JOAN MORGAN

MY LIFE AS A HIP-HOP FEMINIST
When chickenheads come home to roost

but subtle, intriguing shades of gray.

burgeoning where "truth" is no longer black and white
intersection where those contrary voices meet—
the Foxy Brown over Silk-N-Pepa. They lie, at the merged
my lie not in choosing JavaScript over Lill’ Kim, or even
unlock the riches of uncompromising black female heroin.

truth can’t be found in the voice of any one
reasonable understanding held by any true student of hip-

We need a feminism that possesses the same kind of

all richer hide from

correct-done, forcing us to finally confront what we’d
and tenness ensures us at least a few trips to the
and one whose occasional hypocrisy, contradictions,

we need a feminism committed to "keeping it real." We need a

More than any other generation before us, we need

Here are usually some complicated combination of all

love for us is raw like sushi, served up on sex plates.
The New York Times

Press the music, and the music is rap.

Michael Willett, "When Black Feminism

races sociales...

public criticism of black men continues colliding with a

There is a widespread perception in the black community that

publicly would be viewed as divisive and counterproductive.

culture, but a black feminism to challenge misogyny in rap

and jazz, is widely considered part of a hostile white

emphasizes criticism, like many other forms of social
when chickenheads come home to roost

...relationships. The time had come for a little heart-to-heart, aeady--a strange and often painful exchange of mee and my sister to stay in the best interests of me and all. If it was in need of knowledge, for all.

at any woman in her right mind would be doing with me. Our answers would start sounding the those motive for discarding a friend, and I can't help feeling that you would stress this, even in the confusion I armed in so often and I assure them that I can't do all of our premonitory mood, you give an overdraft; right action. You, of course, your criminal brilliance and the voice, and so I'm in a show for your forgiveness. Then I was more and so I tell you good you do your thinking you do laugh.

a mockery of my confusion. I really nothing but a self-destructive obsession that made for love and commitment for the last twenty years was between (and necessarily this,
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I never thought much about relationships with you before. But I believe you to be the voice of a nation, in pain and unrest.

One thing I know for certain is that if you really are what people say you are, your presence with me will fortify the state so they are divided.

So here I am, back home, you may say, my mission, my passion, my philosophy, my ideology, my identity.

I'm trying to make sense of the events of the past ten years. I'm trying to understand how to make sense of it all. I'm trying to make sense of it all, but I'm not sure I can.

I've been told that I'm a success story. I've been told that I'm a failure. I've been told that I'm a success story. I've been told that I'm a failure.

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My community places the welfare of black women and girls all depends on how you define the world.

I'm going to make this clear to the game.

I hope and my joumanny are not my community's
reasons to look down the community of our relationship
So, yes, I'm finally got an answer to everybody that
won't solve the problem. If our joumanny is going to

make their feelings by writing backletters and shaming those
women who put their letters on the glass. Real-life ones who
we straight-up play ourselves. Those are their dad's and mom's
in the locker room. To bring their face to face with the whole
we can see ourselves. And there's nothing the beyond there

when I can challenge them. You are also the minister in which
where I'm coming through. You can also be the minister in which

black men's higher thoughts down now it is the only place
that your music holds some of division to thirty-year-old
you are my key to the locker room. And which it's true
from that if it is in my and has in our breaths was
question so many of us are afraid to ask. "How did we go
my joumanny? Only you can give me the answer to the

Whether like it or not, you play a critical part in defining

I doubt young woman with a history of substance
and pour the mixture of a family friend. She was a
A few weeks later my mom called, upset, to tell

numbers.

men dogs and the things of the fellow community
park. The owner (a brother) named the animal to play

mother—brother—mother. A white wife, a woman of mine, a single
woman are the number victims of black-on-black

will die at the hands of other black men?

never to return. In my homeland, the majority of them

the leading cause of death among black men ages 15-

1960. The number of black two-parent households has


The social worker in this reality, like tops

a memory of both.

intimacy that black-on-black love is essential to the

the black community on the list of priorities. It also

from my girls to privilege and his
ended with his suicide.

...when chickenheads come home to roost, I...
We need to be loved. It's extremely telling that men
love themselves is incapable of loving us in the healthy way
their sisters. But recognize: any man who doesn't truly
cherish his sisters in the way that we commend ourselves to bring
nord-calling, its dearer things to love us—to be at
Eating its brothers and foes. It's the real crème on its
hip-hop's Real, sisters are hurt when we hear brothers

This is crystal clear to me when I'm listening to

Like them to be.

love people for what they are—not for who you would
will ever learn in the love and love is what you've got to

One of the most important Lessons you
didn't realize you were received with the following words
my mother presented me with the following words
later. Drawing our battle to resolve our complicated
them. When it comes to the struggle against sexism and

are allowed to express their pain.

forms in which young black men, even simultaneously.

chose of this millennium's hip-hop is still one of the few
often worn both to hide and express the pain. At the
music is real. The complex mask African-Americans

The sexually impaired walk of sexism in rap

So, sister friends, we're gonna do what any rational

baby for their hopes or the lives of their children.

Bearing the call of the larger society's acculturating repress-

property see themselves as powerless when it comes to

learn in the music, it's frighteningly clear that many

post-adolescent or the for all the material and recipes

frighten me nor instead, they remain perpetually

isn't a real myth, nor is significant that one of the

carefully drawn, it's significant that one of the

Since hip-hop is the mirror in which so many problems

Just sell.

when chickenheads come home to roost

from my girls toitches and hos

One of the most important Lessons you

later. Drawing our battle to resolve our complicated

them. When it comes to the struggle against sexism and

are allowed to express their pain.
when chickenheads come home
to roost

You can tell who's being paid by the things they want
Now a green is a green but a dollar's a dollar

about whom he said:
don't know who's paying for the damage was taking

reparative, healing space.

reparative, healing space.

community is in and use that knowledge to create a

community is in and use that knowledge to create a

recognize hip-hop's ability to articulate the pain our

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J4z and so is to summanly at Saint Lawrence Law to

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one that is going to be as helpful to shaping on

one that is going to be as helpful to shaping on

women live and survive: A functional game plan for us,' and make it is also the world in which young black

and make it is also the world in which young black

hip-hop is not only the domination of the young black,

hip-hop is not only the domination of the young black,

from the very lowest of academics. Like it or not,

from the very lowest of academics. Like it or not,

past therapy and become functional. It has to rescue itself

past therapy and become functional. It has to rescue itself

If feminism intends to have any relevance in the lives

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head not rob you blind because it's wrong to do so.

head not rob you blind because it's wrong to do so.

part is to command that a healing, Brockade, work

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of a huge set of problems. Continuing on our previous

of a huge set of problems. Continuing on our previous

discussions of sexism in rap when sexism is only part

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we can afford to keep expanding energy on band

we can afford to keep expanding energy on band

and the focus of black feminism has got to change.

and the focus of black feminism has got to change.

no bullshit—aren't personal but part of the illness.

no bullshit—aren't personal but part of the illness.

if allows us to recognize that the attack, the "which,"

if allows us to recognize that the attack, the "which,"

great example of unconditioned love and support because

great example of unconditioned love and support because

but from a distance that is safe. Emotional distance is a

but from a distance that is safe. Emotional distance is a

him abusive. We've gotta continue to give the love

him abusive. We've gotta continue to give the love

self in a relationship with someone whose pain makes

self in a relationship with someone whose pain makes

survivable...and person would do after finding her-

survivable...and person would do after finding her-
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