

## ***dat Black Mermaid Man Lady***

by Sharon Bridgforth  
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### EXCERPT

This text is jazz, grounded in blues. Literal songs are in bold, centered on the page, but the entire script is a musical score. Songs serve as transitions that move the storytellers through their world and as tools for conjuring. Text in boxes represents processional movement and the intention/reason therein.

*i keeps dreaming this dream. this black mermaid man lady. come to me in my dreams.  
black black like a most beautiful night sky. eyes shinning like stars. skirt deep blue/dark  
like skin. hair gots a thousand fishes and pearls hanging all the way down past behind.  
this man lady come to me in my dreams. take my hand pull me down down down to the  
bottom of the ocean. at the very bottom. i see things. like. down there is all them people  
you donn killeded. all them people. plus so many more. so many more they take up all  
space and time. they down there. they down there. they look at me. they eyes they  
pierce. i know they trying to tell me something. but i always wake up right when they  
mouths open. right when they mouths open fishes and fishes and pearls flow out. i  
always wake right when i see that. always i wake wet. not from sweat.  
with sand and sea weed.*

honeypot soak david in in silence.

even duck hush.

david ride the silence. carry on.

say/i don't know why that man lady come get me in the night. i don't know why i the one  
get took on them trips. but i am fo sho

mo pretty ain't the debil.

somebody pipe in say/YEAH.

david continue/mo pretty don't deserve to die.

three four five more peoples stand up

say/YEAH.

david say/maybe none of them debils you donn took down did

everbody press in now. say/YEAH.

all eyes hard on honeypot.

david hit the nail then. say/we is tired of you sending duck up in here busting up our good  
gotdangit time. it is causing the ruination of our nerves. and too. yo judgement is bad.

plus now a days you just wants to shoot down anybody make you mad. it don't matter if  
they debils from hell or not. that ain't right.

peoples is worked up now. shout/YEAH.

davin say/gotdangit honeypot. just keep yo black ass up on the band stand.

slay peoples with yo music.

that the treasure.

it yo treasure to give. it ours to receive. and therebythroughinandwhatnot  
what you give circle back to you.

it your treasure posed to circulate you know.

not your rage.

that the message i finally come back with

slay the peoples with yo music

and tend to yo own gotdangit buisness.

lay yo weapons down.

just circulate.

please.

by now everbody in the room

cluding duck

moving in in in shouting/YEAH.

heat raise off honeypot

pause the crowd.

jus then mo pretty bust in.

everybody got to cussing and running and diving and well

ducking.

mo pretty stand there

breathe in the danger.

turn slow. eyes circle the room. silent.

honeypot rock

she gots two minds to work through.

honeypot sweat

she turn left she turn right. she circle.

honeypot hum

david get to clapping

a praise jumping come on honeypot

duck wail

honeypot catch a fit of shivers

eyes roll back in she head

david moan

crowd move in

somebody sing

**circulate**

**lawd circulate**

honeypot cry

and cry.

and she cry.

**circulate**

**lawd circulate**

something break.

we feel it

we hold it open for she.

honeypot get in it

sing

**rest**

head raised

arms wide open

honeypot sing

**rest**

david pour he spirits on ground

**rest**

david pour he spirits on honeypot head

**rest**

david spit he spirits round de joint

**rest**

david say/it donn

**i guess**

**i'll let it**

**rest**

david say/it so

**rest**

david say/it is

**yes**

**i'll let it**

**rest**

everbody mash in

we say/we loves you honeypot.

honeypot get back to moaning

david. he wail.

honeypot snatch mo pretty up

mo pretty say/i is so sorry

honeypot say/it's okay lil sister.

together honeypot and mo pretty

they moan

and they rock.

we sing

**yes lawd**

**let it rest**

they shake

**yes lawd**

**let it rest**

they shiver

**yes lawd**

**let it rest**

they carry on out the door.

and now

them two

plus duck and david and dem

on da road

slaying the peoples

with they songs. together.

and now. us. we all swear

when we rest.

that black mermaid man lady

with blue back dress

and fishes and fishes and pearls

come by our dreams.

leave trails of sand and sea weed. wet  
in the night.

<b>Release</b>
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