

SUSANNAH NEVISON

Horse Broke Clear

1

Horse broke clear

across the pasture, horse

broke clean loose

and cleared the fence. Didn't you

tell me, *don't put the cart*

before the horse, didn't you

tell me, *get out in front, girl, get out*

in front while you can—

down past the fence, past

the river bend, the horse

got clear of the house, clear

out of sight—

and didn't I cut that horse

loose, fast as any knife—

2

It's always good to get out in front,

you told me once, girl, get out

in front, but don't put the cart

*before the horse—*and my horse

was a chest of knives, and wasn't

my horse slick as any knife

and fast and sleek—and my horse

was sleek as your knife, I mean

your knife flat against my cheek

I mean didn't I get out in front,

my horse, out in front,

and could you catch us then,

SUSANNAH NEVISON

could you stop us—
and didn't you tell me
 the river is a snake, girl
but even a snake can drown.