



Handout 2 - *What's an Indian Woman to Do?* Marcie Rendon (Anishinaabe)

Marcie Rendon (1952-) Anishinaabe is a poet, playwright, community activist, and member of the White Earth Nation. She has written two novels, including Girl Gone Missing (2019), and well as a variety of children's books. She is also producer and creative direct at the Raving Native Theater in Minnesota.

what's an indian women to do
when the white girls act more indian
than the indian women do?

my tongue trips over takonsala
mumbles around the word mitakuye oyasin
my ojibwe's been corrected
by a blond U of M undergraduate

what's an indian woman to do?

much to my ex-husband's dismay
i never learned the humble,
Spiritual,
Native woman stance
legs tight, arms close, head bowed
three paces behind

my mother worked and fought with men
strode across fields
100-pound potato sacks on shoulders broad as any man
the most traditional thing
my grandfather taught me
was to put jeebik on the cue stick
to win a game of pool

so I never the learned the finer
indian arts
so many white women have become adept at
sometimes I go to pow-wows
see them selling wares
somehow the little crystals
tied on leather pouches
never pull my indian heart

huh, what's an indian woman to do?



i remember Kathy She Who Sees the Spirit Lights
when she was still
Katrina Olson from Mankato, Minnesota
and Raven Woman?
damn, I swear I knew her
when she was a jewish girl
over in st. paul

as my hair grays
theirs gets darker
month by month
their reservation accents
thicker
year by year

used to be
reincarnation happened
only to the dead

hmmm?!?!?

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when the white girls act more indian
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RUMBLE
The Indians Who Rocked the World