

Monochromatic
By Arianna Vann-Cook

“Black and white, the best of both worlds, I guess.”

This was said to me with the history in the back of my mind,
and it wasn't the boot that kicked me down to the floor on my way out, it was the
oppressors judging *eyes*.

Bloodlines,
the history of my people is the corruption, greed, and violence.
Ones who were whipped, lynched, and forced into hiding.

Should I keep my silence?

I was told my ancestors birthed kings and queens in the Nile, the same ones who were
exiled,
the same ones who would rather swim in the sharks than live unfree,

you wanna know what freedom means to me?

It means not living in fear of blacks or whites, because I am both.
I am brown-skinned and freckled, I am curly-haired, beautiful, and special,
I am the representation of rivals wrapped into one

I cannot be separated.

And so, I implore you not to be either