



Heavy Is the Head

Sumaya Enyegue

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Black women poets matter in ways that poets of other races and ethnicities can't: "Black girl must write poetry so other black girls can relate." That Black girl poetry readers matter ... do you understand? This debut collection from Sumaya Enyegue, a medical student from South Africa, is matter-of-factly accomplished and compelling.

[WHEN A BLACK GIRL DIES, THE LAST THING TO DECOMPOSE IS HER HEART.]

There are moments when I forget I am not wanted and then someone calls me a nigger and the memory slaps me awake. I have been brown for a thousand lifetimes and yet the violence of this skin still surprises me—how can it bruise so easily and still keep the scars hidden. And I could write you an ocean of poems about how I was taught that you could be black or you could be beautiful, but you couldn't be both. Why can't I be both?

MATT SUTHERLAND (July / August 2023)

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