

**Difranco Ani****"My I Q"**

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when I was four years old  
they tried to test my I.Q.  
they showed me a picture  
of 3 oranges and a pear  
they said,  
which one is different?  
it does not belong  
they taught me different is wrong  
but when I was 13 years old  
I woke up one morning  
thighs covered in blood  
like a war  
like a warning  
that I live in a breakable takeable body  
an ever-increasingly valuable body  
that a woman had come in the night to replace me  
deface me  
see,  
my body is borrowed  
yeah, I got it on loan  
for the time in between my mom and some maggots  
I don't need anyone to hold me  
I can hold my own  
I got highways for stretchmarks  
see where I've grown  
I sing sometimes  
like my life is at stake  
'cause you're only as loud  
as the noises you make  
I'm learning to laugh as hard  
as I can listen  
'cause silence  
is violence  
in women and poor people  
if more people were screaming then I could relax  
but a good brain ain't diddley  
if you don't have the facts  
we live in a breakable takeable world  
an ever available possible world  
and we can make music  
like we can make do

genius is in a back beat  
backseat to nothing if you're dancing  
especially something stupid  
like I.Q.  
for every lie I unlearn  
I learn something new  
I sing sometimes for the war that I fight  
'cause every tool is a weapon -  
if you hold it right.

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