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Deirdre

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Deirdre

The pup romped through the roses to greet her,
old blue slippers in its teeth,
its bark and her laughing
etching the moment
in memory:

 car at the curb,
mimosa tree,
 her sister
behind her
peeling a tangerine....

 But it doesn't keep:
Pups chew up hoses, get hit by cars;
children buy dresses and bathing suits
 and worms
spin mimosas into clouds of pink bramble

like the dreams
that daughters seek
from others: lovers,
 teachers,
 friends,

while fathers like me
bend beneath pictures
they can never quite hold
—or set free.

-Bob Stout