

I WANTED TO MARRY A LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

I would have written in an attic,
Poems about the sea.
Made soup and scones and babies.

I would have cleaned all the glass with vinegar.
Watched puffins, seals and whales.
They would have said "My God, she's hardy."

I wouldn't have drank so much or smoked,
And my skin would have shone in the rain.

I would have read much more widely,
And learned to paint and to quilt.
I wouldn't waste my time watching crime
On t.v.

I would have kept up to date with world affairs,
Had a view on the political situation.
I would have shaved my legs and plucked my brows,
Even when there was no-one else to see.

And when they came to modernise the lighthouse
I would have chained myself to the lamp
Suffragette for a cause.

My name would have been on a plaque,
On a skerry in the ocean.
Saluted by passing whales
And boats heading for a safe harbour.

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