

NARRATIVE IMPERATIVE

NARRATOR: Lucy McLean

COAL 5: Gender Equality

Fighting with Flowers

It is February 14th
I board the plane home
With a bunch of roses in my hand
The person seated next to me says
"It looks like your man remembered"

A silence sets in
As patriarchal assumptions
Fall gently
Like petals on a wedding ceremony
The role based role play
We unintentionally let map onto our
lives-
She who drives
And I who cook
- Sends me in spirals
Who was I to bring her flowers?

I struggle
remind myself of our need
For protest, policy and proposals
For the right for all
to soften and be safe in it
But right here all I have is flowers
If you let them, they grow
Into big plants

And then into trees
The materials
Used to renovate and rebuild;
Structural change.

So I smile,
"Actually, I remembered."
Their pupils dilate
Open windows to a mind
Where a seed has just been planted
Change at the outer limits of my echo
chamber
I sew with love