

# Mother Frankenstein (A Song For Five Voices)

Lisa Dickson

## Mère Frankenstein

*Ce texte soulève la question de la répétition et du mimétisme. A cet effet, dès le début il adopte la forme d'une chanson (refrain, répétitions). Le texte prend également les aspects d'une comptine, de celles (très perverses) que les petites filles ânonnent en sautant à la corde, apprenant ainsi les comportements féminins stéréotypés. Sur un ton très ironique, Dickson pose un regard critique sur la question contemporaine du genre et de ses techniques, tous deux conçus et repris selon le schéma masculin dans nos littératures occidentales. Qu'est-ce donc que le texte de Dickson sinon, un mélange parfaitement homogène d'essai, de poésie et de chant? Un texte au féminin.*

How could Shelley in Shelley's shadow speak  
her Monster into life but as a man-not-Man?

i

(A Woman-monster is redundant)  
(A Woman-monster tells a truth too true to tell)  
(A Woman-monster looks too much like Mother but with words to  
kill you)

ii

Sign on the Bathroom Door

WOMEN

Beyond it, just as I expected  
Row on row of us suspended  
Redheads on the left, blondes and brunettes in the rear

iii

While Waiting for the Bus in the Rain

...and this gorgeous redhead sits down beside me...  
A head out roaming the night – maybe to breathe the breeze  
Since this head's been roasted to a rosy glow  
Quite a feat to sit without a waist  
But you got it made if it's heads he's looking for

iv

Women in the Executive Lounge

wearing their wombs on the outside  
so you don't mistake them for the real McCoy

v

Welcome to Frankenstein Industries: Woman Division

We've come a long way from simple cottage industry  
Today, we keep the seams and scars under the skin  
Teams of Mothers and talk show hosts ensure that  
no model can be too young, too rich or too thin

Look at this one  
Give us a spin, dearie  
Give us a spin

Notice the upward glancing eyes  
The teeth white, but blunt

The legs a marriage of performance and class  
a streetwalker's bones, and movie-queen skin

Vocal chords are optional

How could Shelley in Shelley's shadow speak?

(A woman speaking speaks approximately  
A not-quite-not-human Monster moonlike shines  
with not-quite-not-male rage).