

Some Women Howl

by Star Bowers

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Urban Affairs Center Press

Star Bowers lives in Toledo, Ohio. Given the economic reality of so many poets from the Rust Belt industrial Midwest, she has adapted to living on the margins. “Kicked out of the house at 17,” throughout much of her adult life she’s “lived below the poverty line,” several times overcoming homelessness. Bowers’ street-smart poems reflect and often juxtapose harsh realities and fundamental satisfactions. A mother and grandmother, for a number of years she co-edited the occasional literary periodical *Poked With Sticks*. *Some Women Howl* marks her initial book-length collection.



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“I have been absolutely terrified every moment of my life—and I’ve never let it keep me from doing a single thing I wanted to do.”

Georgia O’Keeffe

This book is for Sharon.

Acknowledgments

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**You Can Go
Crazy
Any Time**

84 lines

they call her virgin
mother
the antichrist
witch
martyr
secretary
the temporary
mistress
adulteress
useless
whore
raving
puritanical bitch

they call her a drunk
long distance
late at night
from phone booths
prisons
and wet crypts

they call her a housewife
homemaker
a woman who doesn't work
outside the home
a traditionalist
revolutionary
Mary Doe
Monroe lookalike
the only woman
who ever wore a 17 shoe

they call her doctor
the red-scarved
Peruvian
companion
a really nice person

they call her sometimes
a footnote
in history books
impetus
evil Eve
saint
the negro