

HE SAYS YOU KNOW IF YOU DON'T GO TO

the right school
come from the
right family like
me I mean my
ex went to
Wellesley her
mother's mother
went there and
her mother's
mother's mother
it's not the same
if you go to some
podunk school
do you think
Jeez your hair
is lovely I'm
rough around
the edges

THE HOTEL LIFSHIN

is rejecting those
who rejected her
Even that first
time words mailed
down town Albany
and flung back
by return mail
Now that editor
expects soft
pillows of her
skin an open
reception no
limit to space
as if she couldn't
also discriminate

DAMAGED MADONNA

a little thread
bare a little
crazy like her
house she's a
one of a kind
beautiful not
practical
falling apart

MADONNA OF THE MANUSCRIPTS

they circle her
bed like students
outside her office
before 6 am following
her to the bath
room swooping in
to her scrambled
eggs Like lovers
they invade time
and space promise
more than they
can deliver

MADONNA WITH THE MOTHER

who can't see
can't recognize
cars or daughters
even in a line of
younger dancers
where she's the
only one in mid
night tights says
she danced best

MADONNA OF THE LOVE LORN

men are like a
bus they're out
there if you
miss one there's
always another

MADONNA OF THE PERFORMANCE

what had been
ordinary's trans
formed wild she
stuns and amazes
like the woman
yesterday walking
in Chicago who
suddenly burst
into flame