

Cathy Young

POMMY JOKE

Look. Here's me
aged 5
with my porcelain doll
Black Bessy
before she went to the doll hospital
broken
because she scared my fair-haired sister

Here I am again
at 8
the little girl who was brought to Australia
so she'd fit in with the Aborigines
and no-one could say
mum had slept with a darkie. (Ha! Ha! Ha!)

This one's when
I was 15
my first dance
having a great time
until some boy said
come over lubra lips and put your head down here

There's none for the next few years —
must have been the time when I was the party
when one of those 5 mongrels said
she's not bad looking for an Abo

I'm 28 (in this one)
smiling politely
from my end of the table big white teeth showing
just having been asked
excuse me — but are you part Aboriginal

This is a more recent one
and I'm 43 and laughing

out loud
I've worked out a response
no shame in this girl
I look them straight in the eye and say
Are you a fucking Queensland fish and chip shop owner?

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