

**Advice**  
Diana Heim

Never marry a man  
who mistreats his mother,

this is a given. Never marry  
a man whose nose flicks

like a fish and whose mouth  
is a red envelope, whose nails

chip paint from shingles, whose tongue  
peels and curls when he talks

and whose shoulder cranks his neck  
like a wrench. Never marry a man with ripping

pockets, with little molar fillers,  
with windows in his ears or a lever

somewhere in his spine, who smiles  
in family photos, who rhymes

in ratty luggage, who keeps the word *puddle*  
under the tongue or a record box

in the attic. If you bake pies and he hides  
prizes in the flour, if you drive slow

and he rolls lonely on the tires,  
if you speak and he bites words

before they fly, honey,  
never marry a man.