A One Person Play

MERAKI

By

Dey Wallace-McKinstry
Meraki

1. "Untitled" by Denez Smith
2. The Stories We Weave
3. Love On Top
4. Stay Afloat
5. Dear Straight White Men
6. Songbird
7. Songbird, Part 2
8. Father, Father
9. The Stories We Weave, Part 2
10. Meraki

"Our histories cling to us. We are shaped by where we come from."
- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
For as long as I can remember, I've always been a big storyteller. I believe that, as humans, we don't take enough time out of our lives to share stories with one another. Think about all the people you've encountered in your life. Think about the many people you've walked by in the mall, on the street, at school, in a restaurant, etc. Haven't you ever asked yourself, "What's their story?" For such social beings, we don't take advantage of the different perspectives, experiences, and influences that co-exist among us nearly enough. Where does that guy you see at the crosswalk every Wednesday go? Where has life taken him?

I wrote *Meraki* with a desire to share some of my most prized and life-changing stories with the world. Writing has always been a tool I've utilized to heal, and I felt as though the next step for me was to share. I share these stories with you in hopes of delivering the courage to share your own. I share these stories with you in hopes of feeding the hunger to listen and learn from others. When you leave here, ask someone what their story is.

I would like to thank my family, my friends, my teachers, and all those along the way who have become apart of my story. And cheers to the strangers and faded faces in the world whom I may have only met once or twice. A special thank you to Kate Doak for your guidance, wisdom, and support!

*With love and meraki,*

*Dey*
In loving memory of my father,
Anthony Wallace-McKinstry