

Even in Another Age

Women unseen cannot be seen together,
Was the matter simply as trivial as the ribbons in their hair?
Unworthy of recording if men aren't allowed to stare
Did Jewish women not love one another?
Looking back i see only partial
Half reflections

Were their voices that burned like sapho and Ibn Ezra
Giving voice to countless silent connections
On balconies, behind the mechitza,
While making challah
Did you write of your lovers
Hair, eyes lips, waist

Taste,
the rest
In her arms under the covers and then
When you made yourselves tznius again
Did you thank the holy one for making you invisible lovers
It must have seemed like a blessing

You didn't want your love remembered in another age
It was men who threw their every thought onto the page
And it was better that your love didn't show
You couldn't have known how our people would grow
The tender words you wrote for her
Were spoken onto the wind and lost forever
You couldn't have known that I would know