

Female anonymity

- ↳ Female stories marginalised and replaced by male narratives
- ↳ 'Anon' acknowledges female existence
- ↳ No specific name, Duffy relates all female experience

Anon

Carol Ann Duffy

If she were here

Instead of "was" → Formal tone

- Distance → Not personal, but still worthy of legacy
- Respect → Duffy admires women
- Plural suggests 'she' is collective

she'd forget who she was,

→ Loss of identity

it's been so long,
maybe nurse, a nanny,
maybe a nun

- ↳ Chosen for them by men so alienated from their own identities
- ↳ Conflict between internal and external identity

Caesura
↳ Expect climax

Anon.

→ Emphatic stop

Typically matriarchal roles

→ Enduring experience of women

Continues theme of anonymity

A girl I met
was willing to bet
that she still lived on

↳ Anti-climactic

↳ Subservience / subordination

Alliteration of 'n'

- ↳ Predictable / repetitive like their lives
- ↳ Trivial, nursery rhyme tone
- ↳ Female identity trivialised

Anon

↳ Anti-climax

↳ Glamourised as ambitions but
↳ Confinement is disappointing

but had packed it all in,

→ Confident she can her own identity / legacy
Female ambition fails

the best verb, the right noun,
for a life in the sun.

Action → Thing
NOT EASY

Women are destined to fail while they live in a materialistic society that forces women to choose between freedom and identity, and comfort and security.

Transgressive women are punished and outcasts

A woman I knew

kept her skull
on a shelf in a room -

→ Shakespearean reference to Hamlet 'To be or not to be'

- ↳ Identity vs anonymity
- ↳ Life vs death
- ↳ Easy → Legacy

Anon's -

and swore that one day
as she worked at her desk

↳ Locked away → most women avoid the conflict

it cleared its throat

as though it has something

→ Repressed idea re-emerges and demands consideration

to get off its chest.

Burden
Women have the difficult choice of identity

But I know best -

→ Could be a criticism of female reluctance and obduracy
OR she takes their burden and gives them their identity

how she passed on her pen

like a baton

→ Passing on female story → Could be a reflection of Duffy's own inspiration by female writers e.g her teachers

down through the years,

with a hey nonny

→ Simile

↳ Relay → women work together

hey nonny

hey nonny no -

→ Could be a phallogentric [phallus]
↳ Female taking over of phallogentricity

Anon.

Anti-climax?

Nonsensical Elizabethan

Is Duffy doubtful?

↳ Refer to 'nothing' i.e vaginas

OR is she confident

↳ Reveals how a) women deserve automatic ^{identity} and legacy just like men get for having a phallus

b) ridicules phallogentricity and shows how Nonsense → gender identity is actually meaningless

Surrealist
Deconstructed
the body