




A Beautiful Friendship

Things happen
to this princess
who lives in a time
long ago.
She is born weeping
and doesn't seem
to be able to stop.
As a toddler
she is sent
away
to visit the Royal Oculist
of France.
No mama.
No papa.
No sister.
Just her
in her golden frock
holding her small lapdog.
All who look after her
just seem to die.
Her grandmother.
Her aunt.
When she comes home
it is her mother's turn.
ENTER THE STEPMOTHER.
She is ousted
She is loveless.
She is cared for
by others.


1.



The princess is sad,
bored,
lonely.
Until one day
she meets
a girl
to play with.
She is gorgeous,
funny,
clever
and a bit bossy.
She is
everyone's favourite
and,
Surprise!
she is willing to become
the shy, plain princess's
best friend.
They can
whisper,
hold hands,
tell secrets
and dress up
in each other's clothes.
They have
a make-belief
world
under
the kitchen table.
The princess
always follows.
Her friend
is the bossy one
and she likes that.

2.





Time passes.
They grow up.
There are weddings,
there are sorrows,
there are many
tiny burials.
And still the friends
meet
in their kitchen domain.
Now the princess
is Queen
and her friend
is the Mistress of the Robes.
There are intrigues.
There are betrayals.
There are WARS.
They run
into the kitchen
no more.
The Queen
is burdened
with Queenly concerns.
Her Lady
presumes too much.
The Queen turns her back.
She will be bossed no more.
It is the end
of a beautiful
friendship.

When friends so fast part forever
their bitter words etch through the walls
and leave a trace.
You can hear them still.

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