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Sestina

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Sestina

by Steven Lange

A couple of months ago, I got married.
So now, I have a wife,
a bunch of blank thank-you notes,
various nice and not-so-nice gifts,
a dwindling amount of money,
and a pile of unfinished homework.

I really should get my homework
done, but I've been trying to make money
to live on. It's expensive to be married.
People tried to help us by giving gifts;
But now, I have all of these thank-you notes.
I should write them soon my wife

says. You get lots of advice when you get a wife.
They'd be done if it weren't for this homework.
The thing is, I don't even like most of the gifts.
I need food and books. They should have given us money.
You should give money to people who are getting married,
then you'll get better thank-you notes;

or at least they'll be sincere thank-you notes,
not, "Thank you so much for the gifts . . .
We are happy you came to see us get married . . .
We are busy with school and homework . . .
blah, blah, blah. Sincerely signed, me and my wife.
P.S. we would rather have had money."

Hopefully, the government will give us money
for tuition. They are good about that, if you're married,
and poor. But I love my wife,
We live on love and homework,
and worry about our thank-you notes,
because I am grateful for *some* of the gifts.

And as for the others, it's not the gifts,
it's the thought, right? My wife
was really good about the knit, green-owl. That thank-you note
was a bit ambiguous. So now, we do homework
and spend our free time earning money.
But that's the way it goes when you're married.

You kiss your wife, divvy-up the money,
sit down to your homework and blank thank-you notes,
thinking about the gifts you received the day you got married.