

MADONNA WHO STARTS TO WRITE PROSE

feels like a ballet  
dancer whose foot  
was smashed and  
in a cast four  
months suddenly  
at the barre not  
sure she can point  
her toe or get  
from one side  
of the room  
out to the other  
without falling

AVALANCHE MADONNA: 1

comes fast.  
But when she  
goes down on you,  
you can't breathe

AVALANCHE MADONNA: 2

get her going  
and you can't  
stop her

AUTO MOBILE MADONNA

gets where  
she's going  
on her own

HOLLYHOCKS MADONNA: 1

is bright, but  
ragged in her  
gaudy yellows,  
a bit moth eaten,  
a little droopy  
but sweet tho  
she hangs out  
near garbage,  
coarse as a  
street tramp

MATERIAL MADONNA

wants a man  
who's made,  
doesn't matter  
much if he  
can still  
make it

MADONNA OF THE CANDIDATE

ANCIENT MADONNA

is so old  
she can  
remember  
when sex  
was dirty  
and the  
air clean

is jealous,  
knows he didn't  
just screw her  
but the whole  
country

CRUISE MADONNA

is in  
ship shape

— Lyn Lifshin

Washington DC