

STELLA N'DJOKU

SWITZERLAND (1993-)

LANGUAGE: ITALIAN

A metà
tra mare deserto e più su
montagne e foreste

Senza radici
spalle atlantiche
per sopportarne il peso

Non posso contenere
ciò che mi contiene.



Stella N'Djoku is a poet, journalist, and teacher from Ticino, the Italian-speaking region of Switzerland. Her mother's family comes from Italy and her father is from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She studied philosophy, science, and theology. Her poems often talk about nature, grief, and identity. In her words, "poetry helps open you up to life." *

*From an interview in the Swiss newspaper
Corriere del Ticino:
<https://www.cdt.ch/prodotti/grazie-alla-poesia-con-poche-parole-posso-esprimere-grandi-concetti-325285>

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY		
WORD	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
a metà (phrase)	in between two points	in the middle of, partway, centrally
atlantiche (adj.)	describing a body of water	oceanic, marine, atlantic
ciò che (pron.)	used to refer to a thing/something	this thing that, what, which
contenere (v.)	having or holding something inside	enclose, encompass
contiene (v.)	from the verb <i>contenere</i> , meaning having or holding something inside	encloses, encompasses
deserto (n.)	a dry, barren area of land	desert, wilderness
e (conj.)	in addition to	and, as well as
foreste (prep.)	an area with many trees	woods, forests, woodlands
il (art.)	denoting one or more people or things already mentioned or assumed to be common knowledge	the
mare (n.)	a body of water	sea, ocean
mi (pron.)	referring to oneself	me, myself
montagne (n.)	a large natural elevation	mountains, peaks, hills
non posso (adv. + v.)	from the verb <i>potere</i> , meaning to be able to do something	I cannot, I am unable, I am incapable
per (prep.)	with the purpose of	to, in order to, so as to
peso (n.)	the measure of the mass of an object	heaviness, load, weight
più su (adv.)	describing location	higher, up above, farther up
radici (n.)	part of a plant that grows underground	roots, shoots, core

senza (prep.)	in the absence of	lacking, without, missing
sopportarne (v.)	from the verb <i>sopportare</i> , meaning to bear weight	sustain, hold up, carry
spalle (n.)	part of the body between arms and neck	shoulders, joints, spans
tra (prep.)	describing location	between, amid

Name: _____

Date: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

UNTITLED

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