

2019

While I Am a Woman*

Nicole I. Chavannes

Nova Southeastern University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://nsuworks.nova.edu/digressions>



Part of the [Art and Design Commons](#), and the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Chavannes, Nicole I. (2019) "While I Am a Woman*," *Digressions Literary Magazine*: Vol. 16 , Article 22.

Available at: <https://nsuworks.nova.edu/digressions/vol16/iss1/22>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the CAHSS Journals at NSUWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digressions Literary Magazine by an authorized editor of NSUWorks. For more information, please contact nsuworks@nova.edu.

While I Am a Woman*

Author Bio

Nicole has lived in South Florida her entire life and completed her undergrad at NSU, clearly, she loves change and yes, she still complains about the weather. Some of her passions include reading, writing, defending the Oxford comma, and critiquing unsatisfactory book-to-movie adaptations.

While I am a Woman

Nicole Chavannes

While I Am a Woman
While the choices I make
Are subject to your scrutiny,
While the clothing I wear
Dictates your views of me,
While the curls of my hair –
Which grow from the root, naturally –
Are judged as lazy and trashy,
While the blood I lose monthly
Is deemed dirty and disgusting,
Corrupting my judgment and leaving
Me unworthy,

I am not your equal.

Speak you to me of equality?
Honey, you don't know the meaning.

But I won't stop *choosing*,
and *wearing*,
and *curling*,
and *bleeding*
until I'm sure that you do.

I'll choose my words carefully –
Making sure not to bruise
that delicate ego you hold so dearly –
With the fire that burns beneath my simmering tongue

I'll wear down your prejudices,
Like the salty waves that slowly but surely
Erode their stony oppressors,
A constant barrage of knowledge to combat
Your hateful resistance to change.

I'll curl around you like smoke,
Make you breathe me in like the inescapable
Atmosphere I am
Fill your lungs with my fragrant essence
Until I am all that pervades your thoughts
And I'll bleed for my place on this Mother
Of all mothers.
I'll bleed, and I'll burn like
you'll never have to
Until we finally understand one another.