

AUNT CHLOE

AUGUST 17, 2019

Artemis

by Rachael McLaughlin

Artemis

she gazes in the mirror
not the one in her room
the bigger one,
that covers the earth and blooms lands of green and gold
and flowers too prickly to pick
she tries anyway
and washes the blood from her fingertips
in liquid diamonds cocooned in a frothy white frame
you'll never forgive her
for basking in the moon
a son is your sun, but your daughter is daunting
she is the moon
that brings the night that blinds you
you don't see her stars, you don't see her quiet light

a still glimmering silver that glitters
in a static fierceness
and sends the night into a dazzling dance of dignity
she brings you nightmares
that leave you quivering in fear
so you hide from the night
and pray for your son

Rachael McLaughlin is focusing on Comparative Women's Studies and Writing at Spelman College. She hopes to become a novelist and write a series about Black womxn and mxn in the fantasy/fiction genre. In her work, she intends to speak on issues of womxnhood and reproductive justice. Rachael also hopes to extend her talents to the world of theatre and become a costume designer for dramatic pieces.