

William Aiken

PEOPLE DON'T KNOW

In the supermarket I was beaten to the last cabbage
and slow to get my change out in the checkout lane.
Voices were raised when I tried to parallel park.
The doctor insisted I go back for the specimen.

There was gum on the park bench where I like to sit.
My children are very busy in the city.
The phone rings and asks for the man of the house.
The postman leaves brochures of lovely clothes.

I have put a little rouge on today
and will have a sandwich and soup at the Subway deli.
Albert used to come home with balloons.
People don't know it is my birthday.