



Editorial: Complaint Collective

As early career scholars and postgraduate students, Sara Ahmed's recent lecture 'On Complaint' (Ahmed 2018) resonated deeply in our hearts. We have all embodied, and been part of 'complaints' through our creative practices, institutional contexts, feminist and/or decolonial politics. Thus, this issue is inspired on Ahmed's work on institutional complaints. For us, and many others, it can be hard to find room for complaint within systems that are heavily controlled by those that the complaint is brought against. It often feels 'suffocating' (Ahmed 2018).

Through visual participatory methods, sociological fiction and zine-making, here we creatively and critically engage with Ahmed's 'On Complaint'. We present this AKE zine issue as a platform for complaint to exist, to exit, to become collective complaint.

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Ahmed S (2018) On Complaint. In Wheeler Centre Broadcasts. Melbourne, Australia, 24 October. Available at <https://www.wheelercentre.com/broadcasts/sara-ahmed-on-complaint?> (accessed 10 July 2019).

This issue of Affect, Knowledge, Embodiment (AKE) Zine is the product of a collaborative critical feminist arts/research workshop that took place at Griffith University on July 19th, 2018. The workshop was co-convened by academic and creative practitioners Dr Laura Rodriguez Castro, Dr Ashleigh Watson and Samantha Trayhurn who explored the entanglement of decolonial epistemologies, zine-making and sociological fiction. The workshop culminated with a session of collaborative zine-making in which participants applied the focal ideas of embodiment, affect and knowledge, and contributed their own creative and critical work and thoughts.





my heart

please

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"A complaint can be shattering, like a broken jug, we can be left in pieces"

(Ahmed 2018)

ABOND

A BIND

**LIVE
WHAT
YOU
LOVE**

(Ahmed 2018)

BE

Kind

"Smoothing things over requires

removing traces of histories..."

(Ahmed 2018)



a man to worship

a city to refuge in

i built a mecca i can taste



...-Confident



...to be named (un)important

facade
attempts
convincing
dresses
paints
adorns itself with
labels written
frames
fierce
worthy of being
dazzling ruse
everyone
look

To Silence:

~~"The complaint is a sign of a person's inability to deal with reality-
having any effect. It is just a sign of a person's inability to deal with reality-
doors"~~

~~"The complaint is a sign of a person's inability to deal with reality-
long on doors, doors with locks on doors, windows with bars
down to doors to see of a person's inability to deal with reality-
is no person's suffocating"~~

~~"The complainers are a sign of a person's inability to deal with reality-
doors"~~

~~"A complaint can be shattering, like a person's inability to deal with reality-
doors"~~

~~"Surrendering things even requires removing traces of histories...
doors"~~

~~"Chip, chip, chip. If we chip away at the old block, we can see the truth that chip
on our shoulders"~~

~~"A complaint can function like a switch, an alarm or an arrow, but it is
reaction... a complaint is how a network can survive"~~

~~"I felt like I would take myself down by admitting to the kind of Violence
was enacting"~~

~~"Be Careful! He is a person's inability to deal with reality-
doors"~~



It's normal [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] things inevitably cool
[REDACTED] doesn't [REDACTED]

And [REDACTED]
this isn't about [REDACTED] speaking's
re [REDACTED] independence
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
significant other. Both girls and
guys can exhibit this behaviour;
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], even if the situation is toxic.
As I said, [REDACTED]
you need to be comfortable with
[REDACTED] it's easier to hide it in
[REDACTED]
dependence in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] there is nothing wrong [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] it may be it [REDACTED]





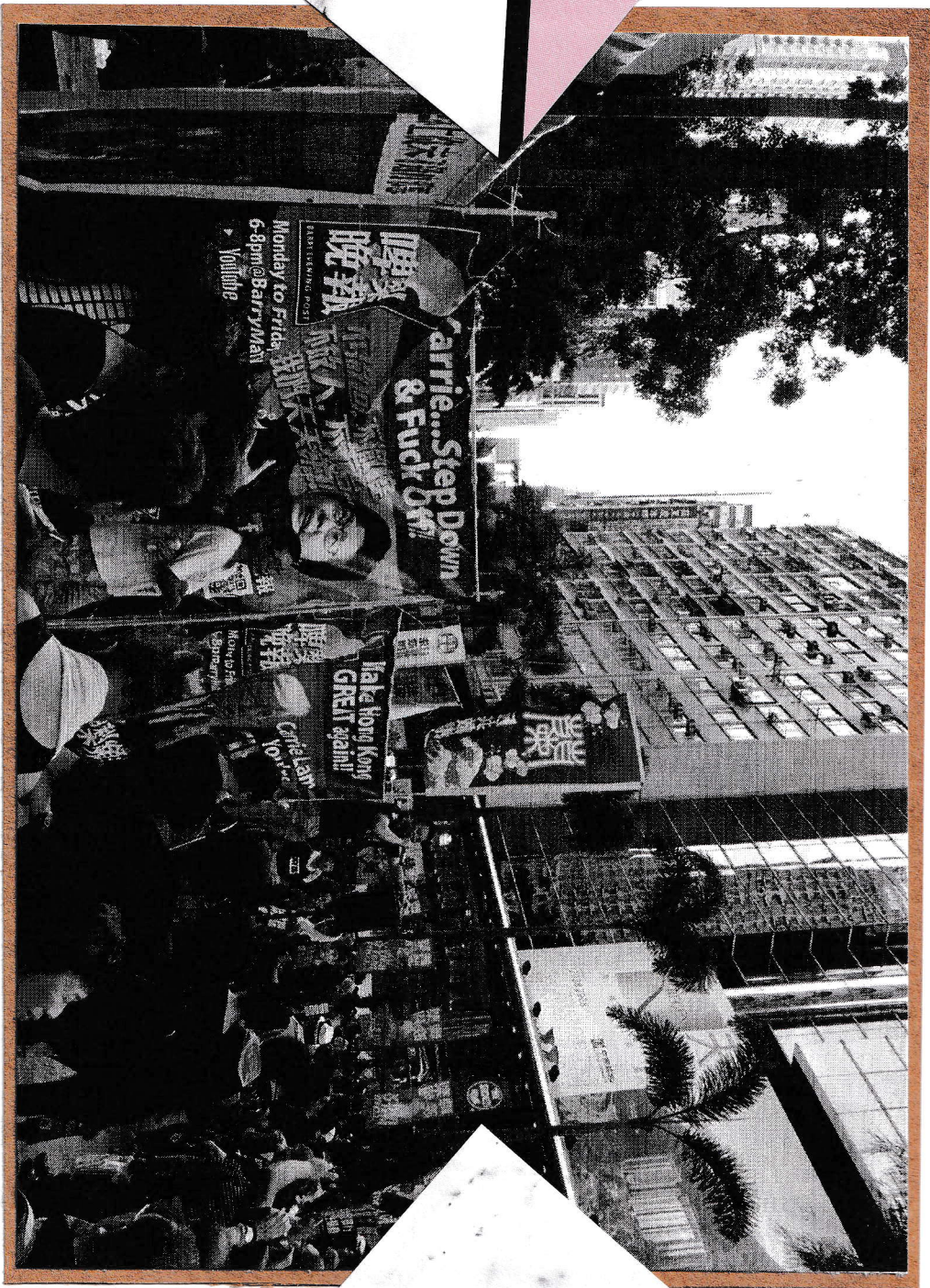
Whip smart

failure,

Go unnoticed.

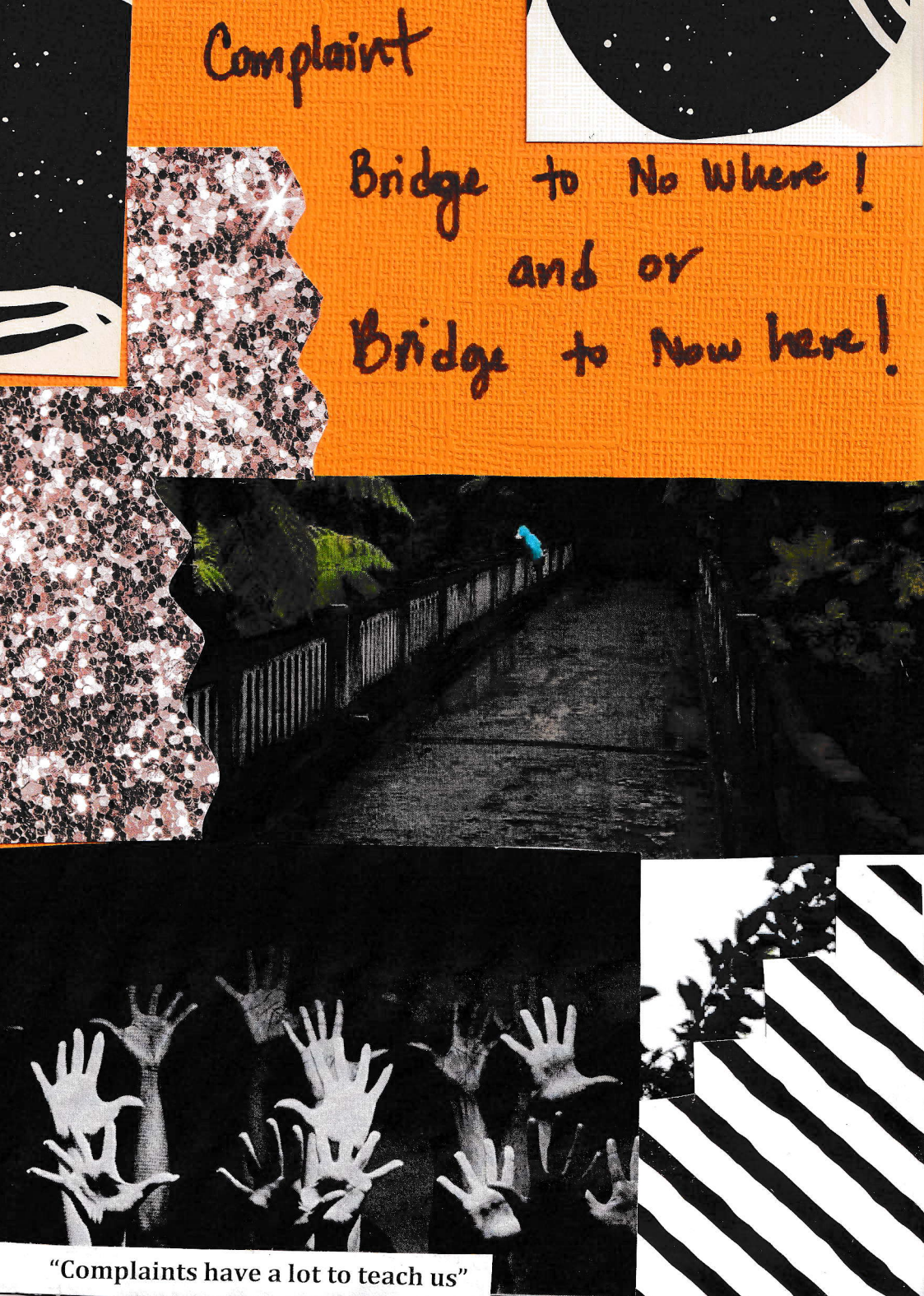
GOOD



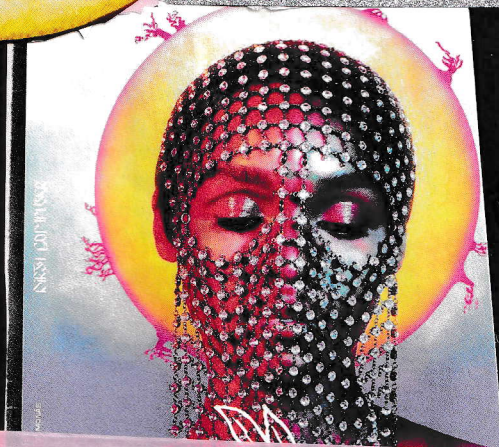
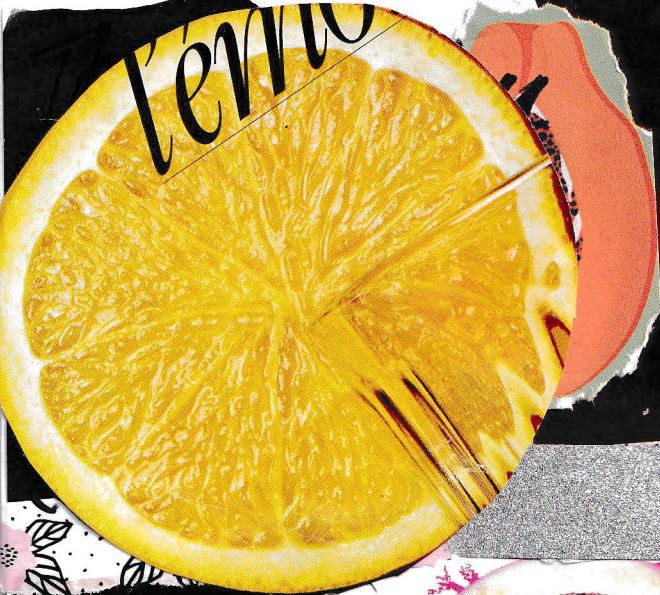


Complaint

Bridge to No Where!
and or
Bridge to Now here!

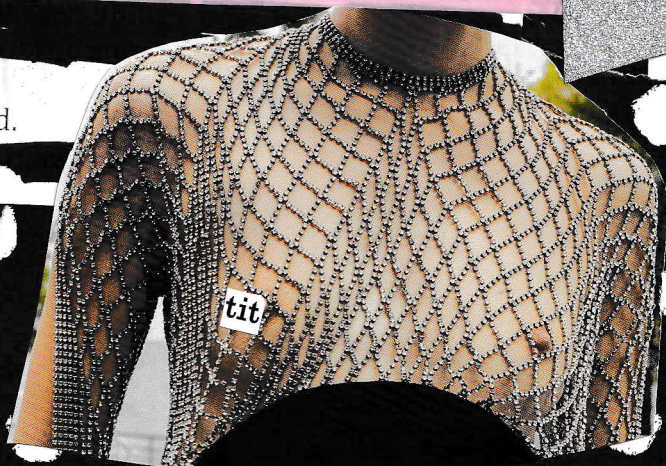


"Complaints have a lot to teach us"



MAGIC HAPPENS HERE MAGIC HAPPENS

Stop crying.
Open your hand.
Empty





long corridors,

function like a switch,

wanted
desperately
a

My

wanting

For people

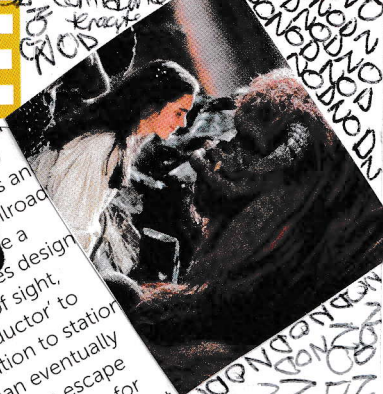
"The complainers are...
"Be careful.

windows with blinds

be swallowed.

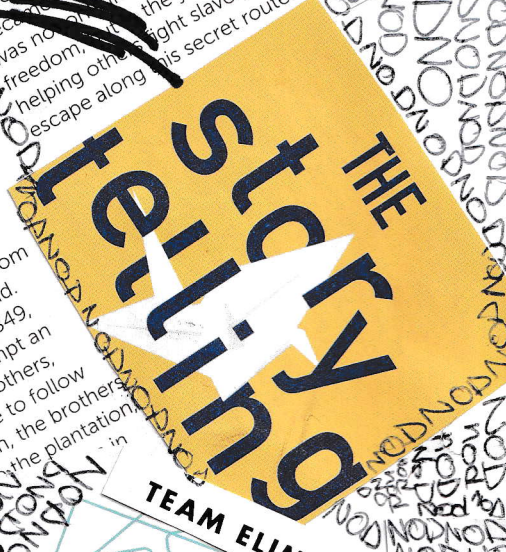
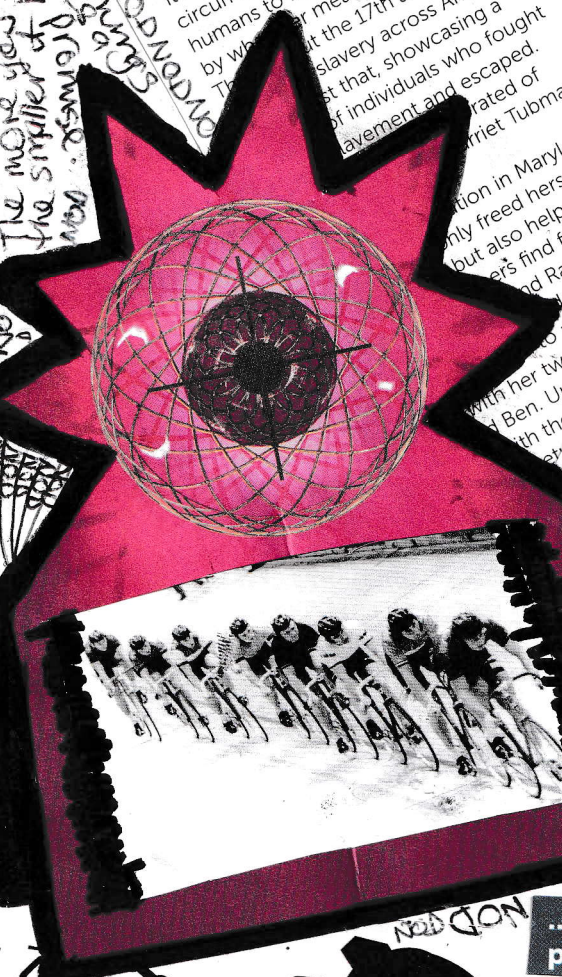
common

YOUR RACE GUIDE



broken jars
shattered
pieces
of
the
more
you
try
the
simpler
it
becomes
the
more
you
try
the
simpler
it
becomes

Historical escapes in the face of adversity are not solely confined to the walls of a prison. Often it is the most cruel and unjust circumstances that encourage humans to fight for freedom, by what ever means necessary. The 17th and 18th centuries saw slavery across America at its peak. That is, until the individuals who fought for its end. Harriet Tubman, a slave herself, became a network of secret activities designed to help slaves escape out of sight, often requiring a 'conductor' to move slaves from station to station. What Tubman's brave escape became, in her own dash for freedom, was no small feat. Helping others along this secret route, she became a 'conductor' on the Underground Railroad.



...is humanity
powerful enough

Mum says my
memoir is a lie



long corridors, doors with locks on them, windows with blinds that come down, to seems to sort of imbue every part of it with a cloistered feeling,

(Ahmed 2018)



permanent as my errors
or my pride
I do not mix
love with pity
nor hate with scorn

A Woman Speaks
Audre Lorde



doors"

little bird scratching away
effect. small, small,

small; small closed

IMPORTANT

MAN

(Ahmed 2018)

(Ahmed 2018)

(Ahmed 2018)

(Ahmed 2018)

(Ahmed 2018)

(Ahmed 2018)

(Ahmed 2018)

(Ahmed 2018)

(Ahmed 2018)

(Ahmed 2018)

(Ahmed 2018)

We are you

YES

"I'm not really turned on by the grandiosity [REDACTED]"

[REDACTED] it's [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] waking you up all night, that kind of feeling. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] taking the time to [REDACTED]

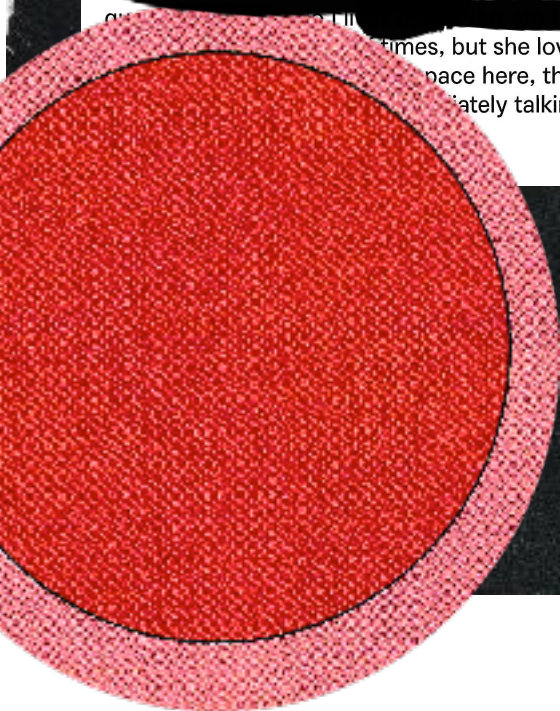
[REDACTED], just like in the movies. Immediately

[REDACTED] Yes. She tells me

[REDACTED] times, but she loved it, she had an amazing time

[REDACTED] space here, the sleep-ins and the slow sta

[REDACTED] ately talking to my best friend.





Sharing stories
across, in and
through the
water, these
daughters
of the sea



"The complainers are... my feminist philosophers"

(Ahmed 2018)



"A complaint can function like a switch, an alarm or an alert, that triggers a reaction... a complaint is how a network comes alive"

(Ahmed 2018)

on suggestive dimensions and
a universe beneath the skin.

The intimate barrier between self and
atmosphere.

I always try to get lane 5.
It's the lane that releases
the bubbles that aerate
the pool. Their feeling on my
skin takes me away +
connects me to other bubbles
in other water places . . .

to whom it may concern

IS nine to five personal violence,

WATCH THE SKY

danger or
threat

... a
career-...

was ...

unachievable

"I loved working

something has tried to kill me
and has failed.



GET THE
HELL OUT

have

is not mine. My brother
uncles.
mine.
my father
is not mine. My
not

men
are too heavy to be around,
carry too much loss,
Is that what we're here for?

women.
we have the moon.



A Woman Speaks
Audre Lorde

my feminist philosophers

broken

ph

complaint can be shattering, like a broken jug, we can be left in pieces"

"Smoothing things over requires removing traces of histories..."

"Complaints

(Ahmed 2018)

(Ahmed 2018)

(Ahmed 2018)

(Ahmed 2018)

(Ahmed 2018)

(Ahmed 2018)

(Ahmed 2018)

(Ahmed 2018)

(Ahmed 2018)

(Ahmed 2018)

(Ahmed 2018)

a little bird

GIVE
HER
ARMOUR



GIVE
HER
A
WEAPON



ALARM

ALERT

BE CAREFUL

[Complainer]



little bird
scratching

small
small
small

chip
chip
chip

[Complaint]

My Voice

To cure myself

I

For I found to
suppress their

Especially

Began by making

ference to the sea,

For the sea is
little need so great

And I had never
could be swallowed

To

some common myths

And the Cuban

and their

of the

Ming

and the

The legend of

the wanted song

and I had never

and I had never

queen

Whose strength was
greater than a rival
king's.

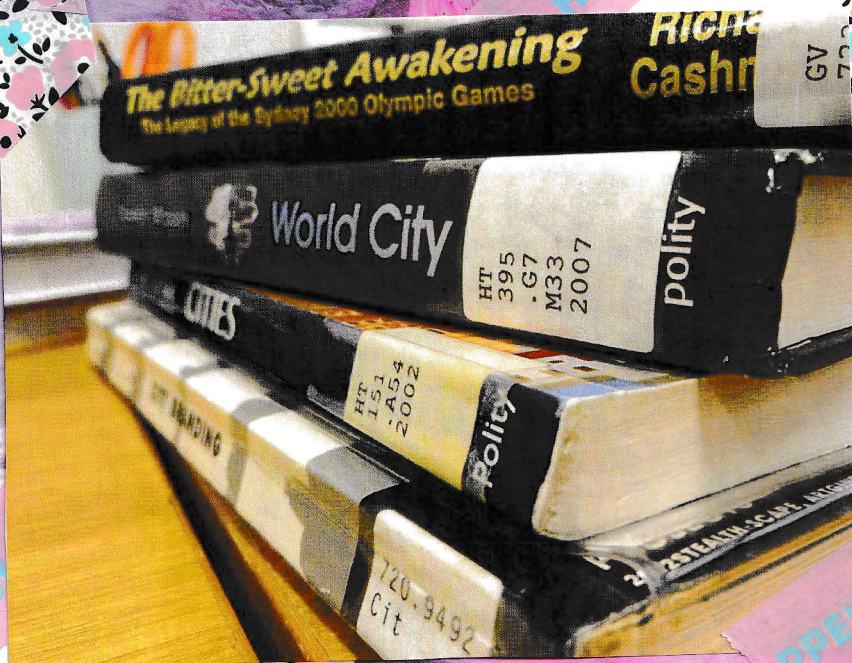


I WILL COMPLAIN
WHENEVER AND
HOW OFTEN I
WANT AND I
WILL BASK
IN THE
GLORY OF
THE SUN

THE QUIET ACHIEVER

When you walk up to her,
she keeps quite still,
but what she answers to

She forgets who she is.
She could be so small
she almost has no smile



Eaten away by outwa
her eyes are empty.

They could be watch
or not. They work in

Full-Length Portrait of the Moon
Alice Oswald

Planetarium
Adrienne Rich

A woman
monster
a monster
woman
the skies

the snow

the ground

the moon

like us

the night sky

riding

Galaxies of women,

penance

ribs chilled

An eye,

mad

encountering

every impulse

whispering

from the core

of us

Thinking of

others.

What

is changing

the light

mountain

a man

body

The
pouring in

I am bombarded yet

I have been standing

in the

path of a battery

untranslatable language

I am

so invo-

luted that

I am an instrument

in the shape

of a woman

and the reconstruction of the
mind.



"I felt like I would

take myself down

by admitting to

the kind of violence

he

was enacting"

(Ahmed 2018)

two people
understand
the singular
importance of
moments.