

CRYSTAL LINZY

Impasse

Julian:

I'm not a hand licker
I'm not a hand licker
But you make me feel like I'm begging for scraps
At your feet
If it were any other soul
I would turn away from you with
A bloody snarl
The kind that only hellhounds can communicate in
But you have already reached the parts
Of me that even I fear
Close enough to my heart to pierce an artery
I give you the key to my destruction on a lazy Saturday night
But you all shrouded in steel and silence could barely care
You keep me at an arm's length
Knocking me to my feet with the fury of a hurricane
"Well what about me?"
Well what about you?
I could devour you whole
If only you were open to consumption
But you only pretend to be
Yet you stay kind enough to drip curses at me
from the corners of your lips
To the roots of my ears
I'm not a hand licker
I'm not a hand licker
What have you done to me
Willful child
Convolved woman

Corrine:

Isn't my voice my own
To do with it as I please
Then why is it so difficult
For me to air it without
A mutation of my character
A twist of my soul
I want to be

As warm as a Sunday morning
And always have the right thing to say
But the right thing isn't the true thing
And my mother always taught me to speak the
True thing
Well sir
You say you love me in spite of being
A colored girl
As long as I'm not
too dark
too loud
Or *too proud*
No sir you don't love me
You want a watered-down version of me
Where the melanin is so translucent
You can see the eurocentric beauty standards shine through
No sir you don't love me
You love an idea of me
That is a reflection of you
The one you've been taught to love since birth
The one I've been taught to love & covet since birth
But no sir you don't love me
So yes you can pass right by me
And I'll sit on these rickety steps near places
Where the carpeting has been torn
And hum to myself 'ain't I too a woman?'
While you find the magic and the wonder, all that life has to offer
I'll sit and I'll wonder 'ain't I too a woman?'

Both:

Do I want you?
Or do I want me?
Was it ever possible to have both?
The thing between us
Is a shared heartache
A tricky void
I never saw it as it was
Nor did you
We only saw it as
We were