

SENIOR DIVISION, POETRY

Beth Follett, St John's

WOMEN ARE

the kind of people that people come out of. We heard it on NPR,
which — what? You cannot make this stuff up.

He who was living is now dead, we who were living are
now dying with little patience.* Will we resume
our study of the intersection of Modern English Literature
and Guillain-Barré syndrome, which has the immediate effect
of buoyancy? How much longer can genderqueer stand as an
umbrella term? This is the tentative historical.

We're waiting for a sign from our sister, could be anything
— a stranger flipping the bird, a question — wow how is this
normal? We see how it happens, girls feeding themselves.**
Santa Cruz physicist Stefano Profumo puts forward a theory about
the origin of dark matter: a hidden physical realm with
its own versions of particles and forces that gave birth
to tiny, stable, black-hole-like objects. Would that
account for the kind of people women are?

Or the dancing plague of 1518, when hundreds
danced relentlessly for weeks? Or how psychology
explains our childhood crush on Olive Oyl?
When Shelley Duvall died, her African grey parrot, Austin,
who could whistle and talk in Shelley's voice, didn't feel up
to whistling for months and months.*** Jesus take
the wheel. How many hours in a life must be lived
alone? Girls are predominantly salt and bones.

NOTES

*T.S. Eliot, *The Waste Land*

**Translated Zulu from Paul Simon's *Diamonds On the Soles of Her Shoes*

***<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/12/20/magazine/dogs-cats-pets-friends.html>