

MARCO POLO

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Unwrapped Newspaper

The Sunday Times lay on the driveway till three in the afternoon, like a silent blue log berating me for my neglect, and now, Monday morning already, it rests unwrapped on the kitchen table, pristine and unruffled by any touch at all. The newspaper, one of an army of reminders, stands as testament to all the other choices I have made.

"You didn't read me," it says.

"You didn't wash me."

"You didn't buy me."

"You didn't call me."

Legions of the undone rise up to torment me, so that I am unable to just sit still and be.

Susan Hodara is a journalist, memoirist, editor and teacher. her articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Harvard Magazine*, *Communication Arts*, and others. Her short memoirs are published in anthologies and literary journals including *The Living Room* (2011), *Venus Envy* (2010), *Evening Street Review*, Number 3 (2010), *Illness & Grace*, *Terror & Transformation* (2007), *The Westchester Review* (2008, 2007), *I Wanna Be Sedated: 30 Writers on Parenting Teenagers* (2005), *My Heart's First Steps* (2003), and *Surviving Ophelia* (2001). She is a co-author with three other women of *Still Here Thinking of You*, memoirs about mothers and daughters.

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Only Time My Mother Cried
500, Hodara, Nonfiction



Unwrapped Newspaper
100, Hodara, Fiction