

Ute Carson

The Wedding

They were decked out in finery to celebrate me.
My beloved grandmother wrapped in a velveteen shawl.
My devoted mother in a flowing evergreen gown.
My girlfriend, keeper of childhood secrets
in a springtime frock.
And the flower girls in ruffled yellow tutus.
I stood in white,
not as a symbol of innocence,
but like a snowbell peeping up through the wintery crust,
gazing at a new season with wonder and apprehension.
They are all gone, my former loved ones,
and now I am among the guests
waiting to honor a new bride
with a shower of white-petal blessings.

A writer from youth and an M.A. graduate in comparative literature from the University of Rochester, German-born **Ute Carson** published her first prose piece in 1977. *Colt Tailing*, a 2004 novel, was a finalist for the Peter Taylor Book Award. Carson's story "The Fall" won Outrider Press's Grand Prize and appeared in its short story and poetry anthology *A Walk through My Garden*, 2007. Her second novel *In Transit* was published in 2008. Her poems have appeared in numerous journals and magazines in the US and abroad. Carson's poetry was featured on the televised *Spoken Word Showcase* 2009, 2010, 2011, Channel Austin. A poetry collection *Just a Few Feathers* was published in 2011. The poem "A Tangled Nest of Moments" placed second in the Eleventh International Poetry Competition 2012. Her chapbook *Folding Washing* was published in 2013 and her collection of poems *My Gift to Life* was nominated for the 2015 Pushcart Award Prize. *Save the Last Kiss*, a novella, was published in 2016. Her poetry collection *Reflections* was out in 2018. She received the *Ovidiu-Bektore Literary Award 2018* from the Anticus Multicultural Association in Constanta, Romania. In 2018 she was nominated a second time for the Pushcart Award Prize by the PlainView Press and a third time by the Yellow Arrow Press in 2021. *Gypsy Spirit* was published in 2020 as was her essay *Even A Gloved Touch*. Her Chapbook *Listen* was published in 2021. Ute Carson resides in Austin, Texas with her husband. They have three daughters, six grandchildren, and a clowder cats. www.utecarson.com