

Linda M. Fischer

Look Who's Talking

Late afternoon I sit at my desk, fingers twitching,
and reach for the phone. I decide to take my chances.
It's been weeks since I called my aunt--she sleeps
a lot these days. Hard of hearing, she usually
buckles whatever I say into a knotted skein I'm left
to untangle. It can go both ways. Nouns slip through
her fingers like loose change. I resort to guessing
games, trying to help her retrieve them. This time
I catch her on a good day. At nearly 104, she can't
complain, wants to know if I'm still writing poetry
and is quick to tell me: You don't give up, do you?

Linda M. Fischer made her publishing debut in *Fine Gardening* magazine with a long narrative poem about long-distance gardening for her mother. Since then, her poems have appeared in a variety of journals: *Atlanta Review*, *Slant*, *Poetry East*, *Hotel Amerika*, *Nerve Cowboy*, *Ibbetson Street*, *The Aurorean*, *Iodine Poetry Journal*, and elsewhere. Her chapbook, *Raccoon Afternoons*, was a finalist in the 2006 New Women's Voices Chapbook Competition, Finishing Line Press. They have recently published her second chapbook, *Glory*. Twice nominated for a Pushcart Prize, she was among *Atlanta Review's* 2010 International Poetry Contest winners and a 2013 merit winner.