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i need feminism because ...

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i need feminism because...

Sydney Quintana

i was 9 the first time my mom told me to put on a jacket over my tank top in 90 degree LA weather

all because my uncle was coming over and my growing breasts drew attention

i need feminism because i was taught my body should be censored instead of teaching every 9 year old boy that my body is not for his perusal

i was 15 when some guy asked if my first girlfriend and i would make out in front of him because it's hot

when we broke up, that guy tried to comfort me and said "it's okay. at least it wasn't like, a real relationship"

i need feminism because my love is not fetish and it is as real as any other

i am 18 and my grandma calls me every night to make sure i am safe on my college campus

all the stories on the news of rape on campuses haunt her, yet she doesn't call my male cousins

i need feminism because 1 in 4 college girls get raped and i don't place bets for odds as low as 25%

i need feminism because i'm asked my bra size more often than my IQ when i'm having a bad day, it's reduced to a bad case of pms

when i'm better than a man at something, it's because he went easy on me

when i'm not friends with a boy, i'm a bitch

when i'm friends with a boy, i'm a tease

when i'm wearing too much, i'm a prude

when i'm not wearing enough, i'm a slut

when i'm walking to my car at night, i hold my breath

and when i'm walking down the street during the day, i hold my tongue

the catcallers who are yelling for me to "smile, baby" don't know that i am more

i am more than an expression to please them,

more than a body to please them.