

Qs

Viana Biscoe

I've got curly Qs that spew through
 your idea of "hair done", "hair-do",
 my hair does not follow rules. Messy, pesky
 actually equates to free, sexy — liberation
 from your up-tied, uptight, "just right",
 "good" hair. Bone-straight, easy,
 Agreeable. More like feeble, no backbone;
 Our hair thrived; grew thick like vines so
 our spiral spines could hold the weight of
 your wandering eyes—

so we ditch the rubberband,
 Let air pick out our hair,
 Cause *the higher the hair the closer to God*
the bigger the fro, the holy-er
the soul. Black women will always be
 the most heavenly bodies.
 We defy gravity.
 You orbit me.
 Eclipse what you can see
 cause y'all can't see past this greatness,
 literally.

Because my head lives in coily clouds, dark,
 but I'm never filled rain,
 except for wash day
 It's a singular seed sprouting soft locs of trees
 No no, my face: topography
 and this hair: a fluid, moving body
 Like water, we are a commodity
 And so if each curl costs "*3 dollars and 6 dimes*"
 then you must be wearing a crown
 And if you did your math with Miss Badu
 you'd see we were born infinitely complete

And so it's been 19 years of growing.
 And 10 years of learning
 And maybe only 6 months of really knowing
 how to create these curly Qs —
 Rise, wash, oil, condition, comb section, style, diffuse, redo.

Afro, top bun, curtain bangs, up-down
 twist-out, finger curls, wash-day curls
nth-day curls
 I'm that,
I could look like a different bitch by the end of the weekend girl

See, clearly people don't understand the care we put into our hair
 Bitch says, *did you wake up like that?*
Nahhh
 hours on end with knots
 And white spots on the floor
 door open, fan on, stand-all-day-long.

She is work
 And time
 And money

And just like me, she has high standards
 Just like me, she's got a big and loud personality
 Just like me, she won't simply submit
 to just anybody. She reminds me how to love
 maybe how to hold on just a little too tight
"Don't go gentle into that good night"

How to dig a little deeper
 don't settle for just anybody,
 I define her
 but really, she defines me
 cause love was never defined as easy

I'd never wish
 to be simply
 that easy.