

For Myrlie Evers Williams

At the edge of the continent  
high above the waves dashing  
against sculptured rocks  
I found you, lost so long ago  
I'd forgotten you were ever there.  
Oh, I've admired your courage  
since Medgar was murdered  
twenty-nine years ago  
and your tenacity in pursuit  
of justice from Mississippi.

But when Walter brought you today,  
the warmth of your embrace,  
your dark eyes shining into mine,  
the mixture of black female dignity  
and shy playfulness, the richness  
of your voice and laughter  
uncovered the space within me  
I've been waiting forever to fill  
with your beauty, as though  
to complete whoever it is I am.

- Celia Piehl