And They All Lived Happily

Denise Blake

All bad guys died in the end.
My kiss did make bruises better.
It was right to put lost teeth under a pillow
and that time, when you didn't find money,
there really was a tooth-fairy holiday.

I told the truth about castor oil
as you have grown big and strong.
Broccoli, porridge, the last bit on your plate,
have been the making of you.
I really believed your Granny would get better.
I didn't think your eyes would possibly stick
that way, but it seemed the thing to say.
That report card wasn't worth all my giving out,
I knew your teacher had a pick against you
but how to admit that to a ten-year-old?

We weren't made of money. I did need a break.
Our dog did go to live on a farm, for a while.
When I said *I'll think about it*. I did.
You do know I was I right about that girl.
Honestly, most of the time, I told you the truth.