

## **Princess and the Frog**

the photo, taken at the beginning of toddling  
the subject, new to the place she'll call home.  
showcasing a wide smile, holding the slimy amphibian  
that hopped from the nearby swamp.

she would actively hunt for them, "croaking" to try and lure them in.  
a gravelly sound, self-described as "a mix of swallowing and snorting,"  
"something i can just do."

through the passing seasons, she still isn't afraid to get dirty.  
chasing and wrangling various barnyard fowl, wading through mud.  
knowing what she has to do, making sure it gets done.

though appearances have changed,  
her heart still blossoms of care and intrigue.  
acting misanthropic, however, i can tell  
she understands animals better than she does people.

from a froggy lover to the trademarked turkey,  
i look at this youthful picture and think of getting older.  
how life is fleeting if you don't appreciate it,  
which makes me appreciate life a little bit more.