

Lesley Walter

MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS

Tallest
to smallest
we stand in
line, like
Russian dolls on
a mantel piece, at various
ages and waistless stages,
smiling for the photograph. The
youngest's five, bright-eyed, compact,
small barrel belly smooth, intact;
yet deep within—undreamed,
unseen—her children nestle
sleeping, waiting, half-
smiling in the
photograph.