

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



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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