

## **Valerie Frost – Three Poems**

### **I've Never Been to Chicago**

In second grade, I  
had a crush on a boy  
named Nick. Except I

didn't want him to know, so I  
pulled his chair out from under  
him. And he fell; hard, fast–

like the temps during  
a Midwest pneumonia front. I've  
never been to Chicago, but I

probably should've called  
you back that Tuesday night  
and learned how to boil

hot dogs. And maybe if I  
had stayed at school  
that one break

instead of going Northeast with my  
roommate, we  
never would've met and I

wouldn't have fallen; fast, hard.  
And been left sick-  
hearted from your

false front.

### **Late Night Pancakes**

I miss  
not being able  
to keep secrets  
from you, because

you always  
knew what I was  
thinking before  
I said it, and

sometimes you would  
even finish my  
sentences for me out  
loud.

I miss  
when you would  
hold my hand and  
when you let

me kiss you in  
public, even though  
I knew you hated  
PDA, but

you let me do  
it anyway.

I miss  
going to IHOP  
at 3 AM, because neither  
of us could sleep.

I miss  
when we first  
got married, and  
you used to  
leave your phone with me  
to use when you  
went to work.

I miss  
getting presents from  
you, like when  
you finally bought  
me my own phone and  
changed the password on

yours, along with the  
passwords to all  
your other logins. So

I started having  
to go to the ATM  
to check the debit

card balance before I

paid our bills. I guess it  
was a good thing I  
couldn't log in to  
see the bank statement

anymore, except it also  
comes in the mail, so  
that's how I knew  
you spent \$60 at IHOP

without me. Maybe  
you went with  
that girl you work with

that you text so much about  
secret work stuff that I

can't know about, so  
you turn the phone  
away from me when I  
walk by. Did you

ask if she wanted  
bacon strips or pork  
sausage, or did  
you just already know?

**Valerie Frost** is a Garden State native. She lives in Central Kentucky with her twin three-year-olds. Her poems have appeared in the *Eastern Iowa Review*, *Anti-Heroine Chic*, *Thimble Literary Magazine*, and elsewhere