

# Petty Poetry for SCROTUS' Girls

with poems for Michelle Obama and Elizabeth Warren



melinda luisa de Jesús

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with poems for Elizabeth Warren and  
Michelle Obama**

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*Locofo Chaps is dedicated to publishing  
politically-oriented poetry.*

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**For Tiffany**

Who?

## **The Burn Book on Betsy DuVos**

1.

Betsy DuVos  
Rhymes with gross.

2.

Daddy buys me this  
Daddy loves me most  
He bought me some senators and a Cabinet post!

3.

Betsy, Betsy, Christian so pure  
Wasn't allowed through the schoolhouse door.

4. Just when she thought she'd handled the noise  
Poor lil Betsy couldn't spell "Du Bois."

## **For Ivanka**

Daddy's perfect girl  
Nordstrom dumped your fashion line  
Trudeau hates you, too.

## **The Burn Book on Omarosa**

1. I've read that "Uncle Tom" is a genderless epithet.
2. So, can we call you "Tomarosa"?
3. Girl, Stacy Dash is on line 1; Raven's on line 2.
4.  
Aunt Jemima sighed,  
then, grinning, removed her scarf  
and tied it on you.



## **For Kellyanne**

Just give me another hit, Daddy  
and I'll lie for you  
I'll lie so good  
We'll both  
believe  
it.

## **For Melania**

This wasn't what you bargained for, is it?  
Your every move dissected microscopically  
But the money's good, right?

*Be thin and pretty  
Don't speak, don't think  
Just let him have his way.  
It's all over in minute or two, thank God.*

"You make your bed, you lie in it," my mom would  
say.  
Is your gauche, gaudy golden cage  
Worth it?

## **For Michelle Obama on Inauguration Day, 2017**

On that final day  
your hair pulled back, severe as a nun's,  
the unimagineable ending to your 8 years of good  
work  
walking up the steps,  
the spirits of the slaves who built the White House  
keened loudly around you

But  
you squared your shoulders  
stood tall  
as always, gracious and warm.

Her supporters called you  
“Monkey face, ebonic english!”  
“an ape in heels”  
Insisted she was the real FLOTUS  
    cuz she just white  
    tall model-thin  
    submissive  
    silent

This Barbie doll, shell of a woman  
Pathetically following five steps behind her husband  
Stiffly took your hand, faked smile cracking her face  
And you saw her fear, her desperation

As Melania offered you that Tiffany box  
were you thinking:

*You so basic.  
Where can I put this damn box?  
Didn't mean to put you out there, Melania.  
Poor thing has no idea what's ahead*

That whole long morning,  
prelude to our current national shitshow,  
We stood by you, with you  
As together we watched the dream you and your  
husband built slip away.

Our solace?  
They can't touch your garden

and

We know you'll be back.

**Annotation on Senate Rule XIX, February  
7, 2017  
For Elizabeth Warren**

"She was warned . . . nevertheless, she persisted."

The story of every woman  
throughout time  
who stood up  
who fought back  
who claimed her power.

She knows  
Righteousness trumps rules of order  
No lizard-like crusty white patriarch will ever  
silence her.

Long may she live  
Long may she persist.

## **Artist Statement: Melinda Luisa de Jesús**

I was born and raised in Pennsylvania; my parents were emigrants from the Philippines. Growing up brown in a predominantly white steel town has shaped me in ways I'm constantly exploring in my writing. I identify primarily as a feminist of color. Professionally I teach and write about critical race theory, girlhood and monsters. I'm also a classically-trained mezzo-soprano who dreams of singing in a funk band, an Aquarian, and a mother of two. I drink hard liquor and love Hello Kitty.

I believe, as did the ancients, that a poem can change the world.

More about me at: <http://peminist.com>

Oakland, Califas  
February 2017

## Locofo Chaps

2017

Eileen Tabios – *To Be An Empire Is To Burn*

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John Goodman – *Twenty Moments that Changed the World*

Donna Kuhn – *Don't Say His Name*

Eileen Tabios (ed.) – *Puñeta: Political Pilipinx Poetry*

Gabriel Gudding – *Bed From Government*

mEKAL aND – *Manifesto of the Moment*

Garin Cycholl – *Country Musics 20/20*

Mary Kasimor – *The Prometheus Collage*

Iars palm – *case*

Reijo Valta – *Truth and Truthmp*

Andrew Peterson – *The Big Game is Every Night*

Romeo Alcalá Cruz – *Archaeoteryx*

John Lowther – *18 of 555*

Jorge Sánchez – *Now Sing*

Alex Gildzen – *Disco Naps & Odd Nods*

Barbara Janes Reyes – *Puñeta: Political Pilipinx Poetry, vol. 2*

Luisa A. Igloria – *Puñeta: Political Pilipinx Poetry, vol. 3*

Tom Bamford – *The Gag Reel*

Melinda Luisa de Jesús – *Humpty Drumpfty and Other Poems*

Allen Bramhall – *Bleak Like Me*

Kristian Carlsson – *The United World of War*

Roy Bentley – *Men, Death, Lies*

Travis Macdonald – *How to Zing the Government*

Kristian Carlsson – *Dhaka Poems*

Barbara Jane Reyes – *Nevertheless, #She Persisted*

Martha Deed – *We Should Have Seen This Coming*

Matt Hill – *Yet Another Blunted Ascent*

Patricia Roth Schwartz – *Know Better*

Melinda Luisa de Jesús – *Petty Poetry for SCROTUS' Girls, with poems for Elizabeth Warren and Michelle Obama*

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