

SQUAW VALLEY REVIEW



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Woman Shows Me Where We Are in the Service

Melissa Cabnmann

I ate the candy.
I didn't know gum pellets
and taffy arrows
were supposed to be whipped first
at the Bar Mitzvah boy
who ducked behind the *bema*.

I was already sucking.

Hard watermelon stuck
to my teeth when he

Recited LAWS
of PROHIBITION and ABSTINENCE
where it is written:

*A boy entering manhood
with braces and two-toned hair
will pass out candy* YOU SHALL ABOMINATE
*before winged creatures sting,
the flesh of a twelve-year old
in the presence of the* LORD YOUR GOD

Then you shall partake in perpetuity without suffering.
Then you shall be called out "Clean! Clean!"
Ancestors will do your laundry.
You will eat from the Kingdom of Confection.

In the second row of the synagogue of our confinement
I thought I was good. I had my finger
on the right page in the book, I knew
when to sit and when to stand and with whom
to lie down and FUCK after the Bar Mitzvah until
the sweet in my cheek gave me away

to the woman sitting next to me who
gave me a piece of her candy
so I'd have something to throw.