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Heroine Worship

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Of the 3,324 items
in the Sylvia Plath
collection, Wendy
the researcher
began with the braid.

She sat staring at it.
Just imagine, all
that DNA from
which Sylvia
could be cloned,
giving us dozens,
perhaps millions,
of Sylvia Plaths.

Some of them
would never go
to Smith. Some
would not even
become poets.
Some would never
meet Ted or lust
to be published
in *The Atlantic*.
Some, in fact,
would never
cross the Atlantic,
and perhaps none
would wind up
in the Humanities
Research Center,
their braids displayed
like an Indian maiden's.