

## HUMOR



Donald Hall

(1928-2018)

### The Impossible Marriage (1986)

The bride disappears. After twenty minutes of searching  
we discover her in the cellar, vanishing against a pillar  
in her white gown and her skin's original pallor.  
When we guide her back to the altar, we find the groom  
in his slouch hat, open shirt, and untended beard  
withdrawn to the belltower with the healthy young sexton  
from whose comradeship we detach him with difficulty.  
O never in all the meetinghouses and academies  
of compulsory Democracy and free-thinking Calvinism  
will these poets marry! -- O pale, passionate  
anchoret of Amherst! O reticent kosmos of Brooklyn!