



1985

## Between Women

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### Recommended Citation

Lim, Shirley Geok-lin, *Between Women*, *Kunapipi*, 7(2), 1985.  
Available at: <http://ro.uow.edu.au/kunapipi/vol7/iss2/12>

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# Between Women

**Abstract**  
Poem

# Shirley Geok-lin Lim

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## BETWEEN WOMEN

One day I shall write about you —  
taller, tougher, curved Amazon  
(you queened it in every show,  
twelve-year-old woman, men like fleas  
jumping into your skin-stretched pants;  
queer pedigree, an empress chou  
appalled by the hovelled family  
under heel in the common bed:  
brute and vulgar spirit as  
only immigrant Hakkas have bred) —  
and I, the stray dropping by,  
with my mongrel tongue, to be burned  
in the shadow of your assertive  
flesh and flashy hair. But in my mind  
the damned secret of seeing double,  
fiction's poisoned perspective,  
painted you in lesser colours  
than mine. You have never forgiven  
this. One day I shall write about us  
when the cracked and acute glass  
no longer shows your grimace  
rivalled on my uncertain face.