

Oklahoma r e v i e w

Anne Whitehouse

From CURSES

II.

My cousin's cousin
who pinned me in the kitchen
and groped my breasts
at Thanksgiving
is an ob-gyn in Texas
who refuses to counsel women
with unwanted pregnancies
on abortion.

His wife killed a coral snake
with a shotgun at their ranch.
It was curled up
on the front porch.
"I respect snakes,
but these kill the dogs."
She'd called her husband at work
and he'd declined to come home.

"Handle it yourself," he said,
and she did.
She got it with one shot;
the recoil nearly knocked her down.
Not wanting to scare her daughter,
she hid the evidence from her.

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