

Chelsea McQueen

Chelsea McQueen is a Black queer author, scholar, and activist based in Nashville, TN. She is pursuing freedom for herself and her community.



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A Spell to Break Your Chains

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After Alexis Pauline Gumbs

I.

Dig through the cool soil,

Tear your nails on rock and wood,
Make a place for yourself beneath the roots.
Rest. Keep what you find there.

II.

Throw off the shrouds
Others have placed on your shoulders.
Feel the breeze on your skin
Let the gusts move you.

III.

Make peace with the sea and sky,
As dark, wild, and unknown as you.
Plunge into their depths,
And release the need to be found.

IV.

Speak freely, drink deeply.
Unravel the cutting binds
And float, untethered.
Reclaim who you were
Before others told you
Who you were not.