

ANOTHER WILD ANIMAL

BRAD JOHNSON

*No one wants to read a straight
man's writing on women* my second
wave feminist mother tells me.

*No matter the intent she says it all
reads like misogyny* yet what can
one do but question the significance
of the vagina when living with wife
and daughter, when both father
and brother are practicing OBGYNs?

The mohel held my hand that held
the blade that circumcised my son
and now I'm learning things I didn't
know about the penis: foreskin
treatment, scrotum care, the need
to cover when changing diapers
to prevent urine spraying everywhere.

In the backyard my daughter waters
her strawberries with my mother
but when she drops the garden hose
it kicks in squirts across the grass,
ducking from their grabbing hands
like some wild animal showing
its teeth, refusing domestication.