

Grocery Store Beauty Queen

By: Danon Smith

Beautiful in the mundane,
Grace tucked between errands,
Elegance in Clinique or Maybelline.

Trashy.
Classy.
Somewhere in between.

Hair styled or tied back with a worn elastic,
Lipstick or balm, still brave,
Carrying more than she lets show.

She counts coupons and quiet prayers,
Balances budgets and heartbreak,
Pushes a cart like a crown she never asked to wear.

The world may pass without applause,
But still she shows up —
Radiant in the produce aisle.

Hands tired from loving and labor,
Eyes focused but never unkind,
Holding her world together one errand at a time.

Feisty or mild,
Every woman
is a grocery store beauty queen.