

From Water and Wilderness

Steven Weiner

Desperate young mother
 Risks legal action
 Leaves baby in basket
 Agencies search
 Baby adopted
 By rich family
 Grows up
 Like a prince

Seems unsatisfied
 Takes long walks
 Looking for true nature
 Strikes out, angry
 At the shadow
 Of his adopted self
 Buries it.

Still feels false,
 Who's a prince?
 Judgment from the inside out

Confused and scared
 Runs to wilderness,
 Finds refuge there
 With animals,
 Learns taking care.
 Loves solitude
 Wonders at creation,
 Notices everything.

Shows kindness,
 Receives kindness,
 Feels unprepared,
 Sees a burning bush.

STEVEN WEINER lives in Katonah, NY, and is a father, husband, nurse, Jew, incurable composer of puns, reader, fixer of small broken things, occasional traveler, administrator at NYU Langone Medical Center, and poet-in-residence at Pleasantville Community Synagogue, NY.