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## Blue Stockings

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Blue stockings, my new blue bra and tea  
Reference the blue stockings-  
a tip to  
a tea party at Vie's  
We skim emotional  
but the paddle wheels articulate anyway  
Our boat of conversation:  
bodies and what you do with them  
An element of layering like  
a sponge cake I eat all the time  
There is talk of my new bra  
my new, blue bra  
of the advantages of wonder,  
underwire, and padded or  
the disregard for anything but a cotton t-shirt  
The magazines show  
the half starved with cleavage  
All the wonders of modern science  
but, still, a limited time  
A tattoo on your chest  
I'd rather my blue bra  
Come tomorrow we bite  
Today we laugh  
belly full, blue stockinged  
woven and durable  
My mouth opens so you know I speak  
in comfortable circles,  
in strange merry go rounds,  
in hushed whispers at the breakfast table  
where lives are discussed in between  
the spread of apricot preserves  
The warmth of  
cinnamon tea is the perfect compliment  
to any lady's fingers  
which move in circular motions  
we take our lumps  
and warm ourselves  
hands under arms  
wrists crossing over cleavage  
Ann Therese drank her coffee  
until the biopsy  
Now she warns everyone she knows  
about caffeine  
Vie checks to make sure the teas are  
decaffeinated

All this to say,  
my grandmother had her's removed  
and my mother had her's cut open  
I read every latest study with my teeth  
check the appropriate boxes in pen  
and spit when I'm scared  
Blue stockings and my new blue bra  
balancing support

There is a tightrope ephemeral  
from which we swing and dazzle  
like any cell tissue wrapped in a dream

***Renee Tambeau***