

RADICAL TEACHER

A SOCIALIST, FEMINIST, AND ANTI-RACIST JOURNAL ON THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF TEACHING

Poetry
Chaos Theory

by Prartho Sereno

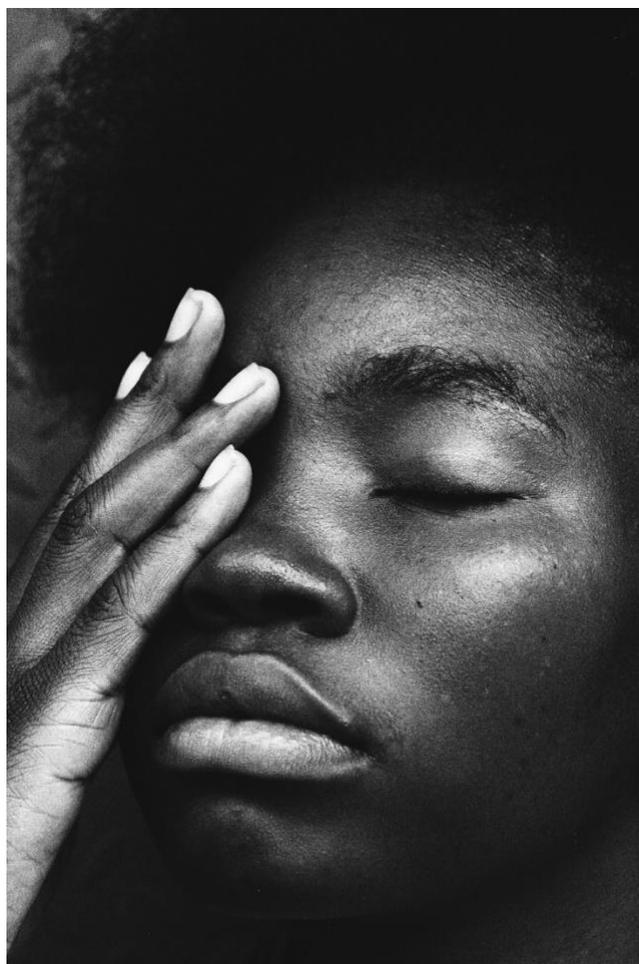


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Chaos Theory

When the unkempt girl whose eyes
are always fixed on something
the rest of us can't see leaps up
midway through the day's poem
to wildly swivel her arms
does the breeze she becomes

touch the heads of the peonies
and bring their tight buds
to unwind and let go
a perfumed eddy so dense

it draws in the disbelievers
and shipwrecked sailors
the unhappy housewives
and long-lost heralds of dawn

so that when she arrives home to drop
her heavy pack on the floor and search
the vacant lots of her mother's eyes

does she find at last a gardener whistling in
with his wheelbarrow and trowel
come to shape the clouds into polar bears
and possums, put in a patch of sweetgrass,
rows of wild peas?



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