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TANYA GRAE

Third Wave, Shift

When my mother sat at our table for late hours of statistics homework, biting the corners of her lips, I saw prophecy swell, but took comfort in the closeness, instead of seeing my mother brawling for me:

head down, grinding each equation, my whole life set in her jaw.

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Tanya Grae won the 2016 Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival Poetry Prize, selected by Yusef Komunyakaa. She is the author of the forthcoming chapbook Little Wekiva River (Five Oaks Press), and her poems have appeared in AGNI, New Ohio Review, The Florida Review, New South, Fjords, The Los Angeles Review, Barrow Street, and elsewhere. She lives in Tallahassee and teaches at Florida State University while completing her doctorate. Find out more at: tanyagrae.com.