

CutBank

Volume 1
Issue 25 *CutBank* 25

Article 47

Fall 1986

Clothes Horse

Diane Glancy

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Glancy, Diane (1986) "Clothes Horse," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 25 , Article 47.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss25/47>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in CutBank by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

Clothes Horse

Heifer brown in her buckskin dress
Horse in corral
with sun across its mane brown

Falling leaf brown when she walks

Closest bush to the road brown
fry bread smell in the grease brown

Horses graze as needles stitching the grass
She covers herself with porcupine quills,
raccoon stripes, feathers of the mottled hens
& skunk grass

Not awake yet brown in the head
of her buckskin dress
lonesome red of the plucked rooster comb

The metallic strip of silo
reminds her of a beading needle

Not muzzled with buttons
her bosom waddles under the duststorm
of her buckskin dress
somewhere
the prickly pear of her nipples flesh

She is the only squaw with a closet in her teepee

The first morning light
through the flat trees brown

Silver scissored as the river
she cuts through fields & hunting grounds
her brown buckskin dress fringed with elk teeth

She is on her way to the yard goods store
mouth stained red as winterberry

Gourd rattle brown, buckbrush brown,
wild turkey, wood duck brown,
running dog into the hills brown

Her brave hunts all season for pelts & hides
while she sits warm as campfire
like a yellow veined leaf

Leggins, sashes, belts, turtle shells, blankets,
shawls, combs, bags, hornet nest hats—

It takes a two-horse travois to get her
to winter camp.