

## MADONNA WHO STARTS TO WRITE PROSE

feels like a ballet  
dancer whose foot  
was smashed and  
in a cast four  
months suddenly  
at the barre not  
sure she can point  
her toe or get  
from one side  
of the room  
out to the other  
without falling

AVALANCHE MADONNA: 1

comes fast.  
But when she  
goes down on you,  
you can't breathe

AVALANCHE MADONNA: 2

get her going  
and you can't  
stop her

## AUTO MOBILE MADONNA

gets where  
she's going  
on her own

HOLLYHOCKS MADONNA: 1

is bright, but  
ragged in her  
gaudy yellows,  
a bit moth eaten,  
a little droopy  
but sweet tho  
she hangs out  
near garbage,  
coarse as a  
street tramp

## MATERIAL MADONNA

wants a man  
who's made,  
doesn't matter  
much if he  
can still  
make it

MADONNA OF THE CANDIDATE

is jealous,  
knows he didn't  
just screw her  
but the whole  
country

## ANCIENT MADONNA

is so old  
she can  
remember  
when sex  
was dirty  
and the  
air clean

CRUISE MADONNA

is in  
ship shape

— Lyn Lifshin

Washington DC