

Bourne
toWrite...
creative writing
workshops

In This House

by Lou Beckerman

There's a tiger roaring
in this house
She'll fight for rights
and not neglect
to protect
the disaffected and
disheartened
yet, at times,
is quite able to
forget to mind
the child
inside
Delicate
Wild

Sometimes cat
can masquerade as
mouse in this
house
when sugar-iced
cowardice
creeps in and
she hears
herself
speak in
fluent squeak

In this house
is a swarm of
buzzing thoughts
with dusty feet

sweetly
bumbling, humming,
moving fast
to be still, willing
these blooms to
last until
each past
sting is heeded
and old longings
at last
take wing

In this house lives a
dreaming dove recalling
feather-soft flights
of love
and a tender weep
of landings with
her gentle
murmurings

And though you heard
hoof beats
and thought *horse*
there's really a zebra in this house
(Where white and black
live in sync
so can you now think
outside the box?)
She knows she's not
supposed to change
her stripes,
still, she's the type
to slip into
a defiance of
rainbow spots
and polkadots

In this house
harmlessly hissing
and disrobing
there's a snake
shedding her past
simply remaking
and keeping what she
hopes will last

On a stairway
in this house
stands a goat who
bit by bit

climbs upward and higher
goes inward and deeper
not bleating
or becoming
defeated as
long as Capricorn
remains ruled by
Saturn

In a room
in this house
is an elephant
but
I'm not meant
to mention it