

Reesa's Tome

Reesa's off to tackle the University
& already too grown up she is
with her own splendid apartment
ongoing big-sister responsibilities
très-bulging social life
& wind-and-sun, Southwest-Florida *style*

But I've know you since less-than-two
your mother splashed you down
at the end of a hot gleaming tub
--surprising you as much as me--
& which suddenly became
just a speck
as your beguiling brown eyes
stared back at me gawking at you

& I got to watch you grow
while you galloped off to kindergarten
broke us all walking for charity
made a pile selling walnuts on Lombardi at ten
while your Dad & I roofed
shattered your arm rollerskating
or danced with me in the well-sanded kitchen
to Paul Simon's, " You can call me Al. "

& now look at you
graceful & tall
with big city looks
& a gorgeous intelligence
outgoing Senior Class President
still with a small town sense of wonder
& always a "can do" attitude

& since your Uncle Chris is late
(& busy, always so busy)
congratulating you

& because your lofty deeds
merit a
exuberant reply
I suppose I shall have to write a poem;
not some ragged missive, like this,
busy & bedraggled & bewildering
with no clear-cut summit
rather A Tome
a chronicle of achievement
that documents the woman you've quickly become
something marvelous!
perhaps to pass on some advice
about life & growing up
because I believe I know something about that

Until I realize with surprise that I don't have to write a poem
because you already are one
& I can just point to you & say, "Look at her"
& then I remember there's not a lot to pass on about life
except that
It turns out just the way it does, every time
& you could float around your life like a petal
lazily flipping in the warm summer breeze
or you could spring out in full bloom
like the monarch you really are
beating above us
watching us laboring
at tasks you find so elementary

So that I can sit back & point to you & say
"She may have learned that from me"
or mumble just about anything else that might make any sense to anyone
or not
& because people know you know me
will believe more in me, too.