

### **Jemima**

Jemima was meant to be Jeremy.  
A disappointment.  
But fists feisty after school

she's no puddle-duck in the park.  
And the old Hornby engine  
saved for the son  
she revs far too fast, coaches  
colliding  
on the narrow track around Dad's chair.

Then at a dash she is fire crew. First  
to the crash scene. Action-man-Jeremy,  
who fails to show up, incarnate.

The Barbies she rejected,  
all killer heels and pink knickers,  
belonged to her mother.  
Perhaps a brother might adopt them?

Dad hasn't foreseen that.

**Glynda Winterson**