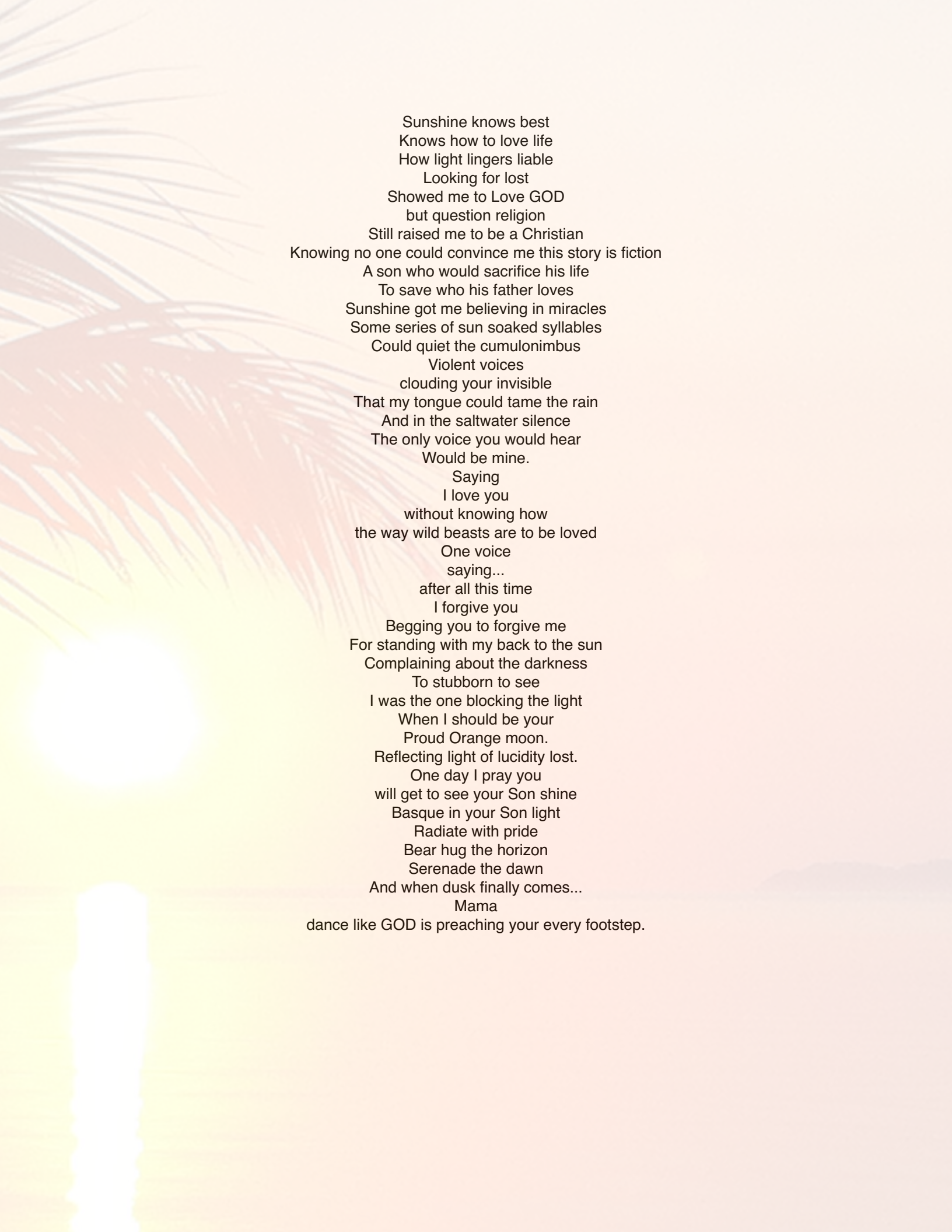


Sunshine

by Mikumari Caiyhe

Open letter to my mother
I remember a time they called you
Sunshine
Fierce little redbone firecracker
New Redeemer Baptist Dorothy Dandridge
Down South Sermon of Sequin
in your summer solstice smile
The center of my universe
I am afraid to get close to you
not interested in reliving Icarus
I love you from distances
That only leave opportunities for photosynthesis
And tho I know we've had our differences
I will not let you be painted
portrait of poor choices
for who of them have ever studied Sunshine
with the naked eye
stripped of judgement
Pupils to your solar eclipse
Need they be reminded
even when darkness persists
still
Sunshine exists.
Sparkling
Beyond Postpartum Depression
Never letting Paranoid schizophrenic scrim
Dim your Jubilee
Cocaine couldn't crack you
Perseverance on the tip of the tongue
Of your yellow dancing shoes
What they know about the
12 Step Shuffle
We know
Possible is a roller-coaster handlebar
Together, you and I, threshold sober
Unyielding
Unsheilded
Ultraviolet Melanomadic Memories
Indelible scent of cocaine suffocated plastic
Forever singed into my sinews
Myrmidon in melanin
Marriage of warrior and wisdom
mahogany skin celebration



Sunshine knows best
Knows how to love life
How light lingers liable
Looking for lost
Showed me to Love GOD
but question religion
Still raised me to be a Christian
Knowing no one could convince me this story is fiction
A son who would sacrifice his life
To save who his father loves
Sunshine got me believing in miracles
Some series of sun soaked syllables
Could quiet the cumulonimbus
Violent voices
clouding your invisible
That my tongue could tame the rain
And in the saltwater silence
The only voice you would hear
Would be mine.
Saying
I love you
without knowing how
the way wild beasts are to be loved
One voice
saying...
after all this time
I forgive you
Begging you to forgive me
For standing with my back to the sun
Complaining about the darkness
To stubborn to see
I was the one blocking the light
When I should be your
Proud Orange moon.
Reflecting light of lucidity lost.
One day I pray you
will get to see your Son shine
Basque in your Son light
Radiate with pride
Bear hug the horizon
Serenade the dawn
And when dusk finally comes...
Mama
dance like GOD is preaching your every footstep.