

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

August 2014

