

# TAKE HEART

## A Conversation in Poetry

*Edited & Introduced by Wesley McNair,  
Maine Poet Laureate*

In case you didn't manage a moose sighting this season, here's a poem on that subject by Douglas Woodsum of Smithfield. Doug writes that the poem is based on an incident told him by a friend. The poem's skillful blend of comedy and drama, however, are all his.

### Spooked Moose

*by Douglas Woody Woodsum*

Like a real bull in a bullfight, the full-grown moose  
Lowered his head and ripped through my neighbor's laundry, pinned  
To the line from the house corner to the apple tree.

And like a bride with a twenty-foot train, it dragged the line  
And the clothes across my neighbor's lawn, leaving a wake  
Of clothespins, jeans, tee shirts, and boxer shorts every few yards.

Then, like a moose in a panic because it has rope  
And clothing tangled about its horns and more rope and clothes flapping  
About its torso and rear legs, very like such a moose,

It lowered its head again and charged through the old barbed wire  
Pasture fence, snapping the rotten fenceposts off at ground level,  
Dragging and, finally, snapping, the rusty wires of a forgotten farm.

And then like a fearful beast learning fear for the first time,  
It picked up speed as a bedsheet flopped onto its face  
and three or four dragging fenceposts barked its rear ankles and shins.

It tripped and fell breaking through the fence again on the far  
Side of the field, but struggled up once more to crash  
Into the undergrowth and disappear amid the trees.

Lastly, like stunned townspeople in the wake of a twister,  
My neighbor and I picked up the strewn pieces of clothing  
As we followed tracks, like post-holes, into the dented woods.

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