

Prayer for a Grandchild

Marilyn Bushman-Carlton

for Holden at two

Let bells come
 from porches and throats
of brown cows,

and whistles be
 handmade from weeds.
Let shock be

from stands of mint
 in a ditch, and pansies
bearded with ice.

Let him find
 four-leaf clovers,
his name in a pond

of soup. Breathe leaves,
 eat snow, harvest
cheesies, hear

ducks on the roof.
 Give him knowledge
of horses, calluses,

women in aprons,
 the smack of a ball
in a pasture, yarn,

copper dirt.
 Let him hear
music alone,

plain words.

MARILYN BUSHMAN-CARLTON is the author of two collections: *on keeping things small* (Salt Lake City: Signature Books, 1995), and *Cheat Grass* (Salt Lake City: Utah State Poetry Society, 1999). She is a workshop speaker and Artist-in-Residence with the Utah Arts Council, the mother of five, and grandmother of four.