

Ashley M. Jones

Think of a Marvelous Thing / It's the Same as Having Wings

You fly on your bike through the west side of Birmingham
You fly through the projects while I watch you in my brand new car
You fly cause you know how to ride a bike with no helmet
You fly cause the streetlights on and no mama to tell you no
You fly cause you a man, no three fifths about you
You fly, your tshirt catching air like a cloud
You fly cause your edge up is fresh
You fly and you don't need pixie dust angel dust, just eat my dust
You fly and you know it
You fly, but at the end of the street the night still swallows you whole.

Ashley M. Jones

Ashley M. Jones received an MFA in Poetry from Florida International University, where she was a John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Fellow. She was Official Poet for the City of Sunrise, Florida's Little Free Libraries Initiative from 2013-2015. She was a finalist in the Hub City Press New Southern Voices Contest, the Crab Orchard Series in Poetry First Book Award Contest, and the National Poetry Series. Her poems appear or are forthcoming in the Academy of American Poets, Tupelo Quarterly, Prelude, Steel Toe Review, Fjords Review, Quiet Lunch, Poets Respond to Race Anthology, Night Owl, The Harvard Journal of African American Public Policy, pluck!, Valley Voices: New York School Edition, Fjords Review: Black American Edition, PMSPoemMemoirStory (where her work was nominated for a Pushcart Prize in 2016), Kinfolks Quarterly, and Lucid Moose Press' Like a Girl: Perspectives on Femininity Anthology. She received a 2015 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writer's Award, and her debut poetry collection, Magic City Gospel, was published by Hub City Press in January 2017. She is an editor of PANK Magazine, and she lives in Birmingham, Alabama, where she is a faculty member in the Creative Writing Department of the Alabama School of Fine Arts.