

# Studio One

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## Deirdre

Bob Stout

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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