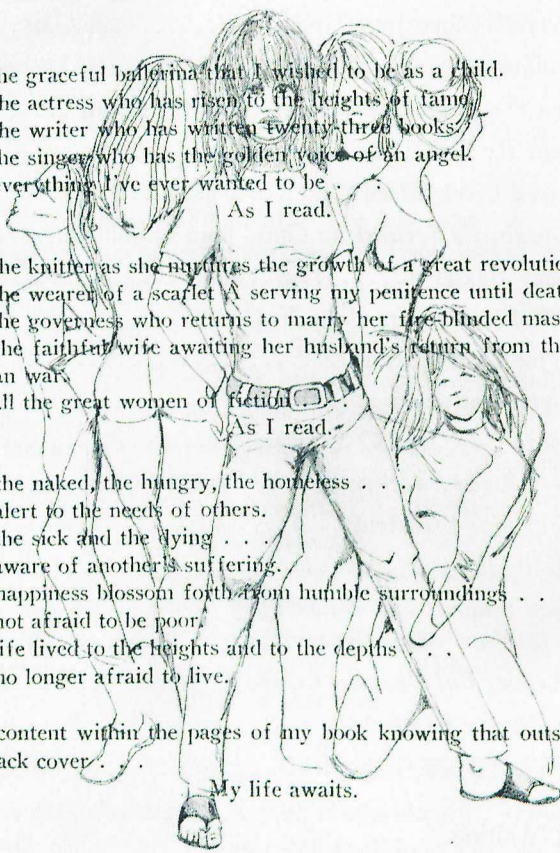


*
i am ...

Mary Lou Burgett



I am the graceful ballerina that I wished to be as a child.
I am the actress who has risen to the heights of fame.
I am the writer who has written twenty-three books.
I am the singer who has the golden voice of an angel.
I am everything I've ever wanted to be . . .

As I read.

I am the knitter as she nurtures the growth of a great revolution.
I am the wearer of a scarlet A serving my penitence until death.
I am the governess who returns to marry her fire-blinded master.
I am the faithful wife awaiting her husband's return from the Trojan wars.
I am all the great women of fiction . . .

As I read.

I see the naked, the hungry, the homeless . . .
I am alert to the needs of others.
I see the sick and the dying . . .
I am aware of another's suffering.
I see happiness blossom forth from humble surroundings . . .
I am not afraid to be poor.
I see life lived to the heights and to the depths . . .
I am no longer afraid to live.

I am content within the pages of my book knowing that outside the back cover . . .

My life awaits.



MAN'S EXPRESSION

"The great use of life is to spend it for something that outlasts it."
William James