Yellow off the Bone

mom's curry in summertime
smell of earth and spice in a coal black pot…

I want something to remember yellow by
like the pot sitting on mom's stove remembers yellow
the pot remembers her gold braceleted hands as they cut pieces of chicken leg by wing by thigh
along with the celery tomato and onion
as the chicken would simmer it would surrender to color

after my mother cooked the curry
yellow would hang on the walls
sit on the furniture for days
breathe in the spaces between our fingers and toes

and the pot would bleed yellow for days

as mom's hands stirred the curry in the pot
they remember a time when she was a young girl in St. Vincent
her hands remember her mother teaching her how to cook curry
the strong smell of mustard lingering in the hot humid air
the melt of amber in her mouth

and one day the pot will be mine
one day I will conjure curry in a black midnight pot

one day I will coax yellow to fall off the bone
one day I will become yellow earth

Lynda La Rose

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Lynda La Rose is a poet/performance artist who has been writing since 1993. She has been published in several poetry anthologies including "I Love Your Poetry", "What?!?!", "Listen to Me: Shared Secrets from WriteGirl", San Gabriel Poetry Calendar, and the City of Los Angeles African American Heritage Month Cultural Affairs Guide for 2011, 2012 and 2013. Her book of poems "Sunshine and Concrete" got published in March 2022 by World Stage Press. Lynda wrote and performed her solo poetry/spoken word show, "Summerfruit" in 2007. In 2017, Lynda performed Summerfruit at the Hollywood Fringe Festival and it was a great success—two oversold nights and standing ovations on both nights! In 2018, Lynda performed an excerpt of Summerfruit at Bootleg Theatre's "Solo Queens Fest also directed by SKY Palkowitz —the show was well received with a standing ovation! Lynda's writing is based on her own personal experiences and is a continuation of her self-expression and passion for language. She acted in several theatrical productions with the Walking Theatre Workshop in Venice, CA and has video content of her poetry on YouTube. You can look Lynda up on her Facebook page, "Words that Whisper and Roar", Instagram at @lyndarosela, TikTok at @lyndalarose659, and www.lyndalarose.com.