

## SALIVA

A Black girl with Jheri curls is wailing on me furiously.  
I mean, whipping my ass like a goatskin drum.  
Her laughter burned the gristle off my earlobes.

A kaleidoscope of Saliva spun wild in my mouth.  
The fire in my head, painful  
like the misadventure of biting into your tongue.

I am slung over her shoulder.  
Legs like reckless propellers.

A wolf pack of classmates barking spiteful bile.  
My courage smoldered like a dog,  
beaten into submission.  
My rage is learning how to growl.  
Releasing lightning bolts into her spine.  
Elbows,  
Sharp daggers fisted into back-fat.  
Eventually  
My feet touched down.

Anger.  
That ghost of we gon' get you after school.  
Teacher's pet, Momma's boy.  
Unwanted only child, I  
pursued her like a gun barrel.  
I moved like a Dragon in heat.

These carnivorous hands, lunging at her throat.  
My best friend stifling my arms.  
Crushing the burnt pulse of blown out candles  
just before my wish to end her came true.

He stayed the execution.  
My body, a volcano.  
My tears reek of sulfur.  
You shoulda' seen  
The blood in my eyes.

My Mother never beat me,  
the way she did.

