

Sample Poems from

## *Reverse Fairy Tale*

by Linda Goodman Robiner

### **DIVORCE**

In my dreams I'd been leaving for years.  
I dreamed of a house with rooms unexplored,  
saw the word "promise" in lights. Asleep,  
I twirled around my girlhood lawn, danced  
through sprinkler spray, singing *I get pleasure  
from the bones in my body*. Like an amoeba,  
I stretched into new shapes, testing preconceived  
margins. Alone at last, I'm reacquainting myself  
with my inner furnishings. We were estranged  
a long time. I'm moving pictures around  
to suit myself, finally settling into my own place,  
my own collection of quirks and illuminations.

### **MUSTER**

Chatting and joking when we met  
he stood to see if he was tall enough  
to take me to the movies. His eyes

spanned my waist, noting whether  
I was slim enough. I should have  
stopped him then, stopped him

from staring at my breasts in apricot  
cashmere. Instead I completed  
the trials like a Round Table knight.

I should have asked him  
what he thought about power. And  
would he honor me all of our days?

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