

## Step Mother

A pure white suit, a blood red flower  
grace upon you strong as stone  
you chose a sacrificial hour  
to care for children not your own

grace upon you strong as stone  
perfumed with gifts of godliness  
to care for children not your own  
knower of thorns and humanness

perfumed with gifts of godliness  
gathering up the tattered grief  
knower of thorns and humanness  
drawing a circle of belief

not of your bones nor of your blood  
you chose a sacrificial hour  
a silver slipper in your hand  
a pure white suit, a blood red flower.

—Carol Clark Ottesen

*This poem received a third place award  
in the BYU Studies 2005 poetry contest.*