

Tracing

By Michele Troutman

loss of fidelity
when the passenger in utero becomes difficult to trace, an indicated probe placed on the scalp
provides assurance
watch the beating heart as it flicks across the screen
trace a downfall
sometimes a band aid. sometimes a mirror. sometimes the loss isn't a loss at all. sometimes we lose.
sometimes we need to act
hurry the process. carry scalpel to womb. a time to resuscitate
hearts have capacitance too
the price of reassurance. the potential of new life
a pinprick of a needle. an auscultated breath after prolonged silence. a continued beat after discourse
I think about this concept of fidelity. as I fix my morning cup of black coffee
reach for my glass of brown sugar
and as I miss
failing in grasp
watching the pieces fall
unable to be put back together
no matter effort or grit
I sit in my kitchen and ponder loss
this concept of tracing without blueprints

Michele Troutman is a Maryland native and an OB-GYN living in Boston. She is a proud Black woman. Troutman is also a lover of science, coffee, fundamental rights and her stout cat Brady.

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