

WE TEACH GIRLS TO SHRINK THEMSELVES TO MAKE THEM-SELVES SMALLER

WE SAY TO GIRLS YOU CAN HAVE AMBITION BUT NOT TOO MUCH

YOU SHOULD AIM TO BE SUCCESSFUL BUT NOT TOO SUCCESSFUL

OTHERWISE YOU WILL THREATEN THE MAN BECAUSE I AM FEMALE

I AM EXPECTED TO ASPIRE TO MARRIAGE I AM EXPECTED TO MAKE MY LIFE CHOICES ALWAYS KEEPING IN MIND THAT MARRIAGE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT NOW MARRIAGE CAN BE A SOURCE OF JOY AND LOVE AND MUTUAL SUPPORT BUT WHY DO WE TEACH TO ASPIRE TO MARRIAGE AND WE DON'T TEACH BOYS THE SAME? WE RAISE GIRLS TO EACH OTHER AS COMPETITORS

NOT FOR JOBS OR FOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS WHICH I THINK CAN BE A GOOD THING BUT FOR THE ATTENTION OF MEN WE TEACH GIRLS THAT THEY CANNOT BE SEXUAL BEINGS IN THE WAY THAT BOYS ARE FEMINIST: THE PERSON WHO BELIEVES IN THE SOCIAL. POLITICAL, AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY OF THE SEXES



PRETTY **WOMEN** wonder where my secret lies. I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size **B**ut when I start to tell them, they think I'm telling lies. I say,

It's in the reach of my arms, The span of my hips, The stride of my step,
The curl of my lips. I'm a WOMAN Phenomenally. Phenomenal WOMAN,

THAT'S ME. I WALK INTO A ROOM JUST AS COOL AS YOU PLEASE, AND TO A MAN,
THE FELLOWS STAND OR FALL DOWN ON THEIR KNEES. THEN THEY SWARM AROUND
ME,

A HIVE OF HONEY BEES. I SAY, IT'S THE FIRE IN MY EYES, AND THE FLASH OF MY TEETH, THE SWING IN MY WAIST, AND THE JOY IN MY FEET. I'M A WOMAN PHENOMENALLY.

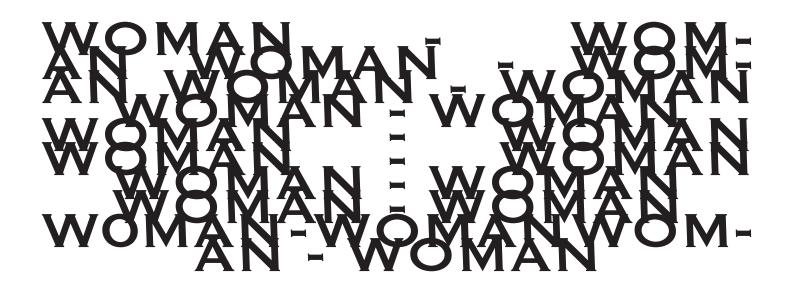
PHENOMENAL WOMAN, THAT'S ME. MEN THEMSELVES HAVE WONDERED WHAT THEY SEE IN ME. THEY TRY SO MUCH BUT THEY CAN'T TOUCH MY INNER MYSTERY WHEN I TRY TO SHOW THEM,
THEY SAY THEY STILL CAN'T SEE. I SAY, IT'S IN THE ARCH OF MY BACK,
THE SUN OF MY SMILE, THE RIDE OF MY BREASTS, THE GRACE OF MY STYLE.
I'M A WOMAN PHENOMENALLY. PHENOMENAL WOMAN, THAT'S ME.
NOW YOU UNDERSTAND JUST WHY MY HEAD'S NOT BOWED.
I DON'T SHOUT OR JUMP ABOUT OR HAVE TO TALK REAL LOUD.
WHEN YOU SEE ME PASSING, IT OUGHT TO MAKE YOU PROUD.
I SAY, IT'S IN THE CLICK OF MY HEELS, THE BEND OF MY HAIR,

THE PALM OF MY HAND, THE NEED FOR MY CARE. 'CAUSE I'M A WOMAN

PHENOMENALLY. PHENOMENAL WOMAN,

- Maya Angelou

THAT'S ME.





CHAMELEON SOUL

"I was in the winter of my life...and the men I met along the road were my homely summer. At night I fell asleep with visions of myself dancing and laughing and crying with them. Three years down the line of being on an endless road toward and my memories of them were the only things that sustained me...and my only real happy times. I was a singer...not a very popular one; I once had dreams of becoming a beautiful poet. But a plan and a series of unfortunate events saw those dreams dash and divide like a million stars in the night sky, that I wished on over and over again, sparkling and broken. But I didn't really mind it because I knew that, that it takes getting everything you ever wanted and then losing it, to know what true freedom is. And when the people I used to know found out what I'd been doing, how I'd been living...they asked me why, but there's no use in talking to people who have a home. They have no idea what it's like to seek safety in other people...for a home to be wherever you lie your head.

I WAS ALWAYS AN UNUSUAL GIRL. MY MOTHER TOLD ME I HAD A CHAMELEON

SOUL, NO MORAL COMPASS POINTING DUE NORTH, NO FIXED PERSONALITY. JUST A HINT OF INDECISIVENESS THAT WAS JUST AS WIDE AND WAVERING AS THE OCEAN. AND IF I SAID I DIDN'T PLAN FOR IT TO TURN OUT THIS WAY, I'D BE LYING... BECAUSE I WAS BORN TO BE THE OTHER WOMAN. I BELONGED TO NO ONE, WHO BELONGED TO EVERYONE. WHO HAD NOTHING, WHO WANTED EVERYTHING. WITH A FIRE FOR EVERY EXPERIENCE, AND AN OBSESSION FOR FREEDOM, THAT TERRIFIED ME TO THE POINT THAT I COULDN'T EVEN TALK ABOUT IT. AND PUSHED ME TO A NOMADIC POINT OF MADNESS THAT BOTH DAZZLED AND DIZZIED ME.

EVERY NIGHT I USED TO PRAY THAT I'D FIND MY PEOPLE. AND FINALLY I DID, ON THE OPEN ROAD. WE HAD NOTHING TO LOSE, NOTHING TO GAIN, NOTHING WE DESIRED ANYMORE. EXCEPT TO MAKE OUR LIVES INTO A WORK OF ART. LIVE FAST...DIE YOUNG...BE WILD AND HAVE FUN. I BELIEVE IN THE COUNTRY AMERICA USED TO BE. I'LL BELIEVE IN THE PERSON I WANT TO BECOME. I BELIEVE IN THE FREEDOM OF THE OPEN ROAD. AND MY MOTTO IS THE SAME AS EVER. I BELIEVE IN THE KINDNESS IN STRANGERS. AND WHEN I'M AT WAR WITH MYSELF, I RIDE. I JUST RIDE. WHO ARE YOU? ARE IN TOUCH WITH ALL OF YOUR DARKEST FANTASIES? HAVE YOU CREATED A LIFE FOR YOURSELF, WHERE YOU CAN EXPERIENCE THEM? I HAVE. I AM FUCKING CRAZY. BUT I AM FREE."

LADY

JLTIMATE

