

## *The Lion Cub Raised by a Terrier*

DAVID STARKEY

reminds me of the porcupine  
                                reared by a manatee, the raven  
that came unexpectedly under the care  
                                of a potato bug, the snapping  
                                turtle brought up by a trout.  
My step-mother, too, God  
                                bless her, wherever she is,  
  
must be counted among this weird tribe,  
                                she who stumbled into the house  
of a lonely man and his furious son  
                                and did her best to substitute  
                                for a suddenly beatified dead woman.  
Impossible! Though she tried, she tried,  
                                while I stole her keys and purse,  
  
sold her jewelry and accused her  
                                of every sin I'd read about  
or witnessed in my secreted copies  
                                of *Hustler* and *High Society*,  
                                though at times she must have felt  
like a sunfish nurturing a red-tailed hawk,  
                                or an Arctic hare raising an Arctic fox.