

# Ode to an Afro (or Going Natural in a Corporate World)

*by Yasmin Elaine Waring*

In praise of the colorful flock with crowns  
of teased cotton candy rising high above

Modular walls, stalled operating systems  
staling coffee and pale corner offices

Stand in awe of the follicular physics  
gravity defied, opposing natural law

Dandelions bow low in her shadow  
reluctant to seed while she passes

Yellow petals sewn neat like cornrows  
weed out the insecurity and the lye

Curls wound as tight as coiled springs  
frame the straight story rooted there:

Rapunzel trades long locks for naps  
preferring instead the tower heights

It's taken much too long to get here  
and she would rather climb higher

To court the stars with bright eyes  
not surprised at all when they fall

Unzipped constellations that glitter  
with thunder in her cumulus mane

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