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Useless Parts

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Useless Parts

(para Pat Rich y todas mis otras hermanas torturadas)

1.
he said
she didn't need those parts anyway
don't need no teats
they're for cows
she smiled
& later
examined the lumps in her mirror
remembering caresses
the lips of lovers
tugging at taunt nipples
missis
mistress
misogyny
master
mammary
mastectomy
minus
white coats & rubber gloves
claimed the useless part
sliced clean
& tossed onto a steel tray
women are the best customers
frightened little things
worried about useless parts

2.
he kissed the remaining breast
ran his finger over
the scar
& said
she wd look good if she had
no breasts
she cried
missis
master
mammary
minus
no more babies
to suckle
women always harping
she still smiled
rode her bike
to size prostheses

got a new boyfriend
the one she had
couldn't take it
they took the second one
& she
kept fixing up her house
bought new light fixtures
w/ the money she saved
on brassieres & low-cut nightgowns
riding that bike
& laughing
useless parts

3.
but they kept taking
white coats & rubber gloves
claiming useless parts
shoveling them onto steel trays
don't need those parts anyway
long as she's got
a hole
his
hipprocrates
hyprocrisy
hysterotomy
hysterectomy
hysteria
no more babies
how wd it feel w/o a womb
wd there be muscles to flex
cd she feel him come
no more tampons
she smiled
long as she cd
then she died
wondering if all the cutting
had given her an extra day
like when they used to
bleed people for fevers
or slap on leeches
wondering if her teats
had been testicles
wd they have been considered
useless parts

Esperanza Malavé Cintrón