

Where I'm From: Two

I'm from Eve, who knew damn well knowledge was power,
and Mary, who said to hell with housework
from Seneca Falls with Elizabeth and Susan B.
and Houston with Barbara and Bella
I'm from the Janises, Joplin and Ian,
the Helens, Keller and Reddy,
the Glorias, Steinem and Naylor,
the Annes, Frank and Sexton,
and the Georges, Sand, Eliot, and Lyon.

I'm from Mary Wollstonecraft and Sylvia Pankhurst,
Rosa Parks and Rosie the Riveter,
Mother Jones and Mother Theresa,
Shirley Chisholm and Geraldine Ferraro,
Alice in Wonderland and Alice Paul,
Norma Rae and Erin Brocovich,
Billie Holliday and Billie Jean King
I'm from the ERA, bra burning, and the personal is political
for nasty women in a pantsuit nation

I'm from Heidi, Girl of the Limberlost, and Nancy Drew,
from Jo March and Pippi Longstocking, too!
from the Secret Garden and the Witch of Blackbird Pond,
from Brontës and Austen,
Woolf and Morrison,
Harjo and Winterson,
Awiakta and Cisneros,
Olsen and Paley

I'm also from Antigone, Joan of Arc, Salem witches, Karen Silkwood,
the abused and silenced,
the bullied and raped,
the beaten and killed

Standing here, *right* here, I'm from Irene and Margaret,
who got an education,
and Mary Ann, who wrote a thesis,
from Miss Henderson, Mrs. Fahner, and Dr. Gilpatric,
from Jane and Melanie,
Dean Van and Sylvia,
Alison and Rebecca

I'm in and from a long procession of
hidden figures,
invisible menders,
behind the scene knitters,
unknown, unvoiced, unsung

So don't say I'm from a first wave, second wave,
third wave, or some other sort of made-up post-wave,
I'm from, *we're* from, the sea,
our Mother who never ever stops

-- Beth Rigel Daugherty,
INST Symposium, Roots: Where I'm From,
March 14, 2017