Beginning

Spiritflesh entwines.
Thoughts imprisoned
Flow unencumbered.

A long wait -
Your key unlocking my door.
Oily fingers
Regenerate rusty hinges.

I am naked - Smiling
Uninhibited
Power rushes through me in rhythm
Lips
Hands
Backs
Legs -
Ocean waves gently overlapping.

Moans carry my blues away.
Imagined inadequacies burn in the fireplace.
The flames –

A halo
Illuminating the water.

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LeVan D. Hawkins

A Chicago-based performance artist and published poet and writer, LeVan D. Hawkins is the winner of the *2019 Great River Writers Retreat Contest.* His poetry has appeared in publications such as *Spillway 10, Voices from Leimert Park, Best of Austin International Poetry Festival,* and *City of Los Angeles African Heritage Month Cultural Guide.* He has read and performed at venues and events such as John and Nancy Hughes Theater, Filet of Solo Festival, Don't Be Ridiculous Series at Steppenwolf Theatre, the Homolatte Reading series, Outspoken series at Sidetracks, This Much is True Chicago, Links Hall, Gerber-Hart Library, Rhino Theatre, and The Center On Halsted, and AltQ Music Festival at the Old Town School of Music. In LA, he was the creator of Highways Performance Space's Annual Poetry/Performance Festival, a multiple-show event featuring many of the nation's top performance poets. A MacDowell Fellow, LeVan received his BFA from the Art Institute of Chicago and his MFA is from Antioch University-LA.