If you would reflect well and wisely, you would realize that those events you regard as personal misfortunes have served a useful purpose even in this worldly life, and indeed have worked for your betterment. -Christine de Pisan, (c. 1365-c. 1463)

Venetian-born daughter

of astrologer dreams not of stars

abandons ballads to her dead husband

sustaining her children through lines of verse
imagining *The Book of the City of Ladies* heroic
extolling the virtues of Joan martyred
pouring her heartbreak of losing a child

into volumes of text

championing women by creating

the weird idea they were human