

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Lindsay Bernhards: Two Poems

Lindsay Bernhards · Wednesday, August 24th, 2022

### Two poems by Lindsay Bernhards

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#### The Wildflowers

In my dreams, I see myself  
wandering through a field of  
wildflowers that wave to me  
as the wind passes by, and  
brush my ankles with  
their stems.

I plant my knees  
in the dirt and ask:  
Do you ever fear that the cloudless  
sky won't give you rain?  
That the soil will be too loose to hold your roots?  
That the direction in which you  
grow is too far from the sun?  
That one day the breeze will stop  
and you can no longer sway?

"Pardon us,"  
The wildflowers say,  
"But we're  
Too busy dancing."

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#### Why Do We Tell a Woman She's Too Much?

Too thin to be pretty.  
Too curvy to be beautiful.  
Too loud to be heard.  
Too meek to be respected.

Too astute to be trusted.  
Too kind to be genuine.  
Too matronly to be desired.  
Too small to be noticed.  
Too tall to be wanted.  
Too friendly not to be  
“asking for it.”

We repeat these to her  
until the messages  
bury themselves  
into her skin  
like a deep red wine,  
and she’s so stained  
that she doesn’t want to be  
in it anymore.

Why don’t we tell her the  
truth and say:  
*Darling, you are  
too great of a force  
to be reckoned with?*

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