

# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## SURVEILLANCE: Standard American Similes With Interchangeable Blacks

Ashaki M. Jackson · Thursday, March 24th, 2016

The night is as black as skin    It falls slowly  
      publicly like an { Eric }  
 Night hushes like { Jordan }  
 Sky creeps like a Black body's blood    Sleepless  
 birds enforce curfew  
 The people are as broken and exposed as { Emmett }  
 Aren't we?  
 Time drags like { James }    Look how  
 { Otis } levitates full-faced and pale among the black  
 walnut trees  
 Stars surround as quickly as officers    Again night is dark  
 like Mother's throat  
 Her cry is black with grief  
      We have  
 moved into metaphor

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For 10 weeks, we will feature one poem per week from *Surveillance*, the new chapbook [available now](#) from Writ Large Press. These poems by Ashaki M. Jackson explore police killings of Blacks captured on video and the public's consumption of these videos. Previous poems: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#)

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