

womanhood. I believe it is. To return to the quotation by Jann Arden that opens this article: it is the voice of the mother in agency and narrative that empowers the daughter by returning her to the motherline so that she may claim the authority and authenticity of womanhood to face forward, with feet on ground, and be herself.

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<sup>1</sup>I am also the mother of a 14-year-old son, Jesse. He, along with his sisters, has been raised in a feminist household. This article addresses only feminist mothering of daughters. My research on feminist mothering and sons appears in my article in progress, "Mothers and Sons and Feminist Theory." While this essay refers to feminist mothering the themes discussed may be applicable to fathers: men can practice feminist mothering. In our household my spouse and I both practice feminist mothering in the raising of our daughters and our son.

<sup>2</sup>I designed and taught a first course on "Mothers and Daughters" from 1993 to 1997; my third-year "Mothering-Motherhood" has been taught at York since 1992. In 1996 and 1997 the course was redesigned and taught in the Distance and Education Program; over 200 took the course, studying the material through audio and video lectures.

## RISHMA DUNLOP

### Poem for a Daughter on Her Thirteenth Birthday

In the mirror  
the small bones  
of my daughter's body,  
slim hips curving  
bird wings

her eyes catch me  
my breath in her throat  
my face hers.

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*Luciana Ricciutelli and Jennifer Liptrot, cohorts, colleagues, friends—CWS/cf's amazons-in-the-office.*

*Photo: Trish Swanson*