

[“Thirteen Ways of Looking at an Arab Girl” by Jessica Abughattas](#)

1.

She doesn't read
The Atlantic
nor does she orgasm.

2.

Dancing, sucking her belly toward her spine.
Black vines
 sway to the mumble of a lute,
 descend the trellis of her,
 sweep bare feet.

3.

Princess Jasmine
 Gigi Hadid
Shakira
 Sabah

4.

Have you seen the brown-necked raven
who builds a home inside a bomb shelter?
The laughing dove who nests in olive trees?

5.

I am given the name of an American cheerleader; I am
fearfully made.

6.

almond eyes & thighs
& rug-burned knees

7.

I don't know which I prefer:
to be a child in my father's house
a servant in my husband's
or liberated by a
fashion
 magazine?

8.

Salma Hayek

George Clooneyswifey

Fairouz

A Pole-Dancing Muslim Miss USA

9.

Carrying a basket into a field
disappearing parcel by parcel.

She mourns groves of desire.

10.

She dies

like an American in the street or some Mesopotamian desert

at midnight in the afternoon.

11.

The bulbul also sings.

12.

Someday my name will sound like Olds,
will sound like Plath.

Someday, in my father's Spanish inflection,
will sound like Abughattàs.

13.created by God

to fuck,

to serve

coffee and tea.