**Not my Best Side**

U. A. Fanthorpe

I

Not my best side, I'm afraid.  
The artist didn't give me a chance to  
Pose properly, and as you can see,  
Poor chap, he had this obsession with  
Triangles, so he left off two of my  
Feet. I didn't comment at the time  
(What, after all, are two feet  
To a monster?) but afterwards  
I was sorry for the bad publicity.  
Why, I said to myself, should my conqueror  
Be so ostentatiously beardless, and ride  
A horse with a deformed neck and square hoofs?  
Why should my victim be so  
Unattractive as to be inedible,  
And why should she have me literally  
On a string? I don't mind dying  
Ritually, since I always rise again,  
But I should have liked a little more blood  
To show they were taking me seriously.

II

It's hard for a girl to be sure if  
She wants to be rescued. I mean, I quite  
Took to the dragon. It's nice to be  
Liked, if you know what I mean. He was  
So nicely physical, with his claws  
And lovely green skin, and that sexy tail,  
And the way he looked at me,  
He made me feel he was all ready to  
Eat me. And any girl enjoys that.  
So when this boy turned up, wearing machinery,  
On a really dangerous horse, to be honest  
I didn't much fancy him. I mean,  
What was he like underneath the hardware?  
He might have acne, blackheads or even  
Bad breath for all I could tell, but the dragon--  
Well, you could see all his equipment  
At a glance. Still, what could I do?  
The dragon got himself beaten by the boy,  
And a girl's got to think of her future.

III

I have diplomas in Dragon  
Management and Virgin Reclamation.  
My horse is the latest model, with  
Automatic transmission and built-in  
Obsolescence. My spear is custom-built,  
And my prototype armour  
Still on the secret list. You can't  
Do better than me at the moment.  
I'm qualified and equipped to the  
Eyebrow. So why be difficult?  
Don't you want to be killed and/or rescued  
In the most contemporary way? Don't  
You want to carry out the roles  
That sociology and myth have designed for you?  
Don't you realize that, by being choosy,  
You are endangering job prospects  
In the spear- and horse-building industries?  
What, in any case, does it matter what  
You want? You're in my way.

Taken from: <http://english.emory.edu/classes/paintings&poems/uccello.html>