

CALL FOR PAPERS

“WOMEN’S VOICES”

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Submission Deadline: June 1, 2014

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Spring Journal is accepting submissions for its Fall 2014 issue “Women’s Voices,” inspired by *When Women Were Birds: Fifty-Four Variations on Voice*, the most recent book by American activist and naturalist Terry Tempest Williams, www.coyoteclan.com. This volume also will feature an in-depth interview with the author.

In the opening pages of *When Women Were Birds*, Terry Tempest Williams tells us what led her to write this book. When she was in her early 30s, her mother, age fifty-four, died of cancer. Shortly before her death, she told Terry: “I am leaving you all my journals . . . But you must promise me that you will not look at them until after I am gone.” (It was a tradition in the Mormon faith for women to keep journals documenting their lives in the Mormon community.) A month after her mother died, Terry found the journals, shelves and shelves of them, all blank. Terry did not write about her inheritance of her mother’s blank journals and what they might signify at that time, but came back to them over twenty years later when she was fifty-four herself, the same age her mother was when she died.

When Women Were Birds contains fifty-four evocative essays by Terry Tempest Williams on “What is Voice?” where she grapples with the meaning behind her mother’s decision to leave her journals blank. She uses the image of the blank journals to explore complex and often contradictory subjects that she relates to issues of women expressing themselves (or not): Story, Secrets, Survival, Silence, Solitude, Suffering, Sovereignty, Speaking Up, Sexuality, Shadow.

When Women Were Birds is filled with quotes that could each alone provide the basis for an article:

“I am writing the creation story of my own voice through the blank pages my mother has bequeathed to me.”

“The first voice I heard belonged to my mother.”

“What is the gesture of a woman’s hand covering her mouth?”

“When one woman doesn’t speak, other women get hurt.”

“I am afraid of silence. Silence creates a pathway to peace through pain, the pain of a distracted and frantic mind before it becomes still.”

“I fear silence because it leads me to myself, a self I may not wish to confront....Silence leaves me alone in a place of feeling. It is not necessarily a place of comfort.”

[Quoting C.G. Jung]: “Fear seeks noisy company and pandemonium to scare away the demons.”

“Silence introduced in a society that worships noise is like the moon exposing the night.”

[Quoting Marguerite Duras]: “To write is also not to speak. It is to keep silent. It is to howl noiselessly.”

“Each voice belongs to a place.”

“At the heart of my emerging voice was the belief that nature held the secret to harmony and unity, not just outside us, but inside us, no separation.”

“Birth control gave me my voice.”

“(Eve) exposed the truth of what every woman knows: to find our sovereign voices often requires a betrayal.”

“It’s not the lips of a prince that will save us, but our own lips speaking.”

“What needs to be counted on to have a voice? Courage. Anger. Love. Something to say; someone to listen.”

“Love is where I both find my voice and lose it.”

For *Spring*’s “Women’s Voices” issue we invite submissions that may be inspired by *When Women Were Birds*, as the editors of *Spring* were so inspired, and use it as a starting point for your article. However, it is not required that you refer to or quote this book in your submission.

We are particularly interested in receiving papers that deal with the psychological issues that arise when women attempt to express themselves, the obstacles faced, the obstacles overcome (or not), the creativity that may be released.

We encourage articles that engage the issues described above as they relate to women who have used their voices to speak for the female body, the disenfranchised, for animals, and for the environment, as Terry Tempest Williams has done. We are also interested in articles about the issues faced by women writers, artists, musicians, actors, dancers, or those from other creative arts who have expressed themselves through their art and the wisdom they have shared, or that can be gleaned, from their doing so.

Clinical articles are welcomed, as well as personal and more academic papers, as long as they specifically address the theme.

Articles published by *Spring* are between 4000 and 7000 words, including notes. The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2014.

Submitted texts will be reviewed by a 3-person peer review committee.

Submission guidelines and a Spring Style Sheet can be found on our website, www.springjournalandbooks.com.

Articles should be sent electronically in a Word file to nancycater@springjournalandbooks.com.

Warm Regards,

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