

TONY MAGISTRALE

## For Patty Tanya Hearst, Kidnapped Heiress and One-Time Revolutionary

*"Nothing overcomes class"* —Lena Wertmüller

married mother happy cover story *People Magazine*  
 fell into ecstatic love completely  
 with bodyguard bulldog  
 and before him there were the other  
 captors (breathless mathematics professor  
 and revolutionaries in black). Always some man  
 to tell you what to do  
 with your mouth or your name. And somewhere  
 in between the isolations—Daddy's  
 secluded summer castles  
 and the dark dank of a bedroom closet  
 (bound and gagged in both)—you discovered  
 a revelation  
 an inhalation in a lifetime of days  
 as correct as bank alliances  
 of precious jewels and fast cars  
 and country club privileges at debutante balls  
 and the lies of newspaper fortunes  
 one bright transformative moment  
 when you saw for yourself who  
 and what was responsible  
 for the waste and the inequity.  
 But money makes one excellent transfusion  
 and just as you began to feel at home  
 with this new blood

you were back: fairy princess  
bouncy curls and thick mascara  
prodigal daughter returned to lubricious comfort  
of sequestered rooms and domestic servants  
white heels sinking into the grass  
facing the ravenous reporters  
so many of them on Daddy's payroll  
(you'd been through a hundred nightmares  
their television voices panted  
now it is time for all of us  
to forget forgive forget) until  
an awkward innocence usurped  
the place of truth and memory  
like a soft leather belt  
wrapped across the brain and knotted  
tight oh so very tight  
to make absolutely certain  
America's little girl  
would never ever  
run away again.