



# Alda Merini

Amai teneramente dei dolcissimi amanti  
senza che essi sapessero mai nulla.  
E su questi intessei tele di ragno  
e fui preda della mia stessa materia.  
In me l'anima c'era della meretrice  
della santa della sanguinaria e dell'ipocrita.  
Molti diedero al mio modo di vivere un nome  
E fui soltanto una isterica.

**Alda Merini (1931 – 2009)**

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Tenderly I loved the sweetest lovers  
without them ever realizing it.  
And over them I wove my spiderwebs  
and was myself a prey to my own matter.  
I had in me the soul of the great harlot  
of the hypocrite, the slaughterer and the saint.  
Many gave my way of life a name  
then I was just some hysterical woman.

*translated from the Italian  
by Cristina Viti*

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*John Lewis Partnership*

