



***Dear Daughter by Yusra Warsama***

Dear Daughter,

I write you this letter more for me in some ways than you.

You are my girl child.

*Inantay*, I didn't think love could come in so many forms.

*Hoyoo*, you are my only girl, sandwiched between two boys,

I hold on to the idea of you.

That is enough to overwhelm me.

You really are like the sun.

Staring at you directly can hurt.

You are so brilliant.

Maybe a small word might divert you so I leave your blessings to grow in silence,

Protected by your angels.

I'll carry a cutlass in this world to clear your path.

Two worlds make you, an ancient East African culture and a rich Caribbean power.

You are the new that unites the old.

You are the one born today, that ties the knots together from west to east.

Sat in the land that severed ties long before even when your grandmother was a thought.

*Hoyoo*, tell me, what do you feel?

*Hoyoo*, you walk so gently

I pray you forever have your own gait.

*Hoyoo*, your smile cleans the brow of the weary.

I ask friends on a birthday of yours to offer you advice for the future.

All their wisdom leads to one point - that you are a gift.

Live the journey of know thyself, *Hoyoo*.

I'll be here, InshAllah.

I'll walk on concrete

I'll be stood under street light.

When you reach, you will feel my open palm.

I've been doing my own journey, you see.

To know thyself for me is to know you are forever a part of me.

I love you.