Columbia College Chicago

Digital Commons @ Columbia College Chicago

Black Album Mixtape

Campus Life

2024

Light

Raina Newman 405576@colum.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.colum.edu/blackalbummixtape

Recommended Citation

Newman, Raina, "Light" (2024). *Black Album Mixtape*. 16. https://digitalcommons.colum.edu/blackalbummixtape/16

This Writing is brought to you for free and open access by the Campus Life at Digital Commons @ Columbia College Chicago. It has been accepted for inclusion in Black Album Mixtape by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Columbia College Chicago. For more information, please contact drossetti@colum.edu.

Light

I am the acceptable
The girl with light skin
The ridiculous laugh
Who cares what everyone thinks of her
Who people pleases like her life depends on it
Too big to be a threat or potential
She is the friendly one
I never had to confront my blackness because I was, I am the acceptable version
The one you could digest easily without thinking about it
I never had to really look myself and know what it meant to be black
Racism was subtle
I never noticed it
But I still wanted the straight hair
I wanted the small frame
I wanted the guys attention
I wanted to be loved the way everyone else was
But I was too too much
Too big
Too loud
Too weird
But I was never too black

I look at my little sister as the world continues its fight against racism and I know hers will be greater than mine ever will be

I know that the boys will laugh and call her names

Why

Because she is a girl

Because she has curves

But mostly because she is black

In a world that still refuses to see her

That refuses to teach young children that every color is beautiful

That every color has worth

That everyone has value

I look at my little sister and I see every piece of myself within her

I look at my little sister and I want her to have a life full of good

I look at my little sister and I know she saved my life

I look at my little sister and I cry

My sister who is only 10 years old

My sister who is already experienced more racism in her short life than I ever did or ever will

My little sister who shines brighter than the sun

My little sister who is lion

My little sister who laughs with all the worlds joy

My little sister is my light

My little sister deserves everything

But this world who saw me as acceptable

As digestible

Will never forget it

Because I will scream and yell and write until there are no more words

Because my little sister deserves more

She deserves to be seen to be loved

To be the light