



Ascension

Poems by Malaika Favorite

Winner of the 2016 Naomi Long Madgett Poetry Award

A collection of brilliantly crafted poems with intense imagery and cadence, representing the African American experience of enslavement and the author's rootedness in the folkways and history of African Americans in Louisiana.

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Ascension is a collection of poems rooted in the African folkways, lore, and history of Louisiana. Palpable images pull the reader into the turbulent waters and horrors of the Atlantic slave trade, into homes battered by relentless rain and a flooding river, and finally to moments of contemplation and reverence for the land. With a measured, lean, and luminous style, the poet shares her intimate experience of place—home, familiar rituals, sites of historic resonance, and consciousness of the power and beauty of the natural world.

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Malaika Favorite is a writer and visual artist who lives in Augusta, GA. She is the author of *Illuminated Manuscript* and *Dreaming at the Manor*. Her poetry, fiction, and essays have appeared in numerous journals, including *Pen International*, *Hurricane Blues*, *Drumvoices Review*, *Xavier Review*, *The Maple Leaf Rag*, *Visions International*, *Louisiana Literature*, *Louisiana English Journal*, and *Southern Quarterly*. She is the winner of the 2005 Louisiana Literature Prize for Poetry.