

# Two Nice Girls, Eleven

(Kathy Korniloff)

Eleven years old when Janis Joplin died  
It was a time in her life full of feminine pride  
A Wrinkle in Time and The Wind in the Willows  
Hiding behind the summer clothes that billowed  
On the line  
With a head full of music and playful heart  
With her two best friends you couldn't tear them apart  
Reading notes and measures and Harriet the Spy  
King of the mountain and a big blue sky  
So open wide  
Running like a girl  
You go sailing past my window chased by tracers of the sun  
Running like a girl  
Meet me in the underbrush remember solid ground we touched  
In our forested fortresses  
Growing up fast on the edge of a storm  
There was a peace to keep, a job to perform  
Learning well how to settle into so polite  
Quietly there by a TV light  
So close inside  
Proud and stoic with a sense of duty  
No one there to notice her developing beauty  
if they could have listened there was no mistaking  
The dissonant sound of a young heart breaking  
Open wide  
Watching girlfriends lining up one by one  
To pledge allegiance to the women they would soon become  
They all quit sports and got a D in math  
And you began to follow a narrow path  
Once open wide  
Running like a girl  
You go sailing past my window blazing trails against the wind  
Out into this world  
Finding out about your difference I will give you love's assistance  
Now that I am aware of you  
I was stranded outside and I couldn't speak  
Needed a soothing brain balm just to get through the week  
I was feeling amputated from my neck to my shoes  
And the gulf between my voice and my heart was ooh  
So far and wide  
When I woke from this dream I was thinking of you  
How you've always known just what to do  
With your skinny brown legs and your face to the sun  
Nothing you've known has ever come undone  
Heart open wide  
Running like a girl  
Tearing up my neighborhood under a big blue sky  
Running like a girl  
Meet me in the underbrush remember solid ground we touched