

Janice Guidotti

PILLOW TALK

dedicated to Rock Hudson - Doris Day fans everywhere

& when we're done
he turns to me
& he says
(just in fun, of course)

"Servitude is such a small price to pay, isn't it?"

& i hear
running round my brain
echoes of:

You can't
You mustn't
You shouldn't Because you're a *girl*.

so i turn to him & say

"You're kidding Aren't you?"

& i think
i sure hope he's kidding
& i'm scared
'cause i have convictions
hidden under years of dust
in a dark corner
in a back room
of my mind

i know
the way i know
thirty days hath September
& i before e
& girls are made of refined sucrose
& dehydrated plant matter imbued with aromatic oils

i mean i *know*
that we all want to be housewives & mothers
& i *know* we're born with manual dexterity
that makes us naturals at sewing, typing, and taking dictation
but not at brain surgery
& i *know* we really aren't worth equal pay
& i *know* mother care is better than day care or even father care
& i *know* we really prefer taking orders
& i *know* we all would quit good careers
& give up all this women's lib stuff
if we only could get a good fuck

& he says

"Yeah I'm kidding. Couldn't you tell?"

& i say

"Shit, I thought you were serious.
I was ready
I was thinking
To love, honor and obey
To cook & clean & sew & care for
Isn't *really* too much to ask.
I was ready to say I'd marry you,
If you'd just do that for me."