

A Child Remembers Death by Iretomiwa Xaron

Two souls danced in the sea
translating waves into screams
till their bodies went stiff / floating.
A fire was burning in me
when the sea transmuted into rain
so that I became a masquerade
and danced till the sun shone.
 It is fatal to invoke the sun
 on a stormy day.

A girl made her body
a reservoir of sleeping pills
then her heart slowed / and stopped.
I read all the Letters in my Bible
then wrote my prayers in a piece of paper
before storing it in a shallow pit I had dug
as a child.
 My childhood is full of graves
 not sand castles.

Iretomiwa Xaron is a non-binary queer undergrad student at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. They are fascinated with the concepts of liminality and reality, and express this fondness in their poetry and short fiction.