

Carmen Giménez Smith

AM I JUST A BROWN-WINGED DOVE

am I just a brown-winged dove and can you translate your pop to accommodate my precious
otherness outside of buffoonery I know we're friends but am I that friend you tally on
your list of goodwill a friend of ways are you domesticating
my dear otherness like the lesson on diplomacy and
the lesson on crying and yelling thank you for that but when do
we integrate when do we take it to the next level and stop pretending between you and me
those that pretend because they're still commercial and false hope and Woodstock
when do I pierce my daughter's ears that mutilation I privilege that I earned
through half-assimilation
how do we meet halfway when you own the road and the toll is steep
why is it hard to hear hard to believe hard to *process*
the inventor of alternative text cool and why are the young tossing
words around like they have no currency and it bores me to remind them so
does someone want to take my place for a day walk in my huaraches
that I don't have but some suspect credential afforded to me by guilt
is anyone honest anymore about where we are would I a monkey in my tree a
monkey do I make you laugh am I the monkey on the alligator's back