

An ingratiating laugh
That cut the snout in half,
And eye become evasive.
A girl could only see
That a flower had marred a man,
But what she could not see
Was that the flower might be
Other than base and fetid:
That the flower had done but part,
And what the flower began
Her own too meager heart
Had terribly completed.
She looked and saw the worst.
And the dog or what it was,
Obeying bestial laws,
A coward save at night,
Turned from the place and ran.
She heard him stumble first
And use his hands in flight.
She heard him bark outright.
And oh, for one so young
The bitter words she spit
Like some tenacious bit
That will not leave the tongue.
She plucked her lips for it,
And still the horror clung.
Her mother wiped the foam
From her chin, picked up her comb,
And drew her backward home.

1942 "Witness Tree"

Примечания.

Стихотворение Роберта Фроста «The Subverted Flower» по содержанию и стилю напоминает стихи из его первой книги. Стихотворение было написано намного раньше, чем опубликовано. Поэт позволил себе включить его в очередной сборник лишь спустя четыре года после смерти своей жены. В стихотворении поэт откровенно рассказывает о своём раннем юношеском сердечном опыте. Стихотворение широко известно на родине поэта, но в Интернете его переводов на русский язык найти не удалось.