

## Count Zero "Manpower"

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You, with the ribbons in your hair:  
Recall when there were flowers there?  
Before the Men in Power saw red  
And turned yours into a scapegoat's head?  
They said your pursuit of liberty  
Had thrown all their boys in poverty  
And "made most you women disobey."  
How could so much change from yesterday?

And they seated their chiefs, resplendent  
And they gave them the words you wore;  
And they helped make your Sex descendant  
By closing your ev'ry door;  
And if you still felt independent,  
They'd demote you to working poor.  
You were working, but guess who for?  
For the Men in Power.  
Manpower for the Men in Power.

(Who're the men enshrouded  
Holding silent strings round my hands  
That tug to make me blame you  
And twist if I refuse to?)

You, with the powder on your cheek:  
They've made the facts to keep you weak.  
Their yellow research headlined the rags  
While editors of the fashion mags  
Said, "Your freedom's made you discontent"  
Except when you'd choose their sponsor's scent.  
And soon household goods would catch your eye  
'Til "Surrender!" was your soul's sole reply.

And they deified hip reduction  
And your roles early on were played;  
They convinced you a liposuction  
Was a sure way to make the grade;  
And the press, with their trend construction,  
Called you Over-The-Hill Old Maid  
So you'd panic, and wed, afraid,  
For the Men in Power.  
Manpower for the Men in Power.

(Have we made no progress?  
Has there been no lesson we've learned?  
Are they so frail and fearful  
They need to see you cower?  
If they're disenfranchised  
Boys are paid 'til tables are turned.  
These men-in-white's advantage  
Is that they own the tower.  
And the fact I'm passive  
Makes me all the more concerned!  
Am I so tired and jaded  
To fight the Men in Power?)

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