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**MARLENE KADAR**

**To have a daughter**

Those many times when young women think they can bake a cake  
 Turned around  
 And off they have gone which is what they said you wanted them to do  
 (and you know what she means)  
 Does not really capture the context

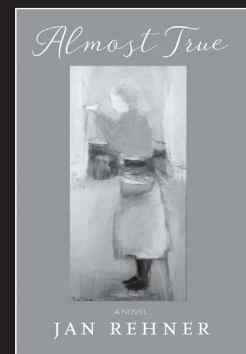
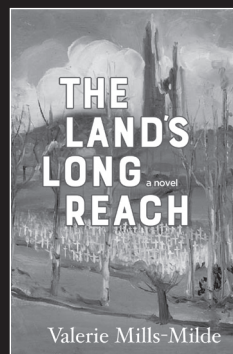
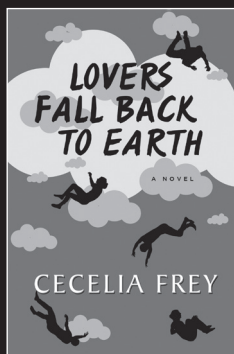
In which things said protect.

Those many times when young women think that mothers humoured will be quiet,  
 Keep love contained, free her for other loves.  
 Turned around  
 And every message as if Rossetti or Akhmatova  
 Just like she said it would be, far away,  
 not seeing the streets she walks along,  
 The shops she passes or the beer and urine cocktail she smells when the sun bakes  
 the sidewalks.  
 Cannot really capture the context

By the time you hear her voice again  
 She is 28 years old and living in Brooklyn  
 Turned around, oh great joy.

*Marlene Kadar is a Toronto writer and Professor in Humanities and Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies at York University.*

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