

born palestinian,
born black

suheir hammad



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for suzan & sabrine

exotic

don't wanna be your exotic
some delicate fragile colorful bird
imprisoned caged
in a land foreign to the stretch of her wings

don't wanna be your exotic
women everywhere are just like me
some taller darker nicer than me
but like me but just the same
women everywhere carry my nose on their faces
my name on their spirits

don't wanna
don't seduce yourself with
my otherness my hair
wasn't put on top my head to entice
you into some mysterious black vodou
the beat of my lashes against each other
aint some dark desert beat
it's just a blink
get over it

don't wanna be your exotic
your lovin of my beauty aint more than
funky fornication plain pink perversion
in fact nasty necrophilia
cause my beauty is dead to you
i am dead to you

not your
harem girl geisha doll
pom pom girl pum pum shorts
town whore belly dancer
la malinche venus hottentot
your immaculate vessel emasculating princess
banana picker
coffee maker
private dancer
laundry girl

don't wanna be
your erotic
not your exotic