

2000

## My Last Words

Helena Yago

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## there are womyn who have lost their manes

the only quiet moment from her  
grueling  
day  
of chores  
is brushing amber locks

one hundred strokes  
to the back  
a gold handled brush in a brown hand

one hundred strokes  
to the front  
a reflection in the vanity mirror

briskly untangling strands  
that keep her in bondage

looking forward  
to the soft  
texture of hair

she goes home

to her shack

no mirror no gold handled  
brush  
no amber locks

one hundred strokes

pulls at her head

no amber locks

tied up knotted matted down  
and  
snatches the sweat soaked scarf  
off  
her head