

2000

Peeling Petals

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**Peeling
Petals**

I
Peeling
Petals of
Programming from mom and step-dad #3 that rum and coke on the freeway is
OK.

Peeling
Petals of
Promises that mom and step-dat #4 will be back by the AM.

Peeling
Petals of
Pretend lumps in my throat when my brother escaped to the Navy leaving Mom
to start brushing my hair and bathing me.

Peeling
Petals of
Pressure being mistaken in public as my dad's mail-order picture bride.

Peeling
Petals of
Prototype passive, pleasing Geisha or Masseuse eager to appease any
AmeriKKKan man.

Peeling
Petals of
Propositions for paid passion from professors, veterans and athletes.

Peeling
Petals of
Poking unprotected penises of fraternity boys wanting 'hot ORIENTal chicks.'

Peeling
Petals of
Potential photo shoots for Playboy presenting collegiate Oriental-gurls in a 38-C.

Peeling
Petals of
Potential risks on the east-side of town near the 1982 sLAUGHtering of
Vincent Chin.

Peeling

Petals of

Petty threats from my brothers to be replaced by another GOOK if I didn't take a puff.

Peeling

Petals of

Profit for WHITE POWdER in plastic bags for dead presidents.

Peeling

Petals of

Pressure from family to marry a white-boy and drive Fords, not 'rice burners.'

Peeling

Petals of

Personal victimization as a presumed IMmiGRAnT at the border without a passport.

Peeling

Petals of

Puncture scars decorating my wrists like bangles from failed suicide.

Peeling

Petals of

Pain and stems of static surfacing in my sleep making my pulse pound.

Peeling

Petals of

Purging protein like pizza or peorgies into the toilet hoping to vanish into THIN air.

Peeling

Petals of

Phlegm and sweat spidering down my 'flat pancake' face waiting for my *u-ma* to return.

Peeling

Petals of

Propaganda to ASSimilate and ADOPT white western culture PERIOD.

II

Planting rows of rice growing solid, soaking in the shades of sun,
Revealing brand new buds blooming, breathing, being. . . .

Yun-Sook Kim Navarre