

COBIS Poetry Competition 2024/25

Magical Moments

Key Stage 4-5 Winner

Eyes kissed by a gentler sun

You have walked these streets long enough
to know their rhythm
but they still don't know yours.
Not Yet.

Your skin
dark like dusk
is always a shadow in this sea of paler greys
and colder skies,
where the sun felt hesitant,
always hiding,
never fully shining on you.

Their eyes — they searched for answers,
for reasons why.

They looked at you like
You came from somewhere
too far
too foreign
to understand.

“Where you from?”
they asked,
as if your roots weren't already buried deep,
as if your steps didn't echo upon the same cracked stones they call home.

“Here”
You said.
but they tilted their heads like
it wasn't enough,
like their question was still unanswered.
They waited for more.

So you walked with your
head down,
avoiding the eyes of those,
who saw you as less —

less than what you were.

And as you walked through,
the worn and familiar path,
the ground packed tight from years of footsteps
patches of bare earth where the grass once grew,
the wind tugged at your thrifted leather jacket,
sharp and biting,
until—

something softer brushed past.
a breath of warmth carried on the air
like summer had remembered you,
just for a moment.

You slowed. The trees above, thin and skeletal,
holding on to their last golden leaves,
and through them,
the sun had broken free,
pouring light
in long, slanting beams,
turning your path golden.

And there, just
beyond the shadows,
he stood, still as a
calm sea
his eyes kissed by a gentler sun,
reflecting back a warmth you hadn't felt
in so long.

Amber,
rich as earth, soft as silk
his gaze met yours, steady,
it wasn't the look of someone searching,
trying to figure out where you called home.

A leaf fell slowly,
spiralling down

between you,
as the wind quietened.

He smiled —
a
brief,
subtle curve,
yet it brightened the space,
creating a moment of understanding,
like sunlight breaking through clouds.

You found magic in these moments,
in the silent nod of a stranger
Whose skin looks like yours.
In the glances you shared,
that wordlessly said

“ I see you.
I know you. ”

And in that beat,
the world
once grey
and cold
shrank
It became small
and safe
and suddenly full of light.

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