

AVE

O lost moon sisters
crescent in hair, sea underfoot do you wander
in blue veil, in green leaf, in tattered shawl do you wander
with goldleaf skin, with flaming hair do you wander
on Avenue A, on Bleecker Street do you wander
on Rampart Street, on Fillmore Street do you wander
with flower wreath, with jeweled breath do you wander

footprints

shining mother of pearl
behind you

moonstone eyes
in which the crescent moon

with gloves, with hat, in rags, in fur, in beads
under the waning moon, hair streaming in black rain
wailing with stray dogs, hissing in doorways
shadows you are, that fall on the crossroads, highways

jaywalking do you wander
spitting do you wander
mumbling and crying do you wander
aged and talking to yourselves
with roving eyes do you wander
hot for quick love do you wander
weeping your dead

naked you walk
swathed in long robes you walk
swaddled in death shroud you walk
backwards you walk

hungry
hungry
hungry

shrieking I hear you
singing I hear you
cursing I hear you
praying I hear you

you lie with the unicorn
you lie with the cobra
you lie in the dry grass
you lie with the yeti
you flick long cocks of satyrs with your tongue

you are armed
you drive chariots
you tower above me
you are small
you cower on hillsides
out of the winds

pregnant you wander
barefoot you wander
battered by drunk men you wander

you kill on steel tables
you birth in black beds
fetus you tore out stiffens in snow
it rises like new moon
you moan in your sleep

digging for yams you wander
looking for dope you wander
playing with birds you wander
chipping at stone you wander

I walk the long night seeking you
I climb the sea crest seeking you
I lie on the prairie, batter at stone gates
calling your names

you are coral
you are lapis and turquoise
your brain curls like shell
you dance on hills

hard-substance-woman you whirl
you dance on subways
you sprawl in tenements
children lick at your tits

you are the hills, the shape and color of mesa
you are the tent, the lodge of skins, the hogan
the buffalo robes, the quilt, the knitted afghan
you are the cauldron and the evening star
you rise over the sea, you ride the dark

I move within you, light the evening fire
I dip my hand in you and eat your flesh
you are my mirror image and my sister
you disappear like smoke on misty hills
you lead me thru dream forest on horseback
large gypsy mother, I lean my head on your back

I am you
and I must become you
I have been you
and I must become you
I am always you
I must become you

ay-a

ay-a ah

ay-a

ay-a ah ah

maya ma maya ma

om star mother ma om

maya ma ah

BOOK I



*It would be very pleasant to die with a wolf woman
It would be very pleasant*

TLINGIT SONG

*A clever man builds a city
A clever woman lays one low*

SHI CHING