



vagenda of manicide  
and other poems

MELINDA LUISA DE JESÚS

# **Vagenda of Manicide: Poems**

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## **Vagenda of Manicide, or Vagina Dentata poem**

you fear me  
you love me  
you hate me  
you want me  
you want to control me  
because you think i control you

come close, closer, baby  
get a good look  
at my black luscious hair  
ruby wet lips  
and shiny sharp teeth

i dare you  
what are you afraid of?  
i double dare you  
it's just a pussy  
made for you to grab  
i dare you

## Hay(na)ku Sentence:<sup>1</sup> On Grenfell Towers

Exquisite offerings atop the neoliberal pyre  
While she looks away, looks away.

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1 The “hay(na)ku sentence” was conceived by poet Jean Vengua as follows: “What about the 6-word hay(na)ku, which is based, partly, on making the (Americanized?) haiku Filipino, but at the same time, retains enough slipperiness to slide out of such geographic categories? UnAmerican sentences? I don’t mean in the sense of “unpatriotic,” but more the sense of not adhering to labels like “linear” or “vertical,” or, well, “American.” Which means what, exactly? Ask someone from Colombia. A sentence based on hay(na)ku is brief; it would slip by with perhaps less of a sense of “finish,” yet it has a certain impact, I think.”

For more information:

<https://jeanvengua.wordpress.com/2010/06/09/unamerican-sentences/>

**Poem for All the White Women Eating Sheet Cake,  
or White Supremacy**

Neighbor, I hate to tell you  
but  
a poisonous plant has taken over your garden  
Its roots--fat, thirsty, twisted--  
are unnaturally strong and deep.

I dare you to  
grab it tight  
fling it into the light of day

As you regard it  
greedy unrepentant accusing  
will you stab it with your shovel  
smear it to pieces

or  
will you  
while no one's looking  
gently replant it  
water and feed it  
allow it to spread into the next yard  
and the next?

## hay(na)ku: guns<sup>2</sup>

america,  
guns are  
your true god.

13,375<sup>3</sup>  
dead but  
you don't care

schoolkids  
died; didn't  
change a thing

worship  
guns; let  
cash registers ring

---

2 Hay(na)ku is a tercet based poetic form created by Filipina American poet, Eileen Tabios.

3 As of November 11, 2017. From <http://www.gunviolencearchive.org/>



## **Cheritas for Indictment Day**

1.

the old orange

has fallen in on itself  
green mold devouring

yet you still deny its stench  
the way it leaks  
and can't throw the damn thing away!

2.

one bad apple<sup>4</sup>

can't spoil much  
on its own, girl

but three bad apples  
( Manafort papadopoulos flynn )  
may help impeach a president

---

4 Apologies to the Osmond Brothers..

## **Cherita: The Wily Filipino**

“We have seen the chink,  
the slit-eyed dangerous Jap.  
We have seen the wily Filipino...”<sup>5</sup>

How can you be sure, America--  
lost in your funhouse of mirrors,  
nursing your spit and cum in a dirty cup?

---

5 Marlon Brando to Larry King (1996): “Hollywood is run by Jews. It is owned by Jews, and they should have a greater sensitivity. They should have greater sensitivity about the issue of people who are suffering because they've [been] exploited. We have seen the nigger, we've seen the greaseball, we have seen the chink, the slit-eyed dangerous Jap. We have seen the wily Filipino. We've seen everything, but we never saw the kike, because they know perfectly well that is where you draw the wagons around.”

Interview on *Larry King Live* (April 1996), quoted in *Cultural Diversity and the U.S. Media* (1998) by Yahya R. Kamalipour and Theresa Carilli, p. 105

## Me, Too

Like a flood, a wildfire  
the names run together  
    gathering power  
    telling the same awful story  
*a man harassed me*  
*a man assaulted me*  
*I was 4, 6, 13, 25*  
*I never forgot this*  
*I can't remember this*  
*I got used to this*  
*I lived through this*  
*I am MORE THAN THIS*  
*WE ARE MORE THAN THIS*

I see you, hear you  
I believe you  
I am here for you  
I love you

You didn't "ask for it"  
You didn't "deserve it"  
You didn't "want it"  
You didn't even know what "it" was  
    until it was taken from you

I can bear your rage and tears  
I can hold our rage for us  
What I can't bear is the silence  
    or losing you to it

"Me, too"  
    I know  
"Me, too"  
    I hate that we all know  
    That we all said, "Me, too."

## **You, Too**

you didn't listen when she said "stop it"  
when she said "no"  
you didn't think "it was anything"  
you didn't know  
you didn't care

you didn't keep your fucking hands  
to yourself

## **Imagine or No More Dicks**

try to imagine a time when  
it's not about  
your dick  
when it's not my job to service  
your dick  
nor care about your ego

imagine how much more free time I'd have--  
    all women would have  
if I didn't have to  
    anticipate  
    strategize  
    fight off  
your dick's demands  
at work  
in church  
at a party  
in a bar  
on the dance floor  
on public transport  
in the bathroom  
the classroom  
the library  
the supermarket  
my texts  
my email  
my own home  
my own bed

imagine a time where  
you learn  
to take care of your own dick  
where other, bigger things have priority

imagine that

**hay(na)ku: trumpworld: puerto rico**

9/26/2017

american  
history on  
shuffle and repeat:

brown/black  
bodies suffering,  
and he throws

paper  
towels, maniacal  
carnival barker, grinning.

they're  
not real  
americans, expect too

much,  
have run  
up too much

debt.  
the jones  
act will stand.

witness  
this shitshow  
and ponder: what

saves  
you from  
this same fate?

amerikkkan  
history on  
an orange plate

## **Artist Statement**

I was born and educated in Pennsylvania; my parents were emigrants from the Philippines. Growing up brown in a predominantly white steel town has shaped me in ways I'm constantly exploring in my writing. I identify primarily as a feminist of color. Professionally I teach and write about critical race theory, girlhood and monsters. I'm also a classically-trained mezzo-soprano who dreams of singing in a funk band, an Aquarian, and a mother of two. I drink hard liquor and love Hello Kitty.

I believe, as did the ancients, that a poem can change the world.

Oakland, Califas  
Summer-Fall 2017  
<http://peminist.com>

**MAKIBAKA!**

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