

# Gossip

by Nonnie Augustine

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Betty Martini divorces husbands when they least expect it.

On a seeming whim, she pays a visit to dear Arnold,  
who keeps her papers handy in his top desk drawer.

She initials here and there, signs with a flourish,  
leaves town and the details to him.

The exes become lackluster. Although they remain tall,  
they fool no one. Any old tie will do for Roger.

Jean-Baptiste neglects his funds. Cornell is fat  
and Lowell wanders Brazil paying for sex.

Perry suffers cruelly. He'd lasted longest, you know—  
five sumptuous years. While having drinks at Mimi's  
he confided that although the siren call of suicide has blared,  
he's a responsible employer in a down economy  
and so holds on, a slave to his duty.

