

Poem for Poly

Salena Godden

thank you Marianne
who did what she did
so you all can
she was a first
the trail she blazed
the rules she broke
the spirit she raised
the path she made
the standard set
little girls should be seen and not heard
oh don't you forget
oh bondage up yours
oh bondage up yours
I remember learning lyrics
in *smash hits* magazine
repeating the words
of young Poly Styrene
Sunday night bath night
recording the top ten
on my tape machine
top of the pops on Thursdays
I was glued to the screen
There was Rhoda and Pauline
Jennie Belle Star and Poly Styrene
it meant so much to watch them do what they do
all we can say is thank you thank you
thank you Marianne
walked the talk
so we all can
gob and shove
mashed mosh pit
teenage kicks
and beer and spit
and there's a girl
on the cover of a magazine
and she looks a bit
like one of us
called Poly Styrene
thank you to Marianne
wore what she wore
so you all can
said what she said
the truth she sang
smashed the ceiling

with all that feeling
and everything she means to me
all the things she means to us
how hard it is to go first
when nobody saw one like you before
how hard it is to be strong and true
when the industry isn't for girls like you
she was a cancer crab just like me
she lived in Hastings just like me
and rode her bike along the prom like me
and every time I see her face
she feels like family to me
an icon and an influence
she was light years ahead of her time
rallying against consumerism
trying to save the planet
seriously
she was so punk
she didn't fit in with the punks
rejected the norm
and kicked up a storm
thank you to Marianne
said all she said
so we all can
thank you to Marianne
she was all she was
so we all can
we can because of Marianne
so, thank you
Marianne
thank you