

I: The Struggle into Womanhood

They occupied my mind:
wars that eased the struggle.
It's normal to pretend it never happened
but traces remain.

So little is revealed of the struggle.
Others succumb or become weary.
Our struggles in this world
sometimes overcome our ability to stand.

A world where you try to live outside
a man's control, stress, and agony!
It takes a real woman to live in
this world under patriarchal control.

James Valerio