

# Courage

Generations of strong women bound  
by blood cannot  
determine my future. They  
loved their men and forfeited  
their strength. They  
loved their strength and forfeited their men,  
seldom claiming  
the middle ground as their own.

Oh, how few the confident  
men who see beauty in the ability  
of women who can  
fathom the physics of torque  
or displacement  
while applying a vibrant  
shade of lipstick to full, lush lips.

Silent voices echo  
inside my head  
too late

I shut out the aged refrain,  
Don't rock the boat, he'll leave. Don't  
rock the boat, he'll leave you.

Don't rock the boat.

But me,  
I have never been afraid  
Of the water.

