The Way It Is

In her dream, she rides backward on an ass into a cave painted with vaginas.

Girls are ready for Crest White Strips at 13, because a woman's wealth is in her smile.

The unhappiness of a childless woman is measured in cats.

Every girl loves horses: All that power held between her legs.

Women afraid to ride horses dream they'll birth kittens.

If a girl's born on a Sunday, she'll own two pairs of riding boots.

If a girl's born at midnight, she'll suffer confusion.

When you bleed, you become a woman. Women who don't bleed are witches.

First Published in *Tar River Review*