



## GOOD HAIR by JASMINE COMBS

05.31.201605.31.2016

Parts of me are burning  
in dad's ashtray.  
Tuffs of coiled hair  
engulfed in flame.  
Clink of hot-comb against stove.  
Crackle of fire against pomade.  
The house is smoky with  
the burning of my hair  
the flattening into submission  
the taming of the wild black  
the Saturday ritual.

My sister's hair does not burn,  
loose curls falling into each other  
like simple  
like first born  
like the pretty one.  
Long plaits in pastel ribbons  
beating against her cheeks  
as she runs all silk  
and smooth and easy

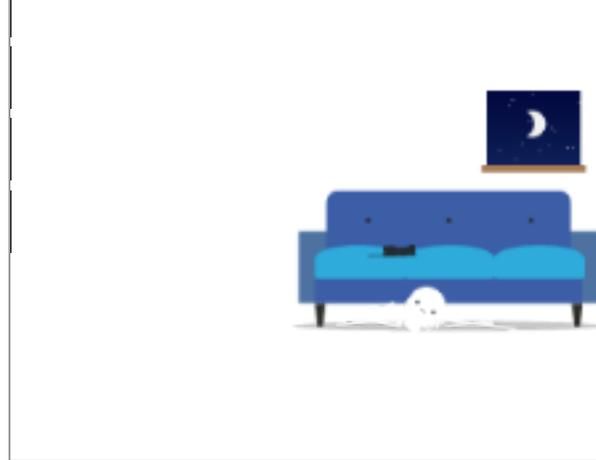
Her hair is like water,  
will pour loose,  
come undone from  
her easy plaits.  
Difficult hair is like clay.  
When set on fire,  
it takes any shape it is molded into  
and stays.

—

Jasmine Combs is a 22 year old Black woman poet and spoken word artist from Philadelphia and has competed in poetry slams both locally and nationally. She is the 2015 Grand Slam Champion of The Philly Pigeon, 2015 National Poetry Slam semifinalist, and 2016 College Union Poetry Slam Invitational international champion. Jasmine recently received her BA in English from Temple University and is a Babel Poetry Collective alumni. She is currently an organizer for The Philly Pigeon Poetry Slam and the

Spoken Word Editor of The Fem Lit Magazine. Her work has been featured on SlamFind, Button Poetry, Blavity, and Apiary Magazine as the Stung Writing Contest winner. In 2014 she published her first chapbook *Universal Themes*. Follow Jasmine on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/lauryn_trill). ([https://twitter.com/lauryn\\_trill](https://twitter.com/lauryn_trill))

About these ads (<https://wordpress.com/about-these-ads/>)



Posted in [Everything](#), [Poetry](#) Tagged [good hair](#), [hair](#), [issue 10](#), [jasmine combs](#), [poem](#), [poetry](#)  
[VAGABOND CITY](#)

*A journal of poetry, art, and nonfiction by marginalized creators.*

[BLOG AT WORDPRESS.COM.](#)