

ELIZABETH STEALEY

Advice for My Daughters

Make sure you fit.
Find a man with a large nose, always
keeping in mind
the size of yours. Tickle
his nose with a feather to learn
how hard he can sneeze, and
how often.

Count the hairs on his body.
Hair on the head means he's smart enough
to make money. If he's
sparsely covered elsewhere,
he'll always need you
to keep him warm.

Look into his eyes
seven different times when he doesn't know
you're looking. Add up
what he's revealed.

After doing all this, stand naked together
before a mirror at midnight on St. Agnes' Eve.
If you can keep from touching until
a faint light fills the room and mist
soft as moth wings surrounds you,
you'll know
you've chosen well.