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*Deare Sister* – fictionalized women’s history

This work of fiction consists of letters that might have been written by Lady Godiva, Milton’s daughter, Rubens’ model, Mozart’s mother, Freud’s wife, Plato’s students, and others – assuming a feminist consciousness. (What would they say?)

“This is fiction catalyzed by fact,” Wind emphasizes. “It is not fiction supported by fact. What I mean by that is that the fiction is totally mine—I didn’t conjecture a reasonable fiction based on the facts: these pieces are not so much what the characters really would’ve said but what *I* think they *should’ve* said. So in light of historical evidence, I may have misrepresented some of the characters. To those who are offended by perceived misrepresentation, my apologies. But since history is, in these cases, scanty, suspect of masculist bias, and sometimes outrightly contradictory (see especially the notes for “The Dialogue”), it is hard to know the extent of any misrepresentation. These women *might’ve* said what I want them to have said!

“Given that the women ‘writing’ the letters are real, I want to reiterate that in no case did I uncover information implying that such a letter was written. In fact, I chose as characters people who, for whatever reasons, *probably didn’t* write such a letter, or any letter, or anything at all for that matter. Or if they did, it has not survived (at least, not in the easily accessible pre-internet mainstream). In this way then, I did not presume to speak for anyone who could and did speak for herself. Let me also say that in some cases, the person being written to wasn’t even known by the person writing (this is the case in “The Patent”—Catherine Greene and Catherine II existed at the same time but that’s it as far as I know); and in some cases, the person being written to doesn’t even exist (I completely made up Benetta, Properzia’s confidante in “The Stone” and Gawaina, Godiva’s confidante and sister in “The Ride”). However, even though *the letters* and sometimes the epistolary relationship are fiction, in *all* cases *the event* giving rise to the letter and most of the events mentioned therein *are* real. For example, Carmontelle really did paint a painting, just as Mrs. Mozart describes.”

Wind has published two previous collections in print, *Paintings and Sculptures* (Ginninderra Press, 2005) and *dreaming of kaleidoscopes* (Magenta 2010), and has had poetry published in several journals, including *Alpha*, *The Antigone Review*, *Ariel*, *Atlantis*, *Bite*, *Bogg*, *Canadian Author and Bookman*, *Contemporary Verse 2*, *grain*, *The New Quarterly*, *Poetry Toronto*, *Prism International*, *Rampike*, *Shard*, *The University of Toronto Review*, *The Wascana Review*, and *Whetstone*, as well as three anthologies (*Clever Cats*, ed. Ann Dubras; *Going for Coffee*, ed. Tom Wayman; *Visions of*

*Poesy*, ed. Dennis Gould). She has been awarded thirteen Ontario Arts Council grants for her writing. Further information about the poet is available at her website, [www.chriswind.net](http://www.chriswind.net).

Magenta has recently released three other ebook collections by wind. *Soliloquies: the lady doth indeed protest* is a collection of soliloquies by Ophelia, Lady MacBeth, Regan, Portia, Desdemona, Kate, Isabella, Juliet, Marina, and Miranda – protesting the role given to them by Shakespeare. *Thus Saith Eve* is a collection of epistles, each written from the point of view of one of the women from *The Bible*, as if she had a contemporary feminist consciousness. For example, Eve does *not* accept blame for choosing the apple, for choosing knowledge over obedience. And you can imagine what Noah's wife had to say about his grand idea. And *UnMythed* is a collection of poems revealing the myths within the myths revealed: what might Pandora, Circe, Penelope, Eurydice, Persephone, the Gorgons, and others have thought and done if they had not been the creations of a chauvinist patriarchy?

One more collection is planned: *Snow White Gets Her Say*, a collection of classic fairy tales retold – what would have happened if Gretel, Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, and others had been strong and critical girls and women living today?

*Deare Sister* is available now in various ebook formats at Smashwords, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and other online stores (\$2.99 USD).

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