

The Beautiful Lady and Her Voice

*I once knew this lady, a beautiful lady really,
who had been told some unattractive things about herself.*

*Over time these things, they were silly things really,
became truths to her and she reluctantly embraced them as such.*

*She perhaps thought, "If this is what I'm told, then this is what must be."
And she lived her life as though they were, in fact, true.*

*She heard, "You are a clumsy thing really. Ungraceful. You come by it naturally."
Over and over again. At first it was the voice of others, and then, somehow,
her own voice.*

*Yes, it was, in fact, a silly thing really.
But it seemed like the truth and so, reluctantly she embraced it as such.*

*At one time, when she was younger, she would sing with vigor unmatched.
Then this man said, "You're way off key, you can't sing really."*

*This went straight to her heart, and although she didn't want to, she embraced it as the
truth and sadly silenced that part of her that needed to sing.*

*Yes, he was, in fact, a silly little man really.
But she valued his opinions and reluctantly she embraced it as the truth.*

*She went on like this, believing what she shouldn't.
When really she could do what she believed she couldn't.*

*Not only did she believe these things, but an odd thing began to happen.
She began convincing others of these untruths also.*

*Then, she made friends with a man who looked and listened carefully.
He heard what she said but noticed that what she stated as fact was not what he
Observed in her.*

*When he shared his observations, she clung to what she believed to be true,
certain that what she had been told and what she had told herself and then
had told others must be true.*

But...

*Slowly and somewhat reluctantly, she stopped repeating what she had been told.
Slowly and somewhat reluctantly, she began to see herself and hear herself with her own
eyes and ears.*

*She now dances quite gracefully and sings quite beautifully really.
She still listens to what others say, but she is very careful to listen to her own voice.*