

Eunice de Souza. "Women in Dutch Painting." *A Necklace of Skulls: Collected Poems*. Penguin, 2009, p. 47.

A Necklace of Skulls

Women in Dutch Painting (for Melanie Silgado)

The afternoon sun is on their faces.
They are calm, not stupid,
pregnant, not bovine.
I know women like that
and not just in paintings—
an aunt who did not answer her husband back
not because she was plain
and Anna who writes poems
and hopes her avocado stones
will sprout in the kitchen.
Her voice is oatmeal and honey.