

BROWN (2016)

by Maxine Beneba Clarke

Sometimes

bronzed terracotta mahogany

I wake

burnished hazelnut beige

with rope

scarlet-brown cedar

tanned sandstone

oaked earth

and red-rusted caramel gold

round my neck

chocolate

raw umber

scorched hazel

dripping

burnt macadamian cream

sweat

walnut sienna

and mapled sahara

ripe olive on dark aubergine

out of

earth clayed treacle

breath

dog at my

honeyed tree sap

heels

bleeding but

carmine coffee bean

free

afraid to

stained pine sunset

dream

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ABOUT THE POET

Maxine Beneba Clarke, born Sydney 1979

Maxine Beneba Clarke is an Australian born poetry, prose and non-fiction writer of Afro-Caribbean descent. Her ancestors originated in West Africa and were taken to the West Indies as part of the transatlantic slave trade. Hundreds of years later, subsequent generations of her family migrated from the West Indies to England, then from England to Australia.