# *Foreign Exchange*

Marya Fiamengo

Damnation has stunted you
into a frizzled teddy bear
with mad glazed eyes
sand hair dyed a sick yellow
like the colour of urine.

So burn in sulphur;
it is your colour, your odour.
By all the miracle-working ikons,
by the holy standards of a brave past
I will not spare you.

Not for your coward's flesh
the hard stones of the Lubianka
which incarcerated the bones
of heroes.

For you,
May you die as you have lived;
fraudulent
on the cheap rate
of foreign exchange.

Marya Fiamengo, *In Praise of Old Women* (Oakville, Ontario: Mosaic Press/ Valley Editions, 1976). Printed with the permission of both author and publisher.