

Rules

walk on the inside away from the curb

no public displays of affection

when you call, let the phone ring twice
hang up and then dial again

call only if it's an emergency
if she answers, hang up

have the kids in bed when i get there

i like my wine chilly, ice cold. please keep
the ice tray filled

play jazz for me. keep it low. you like
your music too loud

keep a wet towel handy on the night stand
so we don't have to get up and go to the bathroom

when we fuck
suck my nipples

when you cum call me jesus

1746 Cherokee North

six stories of sweat, swill and decaying stucco
they meet outside the black wrought-iron gate
the lobby is bare except for gaudy red corduroy drapes
and an ancient white couple whispering
on the blood red divan
he walks her up. reggae & laughter from 402

smoke signals. tough & tearless (may the ancestors
watch over her) so what else can be done to her
done in done dirty — well down
nothing left to call pleasure but the giving of it

when the only difference between queen & whore is tone of voice

maybe he's rich. maybe he's THE ONE
he's left the Chi-Town Hawk for Lady Illusion
chose greatness over the money-fame game
(tells it sos it's known even he can't buy the lie)
failure scrawled everywhere, on his dirty white shirt
the dirty white walls, across the dirty white pages of his play

he smells of depilatory and after shave
half white half black half man half woman
as ambivalent as April
bemoans/groans — his last 20 grand chomped up by
hollywood werewolves — the ace of spades at 40 with nothing but
ache and i'm gonna

and culture disintegrates into spit for lubrication
a dicking so brutal it scares

then his partner shows up unexpectedly and lingers
she smells the set-up

fiji snack: liver sautéed in beer with onion
pita bread and hot sauce after
ganja

it's a long bare escape down the maroon elevator
to the dyspeptic lobby. the halls stink
somebody's shit. the walls are tight/phobic
the night air as sullen as her heart

when the only difference between queen & whore
is bone of choice