She Shall Have Culture

Linda Ann Suddarth
Collin College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.collin.edu/forces

Part of the Ceramic Arts Commons, English Language and Literature Commons, Painting Commons, Photography Commons, and the Sculpture Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://digitalcommons.collin.edu/forces/vol2017/iss1/53

This Poem is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@Collin. It has been accepted for inclusion in Forces by an authorized editor of DigitalCommons@Collin. For more information, please contact mtomlin@collin.edu.
SHE SHALL HAVE CULTURE

Linda Ann Suddarth

My teacher asked me, and gave me a letter. I gave the letter to my mother, who asked my father, and he made a decision that would change my life forever. I didn’t even know its meaning so foreign was the assignment. It sat lightly on my twelve-year-old shoulders so engrossed was I in my dolls, reading, and writing my first novel, *Women and the West!* I would much rather he had spent that money towards a canopy bed I so wanted. He declared: “She should have some culture.”

Since landing in the new world I was the first of many generations of farmers to do it. Reminiscent of some old social custom of having the girl be civilized and exposing her. With that, my mother got busy at the sewing machine to make me a dress. So for three times, at three dollars per trip, I got out of school, got on a school bus, and rode into Washington, D.C. to the national theater, into the wonder of red velvet chairs, the darkened room, and watched the lights come up on Leonard Bernstein and the young people’s orchestra.