

Sharon Waller Knutson – Two Poems

While their parents fight over custody and child support

the children and I ride
the subway from one end
of the city to the other.

The nine-year-old boy,
who has his father's broad
face and straight-line nose,

entertains passengers
by quoting Tolstoy
in English and Russian:

*Everyone thinks of changing
the world but no one thinks
of changing himself,*

and his three-year-old
sister, with her mother's
pink cheeks and pouty lips,

belts out: *You Ain't
Nothing but a Hound Dog*
in a voice bigger than her.

But the day they watch
words turn into slaps,
the nine-year-old says:

*Let's go to the airport
and fly from one end
of the world to the other.*

Ex Husband

In sleek pompadour
and sideburns,
Stetson hat and boots,

he steps out
of his white Cadillac,
strums a Gibson,

swivels his hips,
smokes weed, drops acid,
swigs Jim Beam,

and in his Texas drawl,
croons Love Me Tender,
and we cool chicks

in the Santa Monica
singles complex swoon
and pretend to be Priscilla

with our dark ratted hair
and racoon ringed eyes,
but he chooses only me,

the lucky one, or so I think,
until the dealer repossesses
the Cadillac, the IRS drains

my bank account, and Ann-
Margret lookalikes line up
for midnight trysts.

Sharon Waller Knutson is a retired journalist who writes poetry from her Arizona desert home. Her work has appeared in *Verse-Virtual*, *Your Daily Poem*, *Red Eft Review*, *Writing in a Woman's Voice*, *Five-Two The Song Is...*, *Orange Room Review*, *Literary Mama*, *Wild Goose Poetry Review* and *U.S. Worksheets*. She is the author of the chapbooks, *Dancing with a Scorpion* by Moon Journal Press and *My Grandmother Smokes Chesterfields* by Flutter Press.