

# CATHERINE DALY

## In Medias Res

five poems, freely adapted from

**Marguerite Porete / Porette of Hainault / de Hannonia**

### **Blind Invocation**

*Readers, if you want to understand  
this book, think about what you will write.*

As my senses fail, I am emptied, sight and insight gone  
scents and sense, touch and taste, contact and context.

They burned  
my books.

I am wayward, I wander. I am absent, and chased. Empty, I  
I am leaving.

Readers, think before speaking about this book.

scents and sense, touch and taste, contact and context

They burned  
my books.

I am leaving.

scents and sense, touch and taste, contact and context

## Cover Right

Two meanings of love — whoever intends to gloss this —  
1) speed, 2) sound.

She freed me,  
sent me to school, where thought, work, speech, isn't *worth*.

Humility births virtues, not works birth humbleness. Integral, integrates.  
Humility, I say *sister*. It is a greater thing to be a mother than a child,  
even a much greater thing, can you see this?

Who is Holiness' grandmother? Does no one know how to say whence lineage  
derives?

}}

Humility  
Humility, I say *sister*.

Who is Holiness' grandmother?  
derives?

}}

Who is Holiness'

}}

## Box Out

Humility, Queen of the virtues,  
mathematics, Queen of the sciences. When I draw a family,  
Pythagoras, Plato, Aristotle, Marcellina,  
all wear five point crowns  
five digits in each hand and  
e can flowers without time's thorns, defused and I crown us all,  
regle

O emerald, diamond, Queen, Empress, knowledge no riches but pleasure not awe.

*And now a word from our sponsor ...*

o, Aristotle, Marcellina  
e point crowns  
digits in each hand and

crowns

**Wipe**

O Sammy, what will Beguines say when they hear you sing?

Truth declares  
I am loved by one.

A	B	A XOR B
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

This is true, but I would lie as soon as say something.

Love talks. She walks in me. I am still. The earth is motionless.  
Humming ceases.

Humming ceases.

**Transition / Translation**

Goodness is rewarded with annihilation; it isn't this I found.  
heart = gift, gift = text, text = object, object = gift  
I can't complete; completion is more like lying than speaking.