

Women Are the Keepers of Secrets

Mary Lythgoe Bradford

Women keep the secrets of men
by candlelight and telephone,
growing in their wombs.

Women keep the secrets of children
who dream of secret wars
and giants at the window.

Women keep the secrets of other women
planted in window gardens
and tended past blooming.

Women keep secrets in their bones
until the bones are buried,
and secrets fertilize the land.