

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Laila Cooke-Campbell: "Laila"

Laila Cooke-Campbell · Wednesday, November 13th, 2019

### Laila

A name that was meant to give strength  
Became my greatest weakness  
It's just a reminder of pain, loss, and fear  
The 5 letters that leer over  
me as if I am a disgrace

The L- it shows me the unconditional love  
I received from a father that is no longer here  
A reminder... that everyone leaves and  
I'm just a waste of space  
That lonely L  
is followed by the avenging A

The A- that serves as a reminder  
of the alcoholic mother who always made me feel alone  
And gives me the never-ending Anxiety  
about things I know I didn't do wrong  
The I-  
Is my inability to realize my self-worth because I-  
I hold so much self-hatred and insecurities and feel that using that letter too often  
makes me a selfish prick so I put on a smile and say "I'm fine"  
That same insecure I  
is followed by another L  
And yes, it stands for love  
but it's one I'll never receive,  
because it's for the parent  
I always try to please...

No matter how hard I tried I was never enough  
Never appreciated and always valued myself on how she valued me  
But at Last I see! I see the letter A the last letter of this cursed name  
The letter, although last, gives a new meaning to the name  
The A- It means AT LAST I can breathe!  
I am adapting and changing and will soon set my mind at ease...

Because I know a name is something I can't change  
But it's something I can and will change its meaning...

NO longer will I let these letters affect me  
The L will be not the love I have lost but the love I will gain  
The A will not be me being alone, but it will be me adapting to change  
The I will bring light to myself and focus on what the actual letter means... me  
The other L is going to represent not an unrequited love,  
but it will be self-love and falling in love with  
who I am meant to be  
And Finally, a breath for the A AT Last but not only can I breathe I can live  
because this letter represents me overcoming adversity and learning to love  
ME.

A name is something that is given  
But it is up to me to determine how I leave it written  
Because the letters don't make the person  
I DO!

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