

It Doesn't Fit

by Anthony Carnovale, Nell Gallagher, and Clare McCarthy

In the beginning, she thinks of packing a suitcase. In the beginning, she thinks.
She thinks:

Check passport: Check.
Cash: Check.
Traveller's cheques: Check.
Orangeville Banner. *365 Pigs Killed in Truck Rollover*: Check.
One for every day of the.
Calendar. Check.

One last trip. Don't forget shoelaces.

Make-up. Fiction. Joy Williams' *The Visiting Privilege*.

In the beginning, she thinks of packing a suitcase. She thinks:

Shorts. Tall order. Thinking of varicose veins makes her feel vain.
Pants. She's thirsty.
Wine. It's too strong.
Champagne. Advil.

In the beginning, she thinks of packing a suitcase.

Sundress. Sunscreen. Sunblock. Sunglasses. Why bother?
That's what he used to say.

Eye shadow. Foundations. Building from the bottoms up. Another drink.
Another toast. Don't forget the pork roast.

Perhaps a bit of poetry.

A brief stay. That's what they called it. Tagline: Your community. Your home.

The phone rings. I thee wed. Meds. Where did he keep them?

She doesn't answer. The question is: Who are we to judge the meaning of.
Don't forget the.

Mother always said, "Only pack what you need." Dough needs to rest before.
Roast.

She thinks: Don't pack what you can't throw away. 3 lbs. at 20 minutes per. Don't forget to feed the cat. 9 Canadian dollars equals? At any rate, she was running out of time. Arrive two hours before departure.

She misses him. Songs. Music. Headphones. Dial-a-Cab. Age. It's only a number. He hated cabbage, anyway. Plenty of leftovers, I guess. I think.

In the beginning, she thinks of packing a suitcase.

In the beginning, new beginnings were a thing. She thinks she may have been naïve. If circumstances had only been. Empty compost.

She thinks about packing a suitcase. Thinks about thinking about packing a suitcase.

Get there early. Earl Grey tea. UV protection. SBF 30. Sugar cubes. Honey. Be there for, how long?

Until the end.

Until death do us part. One thing was for certain. Don't forget the roast.

In the beginning she begged. Just in case. It doesn't suit you. She thought about packing it in. Going with him. Just one more song. His turn to beg.

He never came back.

In the beginning the end seemed so far away. From here on in, she will never take beginnings for granted again.

In the beginning, she thought of packing a suitcase. In the end, she decided it just wasn't worth it.