

UNEXPECTED JOY

by *Bennie Bock, II*

A Bluebonnet growing where no others grow. Children laughing in the silence of a café. A driver who moves over just as you think that won't happen. Calving Season. An unexpected telephone call that lifts your spirits. The Sunrise on a forecast rainy day. Twin fawns. The Man in your life who thinks of you First. The Wife who gives lovingly without expectation of reward. Your mother's hands wiping your tears away. The American flag unfurled, waving proudly on a windy yet unexpected rainy day. A foal, wet with birth, standing proudly on unsteady legs. A senior who acts and talks like a junior. Your first kiss. Your first love. The woman who said 'Yes'. The man who said "I love you." Your husband's face when you told him you were pregnant with your first child. The baby you held right after birth. The National Anthem sung by a soprano. The rib-eye steak cooked perfectly. A Royal Flush. Eating the last cookie without remorse. The triple rainbow you saw that began and ended on the ranch. Surrounding Third without resistance at Home. The big debt someone owed you they paid off unexpectedly. A new pair of made-to-order boots. The heart of the watermelon you ate, when you then threw the remainder away. The realization that the earthly life your father, just departed, led was only the beginning of his eternal joy.