

Haikus for Persephone

AKA a Black Girl Who Goes Missing and is Only Searched for by Her Mother

The ground splits beneath
Her feet and no one feels the
Tremors or warns her

(Helios and Zeus
Both *watch*, but even Olympus
Has a “bro code”).

Persephone meets
The other missing girls in
The underworld. Breathes

Their names in her sleep
Spring nights she’s away. Hopes Hades
Won’t make one his next wife

(Hades did not steal
Them. Hades did not have to—
His sons are just as vile).

Persephone learns
Trauma bonding from dead
With hopes to be found.

Persephone gulps
Down pomegranate seeds,
Hades calls her “full”.

When she marries him,
“victim” and “wife” ache the same
Both bond and escape.

When she is found, *wed*
But alive, Demeter does
Not thank Zeus, but cries.

She detangles her
Daughter’s hair, counts her fingers
And toes, just in case.

Demeter is called
“Overprotective”, Hades is
“husband”, not “captor”,

“Lover”, not “rapist”,
His dead heart softened while hers
Became spring’s ransom.

The thing that makes this
Story a legend is that
She comes back at all.

Black girls don’t come back.
Earth wilts without them, but
That’s just called “winter”.