

# *Your Favorite Writer Is Not Your Mother*

*All writers are exiles wherever they live  
and their work is a lifelong journey  
towards the lost land.*

—Janet Frame



Just because she looks  
Like you, or looks like  
Your mother, that does  
Not make your favorite  
Writer your mother. Just  
Because she slept with  
Bones, was misdiagnosed  
With the same lucid  
Dreams, or swallowed  
The same blue pills.  
Just because she lived  
In little houses or had  
Siblings die young, or  
Finds odd things funny.  
Just because she had  
Unbearable hair and teeth.  
Just because you planted  
A turtle under a rock.  
Just because there's a photo  
Of a hospital, of weeds  
Growing out of eyes.  
Just because you don't have  
A better half. Just because  
You're a quarter the way  
Home. None of this  
Makes your favorite writer  
Your mother.  
Just ask her.