

2002

Dowry

Carrie Pollack

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Recommended Citation

Pollack, Carrie. "Dowry." *The Iowa Review* 32.2 (2002): 84-84. Web.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.5532>

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CARRIE POLLACK

Dowry

In my dress-up-trunk tiara,
I dragged to wedded life:

An oxcart piled with ancestral crockery
(airline silver and jelly jars,
the clawfoot tureen, its Krazy-Glued cracks).

A string of cans
too drunk to walk upright,
childhood's phone line, hiccuping *Jack off!*

My cud-chewing shadow—
a tagalong odalisque—
all moans and winks and peekaboo nightie.

My pouch of hubris, its marsupial oddness.
Hand-me-down feet.
An erasable surname.