

KIMBERLY ALIDIO

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Citizen

Let's say this smell in my palm is your scalp's
 archive
 And someone is lying about how we have been to each other
 How a life is a living
 built

Suddenly you're old, waiting and trying
 I've been looking past the crown of your baby hairs for a good while now
 Here is time.
 I think of a boat: deliverance
 betraying every word for a building

Walking through
 these landscapes muted and
 mishearing
 perpetually pre-words
 I go by smell

You would think I would
 gather some bright
 haloes
 behind baby hairs
 deserving much
 mercy

I'm too dumb for the category
 All bodies are pressed grease
 drying down to
 bone I become
 your crackle pop

The disorder of preserving is
 absolutely not the fracture

Just run-of-the-mill *jus soli* treason
 un-sponsored
 beyond relative reach
without grounds
trained in passive attention

Brought close to bear the difference
Safe from the ones who call me to discord
 Held tight

I want to be common.

“The whole thing is this”
I want you to shut up until you have something in your arms

I'll close my eyes



Kimberly Alidio is a poet, historian, high school teacher, tenure-track drop-out, and author of *Solitude Being Alien* (Dancing Girl Press). Originally from Baltimore, she lives in Austin. Her poetry has appeared in *Bone Bouquet*, *Fact-Simile*, *Horse Less Review*, *Esque*, *Make/shift*, *Spiral Orb*, and *Everyday Genius*. She is a Kundiman fellow, alumna of VONA/Voice of Our Nation, a Center for Art and Thought Artist-in-Residence, and a recipient of the Naropa's Zora Neale Hurston Scholarship and the Philippine Artists and Writers Association Manuel G. Flores Prize. She holds a Ph.D from the University of Michigan. Her website is kimberlyalidio.tumblr.com.

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