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## The Scapegoats

Marilee Richards

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# The Scapegoats

by Marilee Richards

...and due to their ridiculous egos  
and our ridiculous pedestals, one by one they fall.

Mark Morford

The tabloid journalists pick up the stones of easy money

Those who can't tell a rapist from a fool pick up the stones of mob hysteria

The women who tweeted back recant  
while picking up the stones of virginal indignation

Those embarrassed by thoughts of indecency pick up the stones  
of public ridicule

Those who calibrate their rhetoric to whims of public opinion  
pick up the stones of cowardice

NFL cowboys and bronc riders who would never succumb to wussy tears  
of weakness pick up the stones of manly disgust

Those to the distant left or right of whoever is in the hot seat  
pick up the stones of feigned moral outrage

Fellow congressmen, athletes, generals, and All-American heroes,  
flush from their own secret obsessions,  
pick up the stones of fear and hypocrisy

Those who suffer daily under the lords of hubris pick up the stones  
of gleeful revenge

The rest of us, who misbehave within the anonymity of ordinary life,  
pick up the stones of predators at a bloody crash