

## Angela Ammons

### "Thin Red Line"

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88.5 Chicago. Yeah.  
I shoot the gift on the radio station  
88.5 WHPK was the only station that would fuck with rap  
88.5 Chicago. On the radio station.  
Takin' a train (repeat/fade)

The thin red line is the thin spine  
I roll down the back of a city overgrown and overtaxed  
The wack stands of the rich pick a thin  
pockets bare and scatter, the skeletons of cultures with  
no rent control  
Pattering feet of prostitutes and penny brown  
children trades glass glades sweet for someone to pay  
or to listen  
I glisten like the question in the shorty's eyes  
sleeping in the train-car at the Lawrence stop when I  
get in  
Making pillows out of bare arms while I'm posturing  
poems  
but I can't name these eyes or the idea of less than  
home  
Home be unfinished it that fate hasn't sown  
in the skirt of an evening over mornings waste blown  
I see the moon I see the go going by on stilts  
as mouths wilt and turn blinded to girls' eyes  
Fate's hands have holes, we hold hope by the collar  
color red the closed eyes shut tight on the dollar  
Wills rock-heads to sleep, my eyes peal all the way  
to memorize a sleeping girl's face and bring it to PK

Oh, shit I'm late I got a bus to make to take the 35th  
and State  
Get on the Dan Ryan red line and head downtown  
With head down experience life in surround sound  
Rhythematic speech occurs when the crowd's around  
Besides I'm still waiting on the train, plus I'm late  
already  
and how the fuck am I gonna get downtown and back  
to WHPK  
Man its already 8:40, too much thinkin  
I gotta keep this freestyle steady, now freestyles over

things  
like this point to the fact that I'm sober  
I need weed, yo fuck the mission to the record store  
to put CD's on consignment just for fickle fans to not  
buy it,  
I thought they liked violence but anyway skip downtown  
I turn around I hear the train coming, head out now  
Train stop, hop in the backseat like a fuckin' taxi  
and I heard that DJ Nat be having fat sacs a weed  
Get off and catch the 55th and Garfield to University  
Hyde Park chill, I feel a dark chill when I hit the building  
Here with the intention to kill it  
Finally made it now where the hell is Qwel and Denizen?

\*Reasons run thin by the end of the line  
but the signs can be read if you learn them in time  
(x2)\*

Yo it's already Wednesday night, time for HPK's rap  
show  
but waitin' on sacs yo makes me late  
Fuck it gotta hit this open mic  
hopin' to leave stress at the rest so I can flow tonight  
I grab my rhyme book and hit the elevator  
lighter square freestyle the tale I'ma tell later  
Hike to the thin red line that's Sheridan  
by the time my name dries waitin' for the train here it is  
Amongst the chatter of workdays and old dreams  
The thin red line holds me to window seats  
The wind blows beats with sin don't sleep  
but neither can I with open mics on my mind  
My pen and pad describe 65-minute lifetimes  
from Sheridan to Hyde Park provides spark tight lines  
Who's these Typical Cats flexin' insane  
"It's the Q-W-A", "Denizen Kane"

Good to see yall cats late again some typical shit  
For sure don't sweat it Denizen, yo it's cool that you  
made it in  
Yo my bad Denizen I had to catch some medicine  
Oh I feel the pharmacology, cats were just guessin'  
when  
we three breath these free prophecies  
Catch me settin' outer limits to these than HP  
to MC's that hate me probably cause they take  
themselves too seriously  
My fear is not being there you see to hear'em speak  
fo sho you know these flea-bitten felines is found  
And the loose tooth get left in the booth  
that's my man Dan in a fine fickle fix of fellowship and  
fools frontin'

Fact remains Benneton ads on crack make you move  
something  
Similar to Hi-Tek and Talib only at hi-speed, fools  
frontin'  
but the fact remains they still won't do nothing  
Who's bluffin', fuck that, I'm all concerned with whose  
cuttin'  
Yo fuck who's cuttin', yo it's cool if you two dudes is  
puffin', huh skid?  
Not to crush this fat rap oh shit check out this Typical  
Cat Nat scratch

\*DJ Natural cuts it up\*

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