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## Three Poems

*by Kobina Wright*

### Evolution of Elindy

Age is eye opening.  
Elindy's old enough to see with white light  
young enough to prefer blue  
and candlelight.

She wears perfume expensive enough  
for people to gravitate  
cheap enough to save  
only months for it.

It was easier in the 11th grade  
when she cared only for her thoughts  
and she knew everything.

She was an advertisement.  
One she'd cut out in the 11th grade  
and segmented into a nose, one eye  
a half a mouth, an ear and cheek.  
She was collaged on poster boards  
scattered with cutouts of burning buildings  
diamond rings, a bottle of gin  
and purple nail polish.

It's a little different now with  
the yellowed segments and cracked glue.  
She laughs now though  
nothing's humorous  
shakes hands and tries to appear open  
interested, likable  
tearing in secret.

### Nightstand

Buries upstairs they're  
tucked beneath mints novels  
journals and vibrator.

These are only baby pictures.  
The few she pried from her mother.  
For years they've survived

Editor's Note

Guidelines

Contact

encased in faux leather unmarked.

They're with her and cousins  
at park playgrounds.  
Of her on the lap of  
her great-great-grandmother  
both smiling. Toothless.  
Of her in the hospital on her  
second birthday and a whole series of  
being restrained by her, then thin, mother  
on the beach, tethered.

The others are downstairs  
in albums alongside tangible memories.  
The baby ones are guards  
against itch and suffocation  
that beg for a gun.

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## Neglect

A foot snakes between her backyard fence  
and concrete liner, one  
even basks there.  
She surveyed, surprised at the size  
and stealth of dinosaur weeds.  
They're hearty, meaty enough  
to brandish metal spikes and she has  
latex gloves.  
Twenty the size of her jeaned leg fits  
into the bin with snails slugs spiders.  
And rest.

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**Kobina Wright** is working on a series of essays that reflect her life and childhood and this year has been published in a variety of publications including *Blackberry*, *Blue Lake Review* and *Extract(s)*. She is a second generation Southern California native and attended the University of Georgia for two years before transferring to California State University, Fullerton, where she earned her BA in journalism, with a minor in Afro-Ethnic Studies.

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