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Hugs and Kisses

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Vicki Dykman *Hugs and Kisses*

Little people who come for visits
arrive full of love and kisses.
They bring their mouths that never quit
their constant jabbering that seems to
eclipse all the empty quiet cold spaces,
brightening dark corners with exuberant faces.

Years it took to adjust to childless quiet,
now once again the halls resound with their riot.
Fingerprint whorls besmudge all the tables.
Porcelain's sheen drowns beneath toothpaste dribbles.
Toys multiply like the habits of rabbits
cluttering every single spare space on the carpets.

The house is alive with the bustling busyness
that more than makes up for its previous idleness.
Don't get me wrong; I'm not complaining.
But once they go home I set forth reclaiming
the neatness in all the nooks and recesses
and all I recall are the hugs and the kisses.