

Yellow Woman Speaks

Shadow become real; follower become leader;
mouse turned sorcerer —

In a red sky, a darker beast lies waiting,
her teeth, once hidden, now unsheathed swords.

Yellow woman, a revolutionary, speaks:

“They have mutilated our genitals, but I will restore them;
I will render our shames and praise them,
Our beauties, our mothers:
Those young Chinese whores on display in barracoons;
the domestics in soiled aprons;
the miners, loggers, railroad workers
holed up in Truckee in winters.
I will create armies of their descendants.

And I will expose the lies and ridicule
the impotence of those who have called us
chink
yellow-livered
slanted cunts
exotic
in order to abuse and exploit us.
And I will destroy them.”

Abrasive teacher, incisive comedienne,
Painted Lady, dark domestic —
Sweep minds' attics; burnish our senses;
keep house, make love, wreak vengeance.



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