

Verena Klein

## Mothering Her Self

Mothers and Daughters in Ethel Wilson's Work

Bernd Engler, Michael Hochgeschwender,  
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To my Mother,  
and all my othermothers,  
especially my Father and Emiliano

Life is the most extraordinary thing that happens to any of us. Incidents, thoughts, influences which have seemed totally irrelevant & disconnected are by some mental, aesthetic, or other chemistry impelled together; changes occur; life (fortunately or unfortunately) takes unexpected directions; there is new knowledge, there are new inclusions, intrusions, exclusions. (Ethel Wilson, "Untitled Talk" EWF 2/19)

I will be no one but myself, you say as you look down the long line of your life and your loves and your blessings and your sorrows and the unknown quantities in the lives of other people. Very well, what are you kicking about? Be yourself and like it. (Ethel Wilson, "Fragment from a Story" EWF 7/6)

In the Beginning was the World. (Ethel Wilson in Mitchell 1982: 85)

Swimming is like living, it is done alone. (Ethel Wilson, *Swamp Angel* 125)

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