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Armani Scott

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Armani Scott

Armani shares a collection of short prose, titled *Black*, for her third year participating in Barrio Writers. Her hope is that this small look into the melting pot of problems that American society causes for an entire community will inspire other Black writers to continue the conversation no one wants to have.

Black.

People with an excessive amount of melanin. Gorgeous characters with scars and stretch marks. Humans with keratosis pilaris and pigmentation disorders. Give me Americans with dark skin and rough, worked hands. People whose beauty isn't defined by soft pale skin. Black people.

Don't.

A few things I have to teach my sons if I want them to come home: don't sit in your car before your bachelor party, don't play with toy guns, don't reach for your license and registration, don't sell CDs, don't wear a hoodie, don't eat skittles or drink tea. Just... don't.

Foreign.

So many times I've heard Black Men say "If she ain't foreign, she boring." and "Snow bunny or no bunny." but if you stop and look around, the only women I see protecting, protesting, rioting, getting arrested and almost dying for your life are Black Women. Where are your foreign girls? Where are your snow bunnies?

Unity.

Protect your brothers. Blood, Crip, or neither. All of y'all have black mothers and little girls that want to see their Daddys come home. Don't let the streets confuse you. Unity is the key.

Struggles.

Black men will be called "n---as" and stereotyped. Women will be raped and told they were asking for it. Both will suffer while neither remember the Black Women who carry both of their struggles on their backs.

Sun.

She has always been told that her skin is too dark. The Black Woman so dark she doesn't fit into America's beauty standards. Her nose is too wide and her lips are too plump. But I never ceased to believe that the Sun loved her so much, that she kissed Black Women more than others.

Grow.

Black Women have no choice but to stick together. Being the flowers that grow from racist, misogynist sidewalk, we need each other. So, I'll water you and you can water me. We'll grow together.

Writing Activity

1. Make a short list of community activities, protests, social media movements, and political races in your area that are led by women who are Black? Choose one and write a comic/poem/rap that describes its purpose and how you can support that effort.
2. What are some stereotypes of women in your school, home, and/or community that are harmful to women? How do stereotypes impact you personally? Write about a time when you encountered a stereotype about women, how it made you feel, and how you responded to that encounter.