

Preface

Acknowledgments

Early-Twentieth-Century Literature

EDITH WHARTON (1862–1937)

The Angel at the Grave

The Other Two

SUI SIN FAR (Edith Maud Eaton [1865–1914])

Mrs. Spring Fragrance

MARY AUSTIN (1868–1934)

The Walking Woman

CHARLOTTE MEW (1869–1928)

A White Night

The Farmer's Bride

The Quiet House

HENRY HANDEL RICHARDSON (1870–1946)

Two Hanged Women

WILLA CATHER (1873–1947)

Coming, Aphrodite!

DOROTHY RICHARDSON (1873–1957)

Death

Women and the Future

The Essential Egoist

Women in the Future

AMY LOWELL (1874–1925)

The Letter

Venus Transiens

Madonna of the Evening Flowers

The Weather-Cock Points South

Opal

Decade

Summer Rain

A Critical Fable

[On T. S. Eliot and Ezra Pound]

The Sisters

GERTRUDE STEIN (1874–1946)

The Gentle Lena

Picasso

Ada

ALICE DUNBAR-NELSON (1875–1935)

Mr. Baptiste

I Sit and Sew

ANNA HEMPSTEAD BRANCH (1875–1937)

Sonnets from a Lock Box

XIV (“What witchlike spell weaves here its deep design”)

XXV (“Into the void behold my shuddering flight”)

XXXI (“I say that words are men and when we spell”)

ZITKALA ŠA (GERTRUDE SIMMONS BONNIN) (1876–1938)

The Trial Path

SUSAN GLASPELL (1876–1948)

Trifles

RADCLYFFE HALL (1880–1943)

Miss Ogilvy Finds Herself

ANZIA YEZIERSKA (ca. 1880?–1970)

The Lost “Beautifulness”

VIRGINIA WOOLF (1882–1941)

22 Hyde Park Gate

Jane Eyre and *Wuthering Heights*

A Woman’s College from Outside

Moments of Being

“Slater’s Pins Have No Points”

A Room of One’s Own

[Shakespeare’s Sister]

Professions for Women

The Death of the Moth

MINA LOY (1882–1966)

Gertrude Stein

Three Moments in Paris

One O’Clock at Night

The Widow’s “Jazz”

Omen of Victory

Photo after Pogrom

Songge Byrd

Portrait of a Nun

Feminist Manifesto

ANNE SPENCER (1882–1975)

Before the Feast at Shushan

White Things

Lady, Lady

Letter to My Sister

Innocence

KATHARINE SUSANNAH PRICHARD (1883–1969)

The Cooboo

ANNA WICKHAM (EDITH ALICE MARY HARPER [1884–1947])

Meditation at Kew

The Affinity

Divorce

Dedication of the Cook

ELINOR WYLIE (1885–1928)

The Eagle and the Mole

Atavism

Wild Peaches

Full Moon

Let No Charitable Hope

One Person

XII (“In our content, before the autumn came”)

To a Lady’s Countenance

Pastiche

ISAK DINESEN (1885–1962)

The Blank Page

H. D. (HILDA DOOLITTLE [1886–1961])

Orchard

Oread

Sea Poppies

Garden

Eurydice

Fragment Thirty-six

Helen

The Master

EDITH SITWELL (1887–1964)

En Famille

Sir Beelzebub

Aubade

Lullaby

Serenade: Any Man to Any Woman

Still Falls the Rain

MARIANNE MOORE (1887–1972)

Sojourn in the Whale

Those Various Scalpels

Poetry

A Grave

An Egyptian Pulled Glass Bottle in the Shape of a Fish

Silence

To a Snail

No Swan So Fine

The Steeple-Jack

The Paper Nautilus

His Shield

O to Be a Dragon

KATHERINE MANSFIELD (1888–1923)

The Daughters of the Late Colonel

The Fly

KATHERINE ANNE PORTER (1890–1980)

The Jilting of Granny Weatherall

ZORA NEALE HURSTON (1891–1960)

Sweat

How It Feels to Be Colored Me

NELLA LARSEN (1891–1964)

Quicksand

EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY (1892–1950)

First Fig

Second Fig

[Oh, oh, you will be sorry for that word!]

[I, being born a woman and distressed]

Sonnets from an Ungrafted Tree

The Buck in the Snow

To Inez Milholland

[Women have loved before as I love now]

[Oh, sleep forever in the Latmian cave]

Childhood Is the Kingdom Where Nobody Dies

Apostrophe to Man

Rendezvous

The Fitting

[I too beneath your moon, almighty Sex]

[The courage that my mother had]

An Ancient Gesture

[I will put Chaos into fourteen lines]

DJUNA BARNES (1892–1982)

How It Feels to Be Forcibly Fed

Cassation

REBECCA WEST (1892–1983)

Indissoluble Matrimony

DOROTHY PARKER (1893–1967)

Résumé

One Perfect Rose

News Item

Song of One of the Girls

A Pig's-Eye View of Literature

The Lives and Times of John Keats, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and George Gordon
Noel, Lord Byron

Oscar Wilde

Harriet Beecher Stowe

D. G. Rossetti

Thomas Carlyle

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Walter Savage Landor

George Sand

The Waltz

GENEVIEVE TAGGARD (1894–1948)

Everyday Alchemy

With Child

The Quiet Woman

Leave Me Alone a Little

A Middle-aged, Middle-class Woman at Midnight

At Last the Women are Moving

Mill Town

Demeter

JEAN RHYS (1894?–1979)

Mannequin

LOUISE BOGAN (1897–1970)

Medusa

The Crows

Women

Cassandra

The Crossed Apple

Evening in the Sanitarium

Several Voices out of a Cloud

The Dream

KATE O'BRIEN (1897–1974)

Santa Teresa

No Pasarán

[On Bullfighting]

RUTH PITTER (1897–1992)

The Military Harpist

The Irish Patriarch

Old Nelly's Birthday

Yorkshire Wife's Saga

MARITA BONNER (1899–1971)

On Being Young—a Woman—and Colored

ELIZABETH BOWEN (1899–1973)

The Demon Lover

MERIDEL LE SUEUR (1900–1996)

Annunciation

LAURA RIDING (1901–1991)

The Map of Places

Death as Death

The Troubles of a Book

Eve's Side of It

Commentary [on "Eve's Side of It"]

Later-Twentieth-Century and Contemporary Literature

STEVIE SMITH (1902–1971)

Papa Love Baby

This Englishwoman

Lord Barrenstock

Dear Female Heart

Souvenir de Monsieur Poop

Human Affection

The Wanderer

Our Bog Is Dood

Lightly Bound

Not Waving but Drowning

How Cruel Is the Story of Eve

ANAÏS NIN (1903–1977)

Birth

DILYS LAING (1906–1960)

Sonnet to a Sister in Error

The Double Goer

Let Them Ask Their Husbands

Prayer of an Ovulating Female

DOROTHY LIVESAY (1909–1996)

Green Rain

Eve

The Three Emily's

The Children's Letters

EUDORA WELTY (1909– 2001)

A Worn Path

ELIZABETH BISHOP (1911–1979)

The Man-Moth

Roosters

The Fish

Invitation to Miss Marianne Moore

First Death in Nova Scotia

In the Waiting Room

One Art

Pink Dog

[Gender and Art]

MARY LAVIN (1912–1996)

In a Café

MARY McCARTHY (1912–1989)

Memories of a Catholic Girlhood

Names

MAY SARTON (1912–1995)

My Sisters, O My Sisters

Letter from Chicago

The Muse as Medusa

MURIEL RUKEYSER (1913–1980)

Boy with His Hair Cut Short

More of a Corpse than a Woman

Who in One Lifetime

Letter to the Front

VII (“To be a Jew in the twentieth century”)

Night Feeding

The Birth of Venus

The Power of Suicide

The Poem as Mask

Käthe Kollwitz

Myth

Along History

MAY SWENSON (1913–1989)

The Centaur

Women

Bleeding

Blue

TILLIE OLSEN (b. ca. 1913)

Tell Me a Riddle

JAMES TIPTREE JR. (ALICE B. SHELDON [1915–1987])

The Women Men Don’t See

RUTH STONE (b. 1915)

In an Iridescent Time

Periphery

The Song of Absinthe Granny

Second-Hand Coat

Names

Things I Say to Myself While Hanging Laundry

At Eighty-Three She Lives Alone

Sorrow

Cousin Francis Speaks Out

From Outer Space

The Barrier

The Jewels

MARGARET WALKER (1915–1998)

Dark Blood

Lineage

Molly Means

Kissie Lee

Whores

For Malcolm X

JUDITH WRIGHT (1915–2000)

Half-Caste Girl

Woman to Man

The Sisters

Ishtar

Request to a Year

To Another Housewife

Eve to Her Daughters

Naked Girl and Mirror

“Rosina Alcona to Julius Brenzaida”

Two Dreamtimes

Some Words

Counting in Sevens

P. K. PAGE (b. 1916)

The Stenographers

Typists

Planet Earth

CARSON McCULLERS (1917–1967)

The Ballad of the Sad Café

GWENDOLYN BROOKS (1917–2000)

the mother

a song in the front yard

The Sundays of Satin-Legs Smith

The Rites for Cousin Vit

From The Womanhood

3 (“Stand off, daughter of the dusk”)

The Bean Eaters

We Real Cool

Bronzeville Woman in a Red Hat

The Last Quatrain of the Ballad of Emmett Till

Malcolm X

MURIEL SPARK (1918–2006)

The Black Madonna

LOUISE BENNETT (1919–2006)

Pass Fe White

Colonisation in Reverse

Jamaica Oman

DORIS LESSING (b. 1919)

One off the Short List

OODGEROO NOONUCCAL (KATH WALKER [1920–1993])

We Are Going

Understand, Old One

Municipal Gum

GWEN HARWOOD (1920–1995)

In the Park

The Sea Anemones

Mother Who Gave Me Life

Mid-Channel

HISAYE YAMAMOTO (b. 1921)

Seventeen Syllables

MAVIS GALLANT (b. 1922)

Mlle. Dias de Corta

GRACE PALEY (b. 1922)

My Father Addresses Me on the Facts of Old Age

DENISE LEVERTOV (1923–1997)

The Goddess

Song for Ishtar

Hypocrite Women

In Mind

The Ache of Marriage

Eros at Temple Stream

Abel's Bride

The Son

Stepping Westward

The Mutes

What Were They Like?

Canción

Divorcing

The Dragonfly-Mother

Ancient Airs and Dances

Evening Train

NADINE GORDIMER (b. 1923)

The Moment before the Gun Went Off

SHIRLEY KAUFMAN (b. 1923)

His Wife

Mothers, Daughters

Abishag

Stones

Longing for Prophets

Intifada

The Status Quo

Peace March

Decisions

PATRICIA BEER (1924–1999)

Witch

Brunhild

The Bull

In Memory of Constance Markiewicz

Mating Calls

Transvestism in the Novels of Charlotte Brontë

JANET FRAME (1924–2004)

Keel and Kool

FLANNERY O'CONNOR (1925–1964)

Good Country People

CAROLYN KIZER (b. 1925)

From Pro Femina

Three (“I will speak about women of letters, for I’m in the racket”)

Semele Recycled

Second Time Around

MAXINE W. KUMIN (b. 1925)

Making the Jam without You

The Envelope

How It Is

Skinnydipping with William Wordsworth

Women and Horses

Sonnet in So Many Words

ANNE SEXTON (1928–1974)

Her Kind

The Moss of His Skin

Housewife

Woman with Girdle

Somewhere in Africa

Sylvia's Death

In Celebration of My Uterus

MAYA ANGELOU (b. 1928)

From I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

[The Peckerwood Dentist and Momma's Incredible Powers]

CYNTHIA OZICK (b. 1928)

The Shawl

U.A. FANTHORPE (b. 1929)

For Saint Peter

From Only Here for the Bier

1. Mother-in-Law

2. King's Daughter

Women Laughing

From the Third Storey

URSULA K. LE GUIN (b. 1929)

Sur

She Unnames Them

PAULE MARSHALL (b. 1929)

Poets in the Kitchen

ADRIENNE RICH (b. 1929)

Aunt Jennifer's Tigers

Snapshots of a Daughter-in-Law

“I Am in Danger—Sir—”

Diving into the Wreck

Power

From Twenty-one Love Poems

XI (“Every peak is a crater”)

(The Floating Poem, Unnumbered)

XXI (“The dark lintels, the blue and foreign stones”)

Phantasia for Elvira Shatayev

Final Notations

From Eastern War Time

In Those Years

To the Days

Fox

The School among the Ruins

When We Dead Awaken: Writing as Re-Vision (1971)

TONI MORRISON (b. 1931)

Recitatif

Unspeakable Things Unspoken

ALICE MUNRO (b. 1931)

Floating Bridge

SYLVIA PLATH (1932–1963)

The Disquieting Muses

The Colossus

You're

Mirror

The Bee Meeting

The Arrival of the Bee Box

Stings

The Swarm

Wintering

Daddy

Ariel

Nick and the Candlestick

Lady Lazarus

Words

Edge

EDNA O'BRIEN (b. 1932)

Brother

AUDRE LORDE (1934–1992)

Coal

On a Night of the Full Moon

Now That I Am Forever with Child

From the House of Yemanjá

The Women of Dan Dance with Swords in Their Hands to Mark the Time When
They Were Warriors

Kitchen Linoleum

The Electric Slide Boogie

From Zami: A New Spelling of My Name

[Origins]

FLEUR ADCOCK (b. 1934)

For a Five-Year-Old

Miss Hamilton in London

Against Coupling

The Voyage Out

On the Border

Street Song

DIANE DI PRIMA (b. 1934)

From Thirteen Nightmares

Nightmare 7

Nightmare 12

Song for Baby-O, Unborn

April Fool Birthday Poem for Grandpa

Poem in Praise of My Husband (Taos)

Letter to Jeanne (at Tassajara)

Narrow Path into the Back Country

Annunciation

The Loba Priestess as Bag Lady Utters Ragged Warnings

JUNE JORDAN (1936–2002)

The Wedding

The Reception

Poem about Police Violence

A Runaway Lil Bit Poem

DeLiza Spend the Day in the City

A. S. BYATT (b. 1936)

A Stone Woman

LUCILLE CLIFTON (b. 1936)

admonitions

the lost baby poem

if our grandchild be a girl

my dream about being white

Poem to My Uterus

To My Last Period

Leda 3

ANITA DESAI (b. 1937)

Royalty

CARYL CHURCHILL (b. 1938)

Top Girls

JOYCE CAROL OATES (b. 1938)

Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?

MARGARET ATWOOD (b. 1939)

This Is a Photograph of Me

Spelling

Waiting

Asparagus

Marsh Languages

Morning in the Burned House

Rape Fantasies

There Was Once

The Little Red Hen Tells All

ANGELA CARTER (1940–1992)

The Company of Wolves

MAXINE HONG KINGSTON (b. 1940)

No Name Woman

BHARATI MUKHERJEE (b. 1940)

The Management of Grief

LYN HEJINIAN (b. 1940)

From My Life

GLORIA ANZALDÚA (1942–2004)

Tlilli, Tlapalli / The Path of the Red and Black Ink

AMA ATA AIDOO (b. 1942)

The Message

MARILYN HACKER (b. 1942)

Ballad of Ladies Lost and Found

Runaways Café I

Runaways Café II

From Cancer Winter

The Boy

Crepuscle with Muriel

Migraine Sonnets

SHARON OLDS (b. 1942)

The Death of Marilyn Monroe

The Language of the Brag

Rite of Passage

The One Girl at the Boys' Party

This

The Mortal One

LOUISE GLÜCK (b. 1943)

The School Children

The Drowned Children

From Dedication to Hunger

4. The Deviation

Widows

Terminal Resemblance

First Memory

Lullaby

Vita Nova

EAVAN BOLAND (b. 1944)

In His Own Image

Anorexic

The Muse Mother

Degas's Laundresses

The Pomegranate

Against Love Poetry

ALICE WALKER (b. 1944)

In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens

LYNN FREED (b. 1945)

Under the House

OCTAVIA BUTLER (1947–2006)

Bloodchild

LORNA GOODISON (b. 1947)

Guinea Woman

Nanny

Mother the Great Stones Got to Move

Annie Pengelly

After the Green Gown of My Mother Gone Down

To Mr. William Wordsworth, Distributor of Stamps for Westmoreland

Change If You Must Just Change Slow

LESLIE MARMON SILKO (b. 1948)

Yellow Woman

JAMAICA KINCAID (b. 1949)

Girl

JULIA ALVAREZ (b. 1950)

Bilingual Sestina

The Master Bed

Storm Windows

From 33

[Where are the girls who were beautiful?]

[Sometimes the words are so close I am]

On Not Shoplifting Louise Bogan's *The Blue Estuaries*

ANNE CARSON (b. 1950)

The Glass Essay

Lazarus Standup: Shooting Script

CAROLYN FORCHÉ (b. 1950)

The Colonel

Elegy

MEDBH McGUCKIAN (b. 1950)

Visiting Rainer Maria

Black Virgin

The Flitting

She is in the Past, She has this Grace

GRACE NICHOLS (b. 1950)

The Assertion

The Fat Black Woman Remembers

Tropical Death

Out of Africa

JORIE GRAHAM (b. 1951)

History

Orpheus and Eurydice

JOY HARJO (b. 1951)

Deer Dancer

Mourning Song

The Path to the Milky Way Leads through Los Angeles

The Naming

Morning Song

When the World As We Knew It Ended

RITA DOVE (b. 1952)

The House Slave

Parsley

From Thomas and Beulah

The Great Palaces of Versailles

Wingfoot Lake

Persephone, Falling

Sonnet in Primary Colors

Rosa

“I have been a stranger in a strange land”

LUCI TAPAHONSO (b. 1953)

Blue Horses Rush In

Leda and the Cowboy

KIM ADDONIZIO (b. 1954)

“What Do Women Want?”

Generations

Last Call

31-Year-Old Lover

You Don’t Know What Love Is

Sonnenizio on a Line from Drayton

SANDRA CISNEROS (b. 1954)

Woman Hollering Creek

LOUISE ERDRICH (b. 1954)

The Shawl

HELENA MARÍA VIRAMONTES (b. 1954)

The Moths

MARILYN CHIN (b. 1955)

How I Got That Name

That Half Is Almost Gone

The True Story of Mortar and Pestle

CAROL ANN DUFFY (b. 1955)

Warming Her Pearls

Litany

September, 1997

Circe

Mrs Lazarus

PAULA MEEHAN (b. 1955)

Child Burial

“Would you jump into my grave as quick?”

The View from under the Table

Thunder in the House

REBECCA BROWN (b. 1956)

Forgiveness

GISH JEN (b. 1956)

Who’s Irish?

JEANETTE WINTERSON (b. 1959)

The Poetics of Sex

MARGARET EDSON (b. 1961)

Wit

JACKIE KAY (b. 1961)

In My Country

Finger

Hottentot Venus

Paw Broon on the Starr Report

Big Milk

JHUMPA LAHIRI (b. 1967)

A Temporary Matter

Selected Bibliographies

Permissions Acknowledgments

Index