

AUNT MANDY

I grew up to the stories of my Aunt Mandy
in public it was cancer of the uterus
in private Aunt Mandy died
because she was butchered
She died from an abortion, a hatchet job
She lay dying in the basement.
They found rats eating her insides out.
In fact all of her blood drained out of her—
All of the women bowed their heads
at the story of Aunt Mandy
Cause they knew it could have been them
It could have been them
It was talk amongst women, mothers
a chance you took to be a mother—
to be a woman
Whatever the reason, the decision
a woman would make the decision
knowing she could die
Because in this world a woman isn't worth much

Sometimes it's a hanger
Sharp, rusty, bleeding
Sometimes it's a knife
to cut out our soul
Sometimes it's fire, falling from buildings,
stairs, drowning or suicide
Like I said a woman isn't worth much
A woman's life isn't worth much

And as a child I would sit with the women
whose lives were mothers
only valued as mothers
grandmothers who remembered when women
couldn't vote, mothers who remembered
not having credit
couldn't buy her own car, house or dream
A woman can't be president

But the mother never abandoned her children
Children are her life
She'd die for her children
War, famine, plague and drought
A woman must always be a mother
Children were their lives

They never questioned when a mother
couldn't be a mother
because
A WOMAN MUST ALWAYS BE A MOTHER
A WOMAN MUST ALWAYS BE A MOTHER
A WOMAN MUST ALWAYS BE A MOTHER
Cause a woman isn't nothing if she isn't a mother
A woman must always be love but never treated
like it's her own body
There is mother earth who creates famine and plenty
calm and storm

It's my body
It's not Pepsi's body
It's not Nancy Reagan's body
It's not Congress's body
It's not the Supreme Court's body
It's not *Cosmopolitan's* pink twat body
It's not George Bush's ugly-conscience,
never-be-responsible, let-the-world-rot body
It's not Cardinal O'Connor's Catholic Church-
homophobic-hate women-hate queers-
oppressive-DEVIL-SATAN-no children body
IT'S NOT YOUR BODY

You know nothing about God
God is dead.
God is death. If he cared about life

he wouldn't kill with AIDS, he wouldn't allow
Chinese students to die and be executed
and be forgotten about a year later
he wouldn't allow Jennifer Levin to die
Yeah God is death

God is dead

I want my body
But it's never been mine
It's only for creating babies
with a man's name on it
cause my name is never good enough—
My name is not good enough—
Cause if I use my name it's real name is
BASTARD BASTARD BASTARD
I ain't got health insurance
cause I refuse to take the HIV test
and baby I can't afford it
My body is the government's, let them pay me
MY BODY IS PAID FOR IN FULL BY ME.
MY body is mine.

It's funny but in this country if you test positive
you ain't gonna be covered
It's the sick that need the insurance.
WE have no-fault car insurance
so why not no-fault health insurance?
Cause we care more about cars than we do people.

One day I hope to god Bush
Cardinal O'Connor and The Right to Lifers
return back to life as an unwanted
pregnant 13-year-old girl working at
McDonald's at minimum wage
and she's on the floor of some rat-scum alley
screaming with a rag in her throat
with no anaesthesia

nothing clean
and the doctor is not a real doctor
Who cares—She's dead
Who cares—She's dead anyway
Who cares—She's already dead
Who cares—She's a goner
Who cares—She's poor trash anyway.
To be slaves to their biology
so we aren't successful
so we make the beds and vacuum the carpet

But the abortions will never stop
Aunt Mandy watches us from above

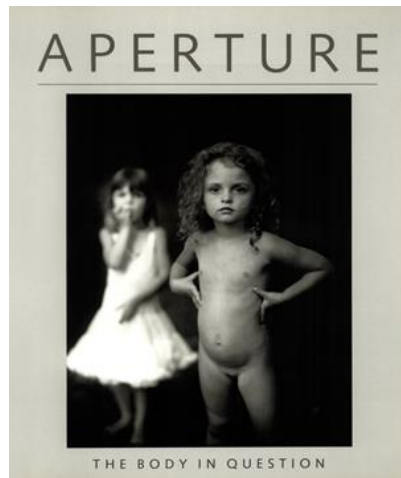
There will always be Aunt Mandys
Who are
BUTCHERED LIKE A PIG
BUTCHERED LIKE A PIG

and forget God and religion
for all they do is represent fantasies of men
that perpetuate hatred to women and gays—
I want a FEMALE GODDESS
I want a lesbian goddess
I want a homosexual god
I want a red god
I want a black goddess
I want a yellow god
I want a brown goddess
I want a god in the image of the
real humans here now
Remember we have the right to feel
But all I'm hearing is
Are my tits big enough?

KAREN FINLEY

Aunt Mandy

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