

THANKS TO CALVIN, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

This poem celebrates
Lidia's long awaited degree,
with a loving tribute to Calvin,
my friends and family.

Calvin, for nearly 11 years,
you've stood steady by my side,
my source of inspiration—
your face glowing with pride.

You've given me all your support
to help me reach my dream.
If love were measured in stars,
you'd be my strong sunbeam.

It feels like only yesterday
when we recited our vows.
Now, you'll cheer me on
as I take my academic bows.

You can do it, you said,
and your faith spurred me on,
giving me confidence
when mine was all gone.

Your laughter fills this house
with the sounds of thunder
that bring me joy, even though
how I finish my work is a wonder.

Hershey and Coco are on alert
when you come in the door.
Behind your back they call you
Calvin Dinosaur!

You're a true urban survivor—
to my schedule you adjust—
calling on Baltimore's finest,
all the restaurants you can trust.

You cope and go with the flow,
especially when I'm frustrated,
I'd like the world to know
you and I are well-mated!!

I haven't needed hubby day care,
you've managed on your own.
In this time I've been in school,
both of us have grown.

Even when you forget the dogs,
I am worry-free,
comforted by our motto:
Don't take it personally!

Just knowing that you love me
makes me want to do my best.
We smile at the challenges—
life is an amazing test.

For my family, I'd like to repeat
the name of my degree.
It's a master's all right:
Industrial/Organizational Psychology.

Thanks, Marie, dear mother-in-law,
always there with sweet hellos, and
Elida, Frances, Esther, Audrey, Gerry,
encouraging sisters and dynamos.

To Caroline, my step-daughter,
it means so much I can share
with you all that I'm feeling,
knowing how much you care.

Last but not least, Walter Farrell,
thanks to my friend and advisor.
All of you showed me the way, & now
I'm a woman who's very much wiser!

Shirley J. Brewer
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