

A Peripatetic Path

Suite 1: Knowing

(Erased from Part I - Chapter one of that vile book
The Man Who Would be Queen)

It started — ventured out
Struggled and stood

grasping

With joy often pressed
And indulged

Preferring:

One day

Over the closet

Eager

Uneasy

She contemplated

She
is surely common

She
found herself hesitating

Returned to the closet

Clutching silence

begantocry

And later believed

She
was not

Possible

She
was terrified

Alone

Separated

Only her reluctance

left

Weeping/furious

Controversy a concession
Gingerly criticized

Everybody's different

Third — regular — a girl both

And both
Briefed: unique
Alternatively: beautiful

She found a second crisis
(the frightened accused in her)

She
tried to understand

Saw
these moments and looked

Away.

Quiet/attentive

Visibly anxious

When rough
with leather,

Nails, and hair

Radiant

And

Ecstatic

—a turning point—

She realized
She could

—intervene

Reverse:

damage/circumstances

Question:

indignant
fantasies

Confront:

befriended roles

Invariably—

She
stammered

Explained
the way she

—Sobbing—

Was active/
aware

Crying
that she had dreaded

That she had tried

Increasingly—she described

The unrewarding effort

In passing

The unenergetic failure of understanding

Direct

 Outright

 Clear

She provoked

 Confronted

And sought

 a story

She continued

Steps
taken

and considered

She seemed (in her own mind)
More complicated

Both happy
and gay

She finished

—in tears—

"I understand"

she said

She

she

She she she

She

SHE

She

She

She

sheshesheshe

she

she was she