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Sylvia Plath

THE COLOSSUS AND OTHER POEMS, 1962
THE BELL JAR, 1963
ARIEL, 1966

concerning the poem "DADDY":

Here is a poem spoken by a girl with an Electra complex. Her father died while she thought he was God. Her case is complicated by the fact that her father was also a Nazi and her mother very possibly part Jewish. In the daughter the two strains meet and paralyze each other -- she has to act out the awful little allegory once over before she is free of it.

Sylvia Plath

She faced a task in herself, and her poetry is the record of her progress in zhe task ... The poems are chapters in a mythology.

Ted Hughes

... hardly a person at all, or a woman, certainly not another 'poetess', but one of those super-real hypnotic, great classical heroines ... Dangerous, more powerful than man, machinelike from hard training, she herself is a little like a racehorse, galloping relentlessly with risked, outstretched neck, death hurdle after death hurdle topped... These poems are playing Russian roulette with six cartridges in the cylinder, a game of 'chicken', the wheels of both cars locked and unable to swerve."

Robert Lowell, Introduction to ARIEL

You would say that if a poet is sensitive enough to the age and brave enough to face it directly, it will kill him through the excitation of his awareness alone.

M. L. Rosenthal

"What I've done," I remember her saying, "Is to throw together events from my own life, fictionalizing to add color -- it's a pot boiler really, but I think it will show how isolated a person feels when he is suffering a breakdown ... I've tried to picture my world and the people in it as seen through the distorting lens of a bell jar."

Sylvia to her mother Aurelia, 1962

