

## **Drifters by Bruce Dawe**

One day soon he'll tell her it's time to start packing  
and the kids will yell 'Truly?' and get wildly excited for no reason  
and the brown kelpie pup will start dashing about, tripping everyone up  
and she'll go out to the vegetable patch and pick all the green tomatoes from the  
vines  
and notice how the oldest girl is close to tears because she was happy here,  
and how the youngest girl is beaming because she wasn't.  
And the first thing she'll put on the trailer will be the bottling-set she never unpacked  
from Grovedale,  
and when the loaded ute bumps down the drive past the blackberry canes with their  
last shrivelled fruit,  
she won't even ask why they're leaving this time, or where they're headed for  
she'll only remember how, when they came here  
she held out her hands, bright with berries,  
the first of the season, and said:  
'Make a wish, Tom, make a wish.'