

The Age Of Contraception

By *Cassandra Zurawski*

Have you ever missed menstruation?
Have you ever longed to recapture it?
Exorcise the demons of that sacred place
that some label dark and dank
like a haunted cave;
Send forth gallons of crimson lining
when the anger overwhelms
like a liquid primal scream;
Provide the mouth of a river
to increase the life force flow
into a gratifying flood?

Tonight, in the dark
a girl cries with shame—
The blood came for the first time
and the whole class saw it.

But thousands of years ago, in the dark
the witch women of the moon
laughed/danced/sang,
Giving thanks for what stained
the ground beneath bare feet.