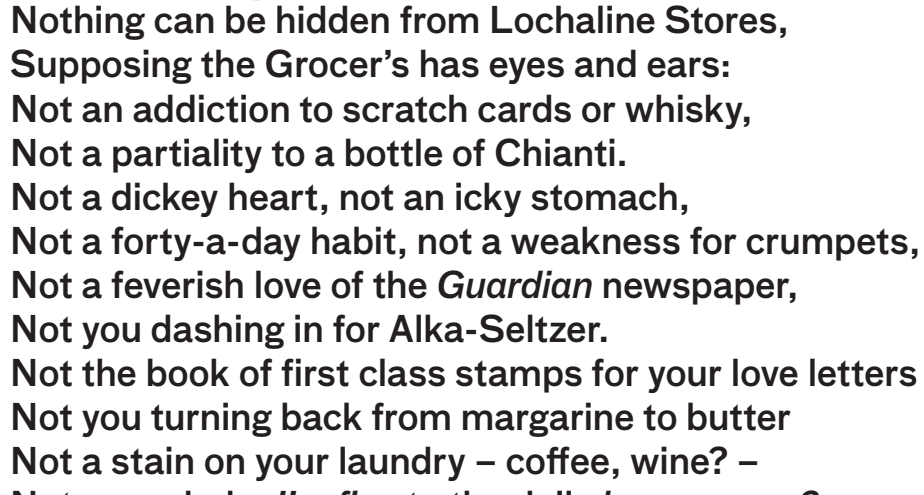


Nothing can be hidden from Lochaline Stores,
Supposing the Grocer's has eyes and ears:
Not an addiction to scratch cards or whisky,
Not a partiality to a bottle of Chianti.
Not a dicky heart, not an icky stomach,
Not a forty-a-day habit, not a weakness for crumpets,
Not a feverish love of the *Guardian* newspaper,
Not you dashing in for Alka-Seltzer.
Not the book of first class stamps for your love letters
Not you turning back from margarine to butter
Not a stain on your laundry – coffee, wine? –
Not your shaky *I'm fine* to the daily *how are you?*



EVN OPEN EVN OPEN

Jackie Kay, from 'Lochaline Stores'

in *The Empathetic Store* (Mariscat Press, 2015), by permission of the poet and publisher

National Poetry Day in Scotland
Thursday 6 October 2016
poems about messages

8 printable poem posters and
learning resources at
scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk

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