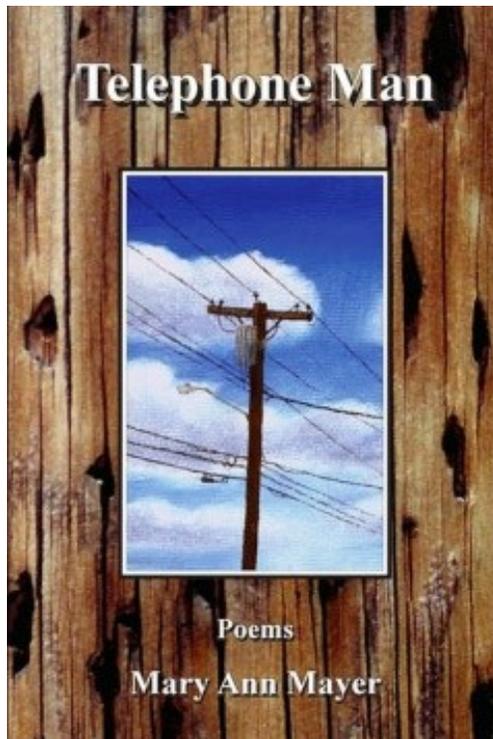
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Origami Poetry Project

Telephone Man
By Mary Ann Mayer 2010



Excerpted from the book
Telephone Man by Mary Ann Mayer (2005)

Dedicated to my father, Bob Maitland,
whose stories these are.

Forty years in the Blackstone Valley
over the road, up the poles,
repairing broken connections, and
showing us,

What bounty of humor & humanity in the daily grind!

Somthin for Nothin

everybody's got a phone
everybody wants somethin for nothin
so when you're a phone man
everybody's always asking
got any rolls of tape Bob?
got an extra phone?
got a longer cord?
got a shorter cord?
got a black cord?
got a white cord?
how 'bout off-white?
got a wallplate? got an extra jack?
got a little time on the weekend
to help me put it in?
that's not a lot of work is it Bob?
hey what else you got on the truck?
it ain't like stealin'
it's a big company, right?