12. Clement, p. 385.

13. Ibid., p. 379.

14. Nochlin and Sutherland Harris, p. 247.

15. Wilson and Petersen, p. 92; quoting Morisot's Correspondance, ed. D. Rouart, trans. B. Hubbard.

16. Ibid., p. 92.

17. Clement, p. 389.

18. Wilson and Petersen, p. 109; quoting diary entry dated October 1902, from Briefe und Tagebuchblätter, ed. S.D. Gallwitz, trans. Liselotte Erlanger Glozer.

19. Unpublished paper, "Complex and Mysterious Influences: Some Thoughts on the Lives of Women Artists."

20. I am indebted to Susan Griffin for pointing this out to me.

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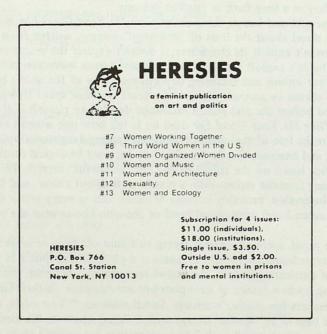
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so humiliated his wife that she stabbed him with a kitchen knife. And she remembers the silences and denial that followed. These scenes of Francie's small-town girlhood are some of the best writing in the book, recreating a child's-eye view of restrained, everyday family violence that erupts finally into overt violence.

In the afterword Jacqueline St. Joan details the trials and tribulations of one feminist writer-Maureen-who tries to get her first novel published. The letters she quotes from commercial presses and literary agents, rejecting Give Me Your Good Ear, are almost predictable: "I would have preferred a more sympathetic character in Ben and a less self-indulgent Francie," etc. The conflicting views of two feminist publishers, on the other hand, raised for me some intriguing questions. Lesbians are bound to read Give Me Your Good Ear as "The Making of a Sister Dyke, Part I," so much is Francie a character who's headed our way. One feminist publisher thought that this implicit movement should be made explicit; another agreed with Maureen that adding a coming-out scene to the novel would ruin it. (I don't know about ruin it, but an adequately portrayed "coming out" might have doubled the page count.) One thing at least does seem clear: Maureen writes with a consciousness that Lesbian feminists can only welcome, adding as she does to our knowledge of our origins and process. My rather pious-sounding hope for Lesbian lit is that as we write and publish novels more immediately exploring our Lesbian realities, we make them as solid and complexly truthful as Give Me Your Good Ear.





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