

My Bookcase – By Ronan Swift

Looking at the stack of books that rest in peace upon my ⁽¹⁾ _____,
Whispering their messages back to me.
Bible stories, magic legends, fables of auld Aesop,
Fairy tales of intrigue and mystery to me.

The mighty lord Jehovah put old ⁽²⁾ _____, to the test –
He made him sacrifice his one and only son.
Broken-hearted Abraham put wee ⁽³⁾ _____, on the plinth and
Through his tears moaned “God’s will must be done.”
The dagger glistened, God had mercy and stayed his servant’s hand.

I hope I’ve got the faith it takes to face the tricky tests life throws upon my way
And beat them day-to-day.

Then in school the greats, the heavyweights of English letters
Found their way to life upon my shelf.
The greatest ⁽⁴⁾ _____, of a lad named Philip Pirrip
Changed the way I looked upon myself.
Soon we learned that manners and not money make the man.

I hope I’ve got the grace it takes to place these lessons in my life and if I can,
To be some sort of gentleman.

⁽⁵⁾ _____ Shelley, Scott Fitzgerald never saw old age –
I hope I live long enough to read the stuff you scribbled down there
Word by word, line by line, page by page.

When Laurie Lee walked out one midsummer ⁽⁶⁾ _____
With a fiddle and a bow upon his back;
He walked to ⁽⁷⁾ _____, sailed to ⁽⁸⁾ _____, fell in love with being young and free
And with life upon the dusty track.
Sickly civil war came stealing ending Laurie’s trek-

I hope I’ve got the guts to drop the books and venture off into some foreign land
With just my ukulele in my hand.

When Primo Levi wandered home he set about the task of
Writing down everything he’d seen.
With scientific beauty his words describe life behind the ⁽⁹⁾ _____
Of the Nazi Party’s death machine,
He wonders why some folk are drowned and some, like him, are saved.

I hope I’ve got the trust from dawn to dusk to keep Henry James’ words in my mind:
Be ⁽¹⁰⁾ _____, be ⁽¹¹⁾ _____, be ⁽¹²⁾ _____.

Dylan Thomas, Brendan Behan never saw old age –
I hope that I live long enough to read the stuff you scribbled down there
Word by word, line by line, page by page.

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Whispering their messages back to me.

