

## Attachment

Mary Di Lucia

First, get some yellow yarn  
(it's her favorite color)  
About 20 thousand yards  
Load it into the back of a rented pickup and park it in your parents' driveway  
Wrap one loop of the yarn around your waist  
Get a navy blue schoolbag, a uniform with a pleated skirt, a lunchbox  
Make sure that in the lunchbox there is some lunch  
(although there will be no time to eat)  
And make sure that the yarn is tied tight  
Then, start walking

From your chair at the kitchen table then out the front door  
Back to your chair at the kitchen table then to the kitchen sink  
Then, from the kitchen sink to your bedroom  
From your bedroom to the desk where you do your homework  
From the desk to the couch in the living room  
From the living room couch to the TV  
From the TV down to the basement, then back upstairs to the kitchen  
From the kitchen to the backdoor, and back, and repeat  
Sometimes you may go as far as the mailbox  
Sometimes out to the Japanese maple there by the driveway where the rented  
pickup is parked  
So you may double-check once again that the yarn is still back there,  
unwinding smoothly  
Remember, the yarn must be able to follow you as you retrace your own footsteps  
You walked for years through these rooms  
You paced and paced  
You walked that way and this  
You had routines and purposes

You may stop to sip water from your thermos but the appliances are still not  
for you to touch

You may flatten a curl or adjust a pleat on your uniform skirt

The textbooks in your schoolbag may shift

Do not stop to read

The exact number of times you must retrace your steps will not be clear

Nor will the sequence be important after a while

Though you must try to uphold your sense of a sequence

Your sense of what should follow what

Your sense of responsibility for the orderly distribution of the yarn

But most important:

Stay in motion

Keep walking

Retrace

Follow the designated routes

Faithfully, and within the limits of space and time that have been devised

Now, as you do this, the yarn whose end you must keep tied

around your waist

Will build up

Remember, it has been following your every step

And with your every step, you let more of it out

Even now, it is unspooling from the giant ball in the back of the pickup truck

You will not be sure how you are going to keep walking with all that yarn

following you and with all that yarn in your direct path

But that is another of the important parts—

No matter how tangled, or how resistant the conditions made by the yarn

You must struggle ahead

You must stay the course

You must keep walking

Every once in a while, you may crawl behind the couch

You may even go to your mother's closet and borrow something:

an embroidered handkerchief, the yellow angora turtleneck

Just not her sewing scissors

Remind yourself (again) that yellow is her favorite color

Remind yourself that you are wearing a navy blue plaid uniform

As you encounter more and more the yarn's resistance, you must weave

your whole body through it

If necessary, you will squat down and crawl

You may have to hunch over as if carrying a pack with all your worldly possessions  
into the face of inhospitable winds  
Regardless of the difficulty, you must push with all your might  
No matter how thick the yarn  
You must not give up  
You will feel hopeless and wish to abandon the project, you will be tempted  
to run away

But you must not run away because of the yarn  
And because of the yarn, it is impossible to run away