


If We All Rose
[artist statement]

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Writer, Artist, Actor, Speaker



I draw inspiration from numerous feminist authors, thinkers, activists, and artists. I read Naomi Wolf's *The Beauty Myth* when I was 17. Her work has been pivotal inspiration for this essay as well as my ongoing examination of the beauty, fashion, youth, modeling, and acting industries. For this essay, Arianna Huffington's book *On Becoming Fearless*, her chapter on the way we women are raised to desire, choose, and organize our priorities, was also influential. Lastly, the work of Gloria Steinem (1995; 2015) will forever be the fundamental inspiration for my work, in theme and methodology. I love that often, she immerses herself in the very experience that she is examining, such as with her famous expose on *Playboy* for *Show* magazine, to gain and offer nuanced, tactical, visceral understanding of a particular job, role, or paradigm, synthesis and illumination that can only be drawn from living in the authentic field, then alchemizing the experiences with academia and artistry.

The Oregon Literary Arts Writer of Color Fellow 2018, **Reema Zaman** is an award-winning author, speaker, actress, and artist. Her memoir *I Am Yours* (Amberjack Publishing) will be published in January 2019, and is available for [pre-order](#). Reema's work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Dear Sugars*, *The Guardian*, *The Rumpus*, *Narratively*, *Shape*, *VIDA Review*, and elsewhere. For *I Am Yours* and more, please visit www.reemazaman.com.

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Reema Zaman

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