

Poetry Corner

Benefit of the Doubt

By Michael Guinn

I've noticed you following closely
while I shop
As I browse I feel your eyes stare then
stop
Your subtle suspicion by itself is
admission
That' it's my color and not my actions
that prompt inquisition
What is it about me that fits your
profile?
Could it be that you see my skin and
not my style
This is obviously a case of false
disparity
You've seem to make a habit of
mistaken similarity
Why have you mistook me for this
common thief
Nervously phone security based on
personal belief
You refuse to believe I have the
ability to pay,
In your mind, you see me as part of
society's decay
Abject humiliation precede this moral
attack
Heavily fueled by the reality that I
happen to be black.
You'd think sober judgement would
thwart this embarrassment
this intentional breach of privacy
borders on harrassment
Why deny me the courtesy
that for years I've done without?
So for once please grant me
the Benefit of the Doubt

Mama 's Words

By Jill Darden

Hardwood floors and glass-
knobbed doors
set the scene for Mama's throne
It was a village with one queen
raising three children alone

Four chairs at the kitchen table
where we sat each night to break
bread
Laughter mixed with the sound of
slurps
following the prayer she led

Homemade beef stew in the
winter, a southern delight in this
home,
Skillet fried catfish on Fridays
and little plates to hold the bones

Life-lessons mashed with potatoes
is what we came to be fed
I'll always savor the food's flavor
as well as the words she said

*Remember your mother
every day, but if you are
blessed enough to still have
her, show her
special love on
Sunday,
May 10th which is
Mother's Day !*

Bee Hive Removed from Local Yard



Rusk, TX- Ray Ross assists bee-keeper, Chris Morgan with securing his bee-keeper protective gear. Chris was called when a very large nest of bees made their home in a peach tree in Ray's yard. The hive made of thousands of swarming bees was removed without incident.

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