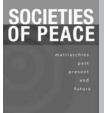
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Women of Diverse Origins will be hosting an international women's conference in Montreal, August 13-15, 2010, under the theme: *"For a Militant Global Women's Movement in the 21st Century,"* celebrating the centennial of International Women's Day. For more information, please contact us at: wdo.fdo@gmail.com, and watch for our blog

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L. JUNE STEVENSON

Not So Sudden

She departs the house as if going up to the corner store Her bags ready by the door, carefully packed, precisely what she needs

No more, no less

The best and most favoured of twenty years

Few of them purchased by him

She says, "Goodbye then," what else is there to say

- Informing him weeks ago there was nothing left here for her
- In that unadorned dwelling, the same carpeting as the day they moved in
- The painted refreshed now and then, the wallpaper peeling in places

The nursery and the never-used crib with its lead paint He grunts, not raising his head from the afternoon paper His lone activity until the time for 'Jeopardy' then bed Always the same, day after day

The summer holidays at the same rented cottage

By the same lake, year after year

Expressionless, unemotional, was he ever any other way She didn't know, had never known

- Then reaching the end of the walk, the cab waiting
- Looks back upon the seedy lawn and tidy unimpressive house

Feels such sadness at the emptiness inside and out

- Feet trembling on the brink of return
- "No. No more." Final whispered farewell, and turning, faces west
- To brilliance of sunset, calmness, and new beginnings.

L. June Stevenson is a retired editor of 24 years experience with The Presbyterian Church in Canada. An award-winning poet, editor and writer, June continues to freelance. June is a member of The Word Guild and her manuscript was short listed for the Best New Canadian Christian Author Award in 2008.