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River of Dreams

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Creative and Literary Works

Three Poems Kaysone Syonesa

WARRIOR PRINCESS NANG KHAN

She's not alone
she brings a temple

Secret chants vibrate
within her hemisphere

She crosses over
the crooked stemple

Carrying with her
the soulless fear
of swimming buddhas who taunt her near

Her flaming spirit
shudders the waking flute
emerging songs
from Xieng Khouang's
temperate highlands

From her fiery lips
ancient stories dig new roots
in the mighty
dreamless islands



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BE STILL, MY LUCKY DOK CHAMPA HEART

I climb the dok champa tree
to get closer to the unknown
Where blissful truth and treasure wonder coexist

I sit in stillness
Wrapping my arms around
the tender branches
Till my heart
 kisses the bark
She whispers secrets of love
Lost
and
found

Be still,
my lucky dok champa heart
In the midst of
nowhere
and
everywhere
Let the wisdom of yesterdays
and the sacredness of tomorrows
 decorate your heart with softness
Celebrate in fragrance scent
as you welcome the dreams of our ancestors
Opening it up, full of joy
heart-filled sincerity
Living the untold stories of our people
Honoring the undiscovered secrets of our land
Discovering the unsung songs
 between the whispers of rice stalks

DEAR BROTHER

Dear Ai Vientiane,
I desperately watch you
grip tightly to your withering sandals

Keep your head high
close to seamless
reality

Your dreams are now mine
to live in full
totality

You disappear along the rusted brown road
Forgotten footprints
of memories unseen

Your body makes shape of light and dark
dissipating slowly
between dark blue jeans

About the Author



Kaysone Syonesa, is a Lao American theatre artist and playwright with a BA in Theatre Arts from the University of Minnesota. She has a theatre background as a performing artist/actor, director, set/costume designer and playwright. She has performed with various theatre companies in the Twin Cities with recent productions from Pangea World Theater, Teatro del Pueblo and Green T Productions. She has also directed and devised original theatre work called Sticky Rice Drama with artists and youth of color as a platform to uplift diverse and underrepresented voices in the Twin Cities. Kaysone has strengths in bringing communities together to create space and devise work to uncover and imaginatively tell stories that reflect the human experiences. In the past she was inspired to raise the artistic voices of women of color and created Moonlight Collective with three theatre artists who

were Latina American and African American. Together they wrote, designed, directed and produced a play called Many Routes, about three different women's stories integrating spoken word, dance and storytelling. She has also worked with and trained Laotian and Hmong youth to become theatre storytellers through playwriting and performance art.



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