Contents

I

How Old Are You? 3
Holy 4
Weed Whacker 6
The Woman in the Corner 7
Mother’s Day 11
How Far Would You Go? 12
A Friend Asks If I’m Comfortable Writing about My Marriage 13
So Easy 16
The Body Is a Vessel, The Body Is a Temple 17
Love Poem with Centrifugal Force 18
Mother of Happiness 20

2

What Is Your First Name? 23
Abacus in One Hand, Worry Beads in the Other 24
I Wanted Her to Tell Me How to Live, but She Told Me How to Drive 26
Stupid Bitch 28
All in the Family 29
The Words We Want 30
Magnifying Glass 32
Thanks, Rod Stewart, 33
Pussy, Cunt 34
Crack 36
Welcome to America 37
Hello, You Don’t Know Me 38
Heavy Cream 39
Where Are You From?  43
Hinges      44
What Do You Like about America?  45
After Listening to Boys Bragging  46
If This Were a Color.  If This Were One Word.  48
Small Man Sonnet   50
The Salvation Army Wasn’t Meant for You     51
The No Sound   53
When Cars Could Not Be Trusted     55
I’m Shouting at the Man       57
Dear Sara Teasdale,     59

Who Do You Think You Are?  63
Welcome, Disappointment  65
I Try to Explain the Meaning of Life to a Friend Who Fantasizes Suicide  66
Tell a Happy Story     68
One Year After  70
This Marriage, I Think, Is Like Others     71
The Calm        72
Love Poem with Questions     73
Love Poem with Reliable Spare Tire  74
Thanksgiving, an Unsaid Grace     76
Imaginary Conversation #1 (Mother to Daughter)  78

Acknowledgments   81