



**LITERATUR IN DEN SPRACHEN
BERLINS 2024**

அவ்ரீனா பிரபலா-ஜாஸ்லின்
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Beastchild

beastchild



see, i was a caged bird	no see, i wasn't
see, i was the size of a cage	no see, i wasn't
see, my spirit was clipped and broken	no see, it wasn't
see, i was unholy	no see, i wasn't
see, they slapped words like teeth out of my mouth	
when i called me poet	no see, they didn't
see, for many years i forgot	no see, i didn't
see, my women buried me under their feet	no see, they didn't
see, they meant to plant the seed of my root at my great-great-great-grandma's eye	no see, they didn't
see, my ancestors betrayed me	no see, they didn't
see, a caged crow a beautiful bleeding thing	no see, it isn't
see, the cage unlocked	no see, it isn't
see, the cage empty	no see, it isn't
see, i was always already caged the belly of my beastgrandma beaten and raped	no see, i wasn't

beastgrandma		beastgrandchild
beastgrandma	begets	beastgrandchild
beastgrandma		beastgrandchild

see, i inherited my beastgrandma's madness	no see,	beastgrandma in midnight forest moon
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see, beastgrandma by the river crouching,
hand around her cage,
see, beastgrandma full of kindness even for a cage,
what cruel hands plied metal to such a fate?

what do you want to be? beastgrandma asks cage.
wear me an anklet on your feet, let me be the song to the dance of your firmament, cage says.
see, beastgrandma by the river crouching,
melting cage into ornament.
see, beastgrandma by the river dancing
new anklets

hairrapids

see, soar, see, soar,
strike match
beastgrandma-n-beastgrandchild,
feet of dance
feet of fire

see, my madness was unlike theirs

no see, it wasn't

see, my madness made a flute of me

no see, the flute in the teeth of my spine

see, me and my many mothers
massaging my feet

no see, one mother caged me
one mother freed me
one mother my hammer,
chest anvil

see, her madness and me
we unafraid to love our ache
our love blooming child's face
did beastgrandma take me to the place—
don't rush child, be unafraid

no see, in unreality, insulated cities
heart so full it could break
dawn without memory—

listen

sigh

in becoming strength of earth,
leave behind truth, cage in your eye.
you asked for the promise of a lake :::
in midnight forest mass, a church of jasmine crowns
black crows keep

child, in my palm, depth of day
i grow my home twofold, become place.

blessed beastchild full of grace
drink past lives
remain sea
remain place

