

Adult Winning Poems 2023

Event Horizon

Sentient skin of sand,
capillaries of crushed silica and shell
flush red at the sun's touch—
an animal awakening,
waves of a star's ejecta.

Here you are
all that you are not.
The small self contracts
to a sharp shadow.
The rest of you empties
into bronzed light
and mineral undulation.

- *Mobi Warren*

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The red dune

I think it was you on the dune
this time, guarding the red sand,
looking over the water—

I'm always trying to figure out
if it's you or me out there, conflicted by
the pull of it

in one dream, you were the red sand
shimmering,
pulling—

you had become the red dune,
a continuum of red,
wherever I went you were with me.

- *Alan Montes*

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Weight

I want so badly to go out and touch the world
To go out and taste it
To walk a day under your weather
And mix with my fellow man
I've spent too much time alone and learned the hard way
To much time alone left me scarred
Under the weight of the dessert's sand
Instead of barefoot on the surface
Instead of reaching for heaven like a flower pushing for the sun
I planted a rock in good soil and expected something to grow
I shut my lips tight when my heart wanted to sing
I remember love and freedom and being close to the music
My nerves shake and crave for it
To play in the daylight

- *Diego Ray Hernandez*