

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