

Being After Being Has Washed Away

by Daze Jefferies

will this ocean and its wave theory ever forgive us?

like any poet i have no anchored answers, only longings / and dreams of blue-green prisms that spin upon the surface as a precious address / floating for an era in our palimpsestic water-world / like sisyphus sharing a future-present-past / to begin and end with our encounter / i open my grey eyes and feel the hit of time form a language with my skin / when being after being has washed away / we are troubled by the ghosts of all the ruptured hope that ripples through our systemic nowhere / only in ruins and always an absence – you ask me to determine how i might keep resisting if i'm never all the way here, an overflowing body / wailing for the closeness of another holy soul / thank you, master mariner, for helping me emerge from the drone drone drone of sexual labour / blowing up my phone and taking every part of me / all my sisters left to make it on their own now / shucking the flesh, we refuse response-ability / forgetting unknown holders of outmigration's touch / who rise from the seaways of the southwest shore / feeding on dulse and lovelorn liquids / a hundred queer lovers with no mother before them / staying in the wake of your hyphenated kin-ship / disposable-desirable, too much to hold dear

Formative Texts and Further Reading

Alexander, M. Jacqui. 2006. *Pedagogies of Crossing: Meditations on Feminism, Sexual Politics, Memory, and the Sacred*. Durham and London: Duke University Press.

Brand, Dionne. 1997. *Land to Light On*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart.

Brathwaite, Kamau. 2000. "New Gods of the Middle Passages." *Caribbean Quarterly* 46 (3-4): 12-58. DOI: 10.1080/00086495.2000.11672123.

Hartman, Saidiya. 2008. "Venus in Two Acts." *Small Axe: A Caribbean Journal of Criticism* 12 (2): 1-14. DOI: 10.1215/-12-2-1.

Hayward, Eva and Che Gossett. 2017. "Impossibility of That." *Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities* 22 (2): 15-24. DOI: 10.1080/0969725X.2017.1322814.

Jefferies, Daze. 2020. "Seawater/C-cup: Fishy Trans Embodiments and Geographies of Sex Work in Newfoundland." *Imaginations: Journal of Cross-Cultural Image Studies* 11 (1): 17-35. DOI: 10.17742/IMAGE.BR.11.1.2.

Santana, Dora. 2017. "Transitionings and Returnings: Experiments with the Poetics of Transatlantic Water." *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* 4 (2): 181-90. DOI: 10.1215/23289252-3814973.

Sharpe, Christina. 2016. *In the Wake: On Blackness and Being*. Durham and London: Duke University Press.

Daze Jefferies is a multidisciplinary artist-poet-researcher from Beothuk territory in the Bay of Exploits who holds a Master of Gender Studies from Memorial University. She is co-author of *Autoethnography and Feminist Theory at the Water's Edge: Unsettled Islands* (2018), and she has recent or forthcoming publications in *Transgender Sex Work and Society* (2018), *Imaginations: Journal of Cross-Cultural Image Studies* (2020), *Riddle Fence: A Journal of Arts & Culture* (2020), *Journal of Folklore Research* (2021), and *The Goose: A Journal of Arts, Environment, and Culture in Canada* (2021), among others. Her forthcoming poetry collection, *We Hold a Body of Water Together*, explores hidden histories and fishy futures of trans women and sex workers in Atlantic Canada.

Abstract: Thinking with an assemblage of Black Atlantic and trans feminist creative and theoretical work, this poem explores fishy felt knowledges of sex work, outmigration, colonial erasure, and archival absence in the lives of trans women from Ktaqamkuk/Newfoundland.