Be Michael Jackson

David Rule

Be Michael Jackson. Keep singing, but shrug your shoulders and smile and be lots of different faces and then be Tyra Banks. John Landis yells: ‘Cut! That was perfect! How’d you do that???’

Be molten gold. Be the dream of molten gold, all sparkles. Turn into Michael Jackson and seduce the supermodel Iman. Be sand to escape her palace guards.

Be water. Rise up in front of waterfalls and dance. Dance with the shoulders. Turn into Lisa ‘Left Eye’ Lopes and rap about the problems of the 1990s. Rap ‘believe in yourself, the rest is up to me and you.’

Stay water but be a tentacle with a face on it for James Cameron. Learn about tongues. Be the T-1000, be liquid metal again, walk through fire, be disguised as a floor.

Be Odo on Star Trek. Learn to love yourself for who you are, when you could be anything.

Be Michael Jackson in space. Be your sister wearing a sweater in space. Dance together, share the sweater. The sweater is maybe cybergoth and the music video is maybe too expensive.
These faces
so good at singing Michael Jackson
(even Tyra Banks in her own way).
Faces made for mouthwash commercials,
each around for long enough to sing
‘It’s black! It’s white!’
before morphing into other faces
made for shampoo commercials.
Nobody saw Michael Jackson morph
into any of these faces
but it seems possible.
Like when he became molten gold
for the supermodel Iman,
sand to escape her palace guards.
And if that dream of molten gold
(all sparkles) were to survive,
it’s not hard to see it in the water
rising up in front of waterfalls
and becoming Lisa ‘Left Eye’ Lopes
to rap about the problems of the 1990s.
Or in the liquid metal
of the T-1000 becoming a floor.
Or in Odo the changeling alien on Star Trek
who learned to love himself for who he is,
when he could be anything.

In a spaceship Michael Jackson
is turning into his sister.
They dance together, share a sweater,
smash things up.
Tyra Banks sticks out her tongue and turns into different people. And that person smiles and turns into a Calvin Klein-looking model singing ‘It’s black! It’s white!’ Nobody saw Michael Jackson turn into any of these but it seems possible. When director John Landis yells ‘Cut! That was perfect! How’d you do that???,’ Michael Jackson doesn’t answer.

Michael Jackson turns into molten gold for the supermodel Iman. It is the dream of molten gold, all sparkles. Totally seduced but wary of comedian Eddie Murphy’s jealousy, the supermodel Iman sends her palace guards after Michael Jackson. Michael Jackson turns into sand.

The sand disappears but maybe the water rising up under a waterfall knows something. It turns into Lisa ‘Left Eye’ Lopes and raps about the problems of the 1990s. The water is not the most real of waters but then we’ve never seen water dance. With a kind of warning delivered, Lisa ‘Left Eye’ Lopes turns back into water.

When the water comes back it’s science fiction, ‘a mimetic polyalloy.’ John Conner asks ‘What the hell does that mean???’ and Arnold Schwarzenegger explains ‘Liquid metal.’ This liquid metal walks through fire and turns into a floor to hide. In lava it turns inside out.

In space Odo, an alien on Star Trek, learns to love himself for who he is. He can be anything. Each week Odo might be molten gold, dancing water, often a floor.

In a spaceship, Michael Jackson turns into his sister. They dance together, share a sweater. They smash up the most expensive music video. Maybe too expensive. You might want to stop with the excess.
Be molten gold. Be sand. Be your sister wearing a sweater in space. Even water can rise up and dance. Here, shrug your shoulders and smile and be Tyra Banks.