

## **It's a Nappy Shame**

### *More than Hair*

She say  
She wanna have  
White people hair.  
She say  
How you get yours?  
You mixed?  
If your hair so long  
Why you wear braids?  
I wish mine  
Long and curly,  
Long and straight,  
Long and long and long.  
She cry.  
She cry tears  
As long as  
She want her hair to be.  
She is braided.  
Her hair is braided.  
Tangled up in tangles,  
Shackled hair.  
There are bruises  
In her hair.  
She is in the  
Sorrow of  
Kinks  
Caught  
In comb.  
A science project  
Touched to see  
How it feels  
To be touched,  
Petted,  
and  
Questioned why.  
Why  
isn't your hair  
Like  
the other  
Black girl's hair?  
Why you not  
Straight and straight?  
Why you kinky?  
Kinky?  
Taboo.  
We need a hair  
Revolution,  
Where we can  
Be politic power  
70's. With a Panther pick.  
Gonna pick that?  
No.

Just soft twisted fro.  
Not too threatening.  
A little castor oil.  
A little coconut.  
Fingers comb gently,  
Just a little.  
So I can get  
Along-long-long  
Flow of hair.  
Don't wanna be  
Nappy.  
Knotted.  
Coming out  
At the root.  
She talk about  
Water in her hair  
Soak up  
Like a sponge.  
Shriveled.  
Wrung out.  
Blow dried.  
Weaved. Ripples waving  
Braids, trying to figure out  
How to be straight.  
Remi, Kanekalon  
Mixed hair  
Straight.  
Gotta be straight.  
Hid in hoodie  
So no one sees  
I'm not straight.  
Straight like Barbie.  
Straight like Beyonce.  
Straight like  
Kerry Washington.  
Straight like  
Instagram Snaps  
Naps  
Finger combed.  
Don't care - who stares  
One day  
    One day.