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## paper Ladies

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**paper Ladies***Carolyn Lee*

should not be ripped but  
'should not' does not mean 'will not'  
so when paper Ladies are ripped  
they are ripped because of scissors.  
scissors beat paper Ladies even though  
scissors should be chivalrous but  
'should be' does not mean 'will be' yet  
scissors say that it is not his fault.  
it is not his fault because of the rocks  
that he grew up in:  
the rocky path, the childhood brokenness  
the fathers that faltered as scissors  
that were, too, under rocky structures,  
rocks: they're thrown at scissors who cut  
paper Ladies who wrap their ripped arms  
around the rocks, that too, are thrown at them,  
rocks: that say 8½ by 11 is too big, too assertive,  
too heavy, rocks: that are reflective,  
exposing the lines and holes of paper Ladies  
should not be ripped but always are