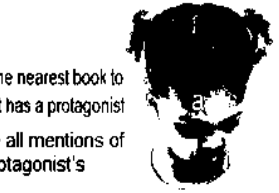
poetry by

shori sims



Open the nearest book to you that has a protagonist

Ignore all mentions of the protagonist's name

Any sentence that begins with "she", now you are "she"

Try to inhabit her mind

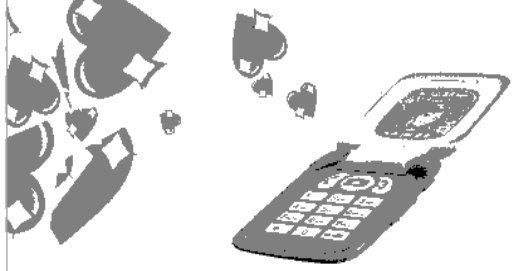
Try to inhabit her body

When you've become her, you've won

(If you find that you cannot become her, try again with a different book)

Begin by telling another person a unique phrase of your choice.

If you hear that phrase ever again, feel satisfied in the knowledge that you originated it, and that it was once yours.



At 1:00AM on any day, lie in a bed by an open window. Listen to the cars and buses and people as they pass beneath and beside you. Imagine what each car, bus, and person looks like.

Imagine where they are going. Dream about going with them.

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees F. Have a 9"x9" baking pan.

Combine 2 cups of flour.

1 cup of sugar.

1/2 cup of softened butter.

one tablespoon of vanilla extract.

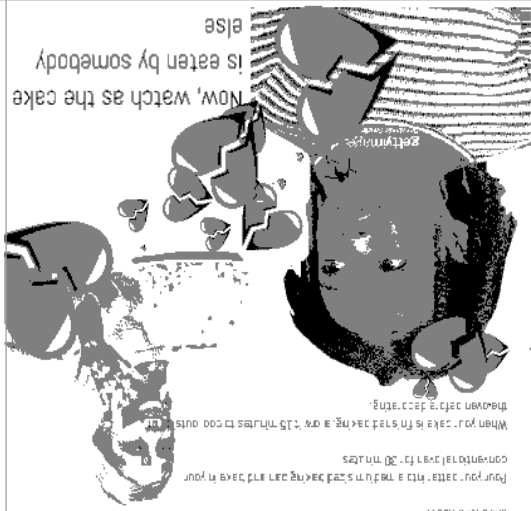
½ cup of milk

two tablespoons of baking powder.

Mix until smooth.

Pour your batter into a greased pan. Bake for 30 minutes.

When your cake is finished baking, allow it 15 minutes to cool outside the oven before adding the icing.



Now, watch as the cake is eaten by somebody else

This is a game between yourself and the trees:

Lay entirely still in a grassy patch

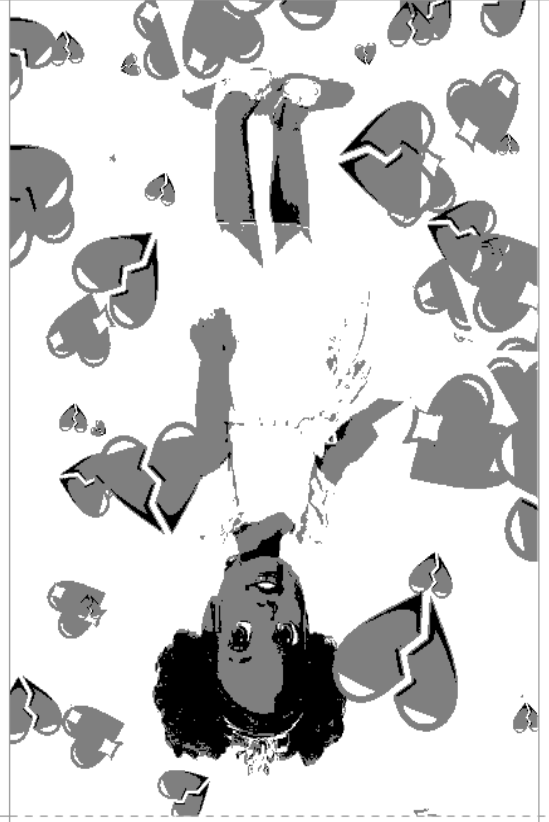
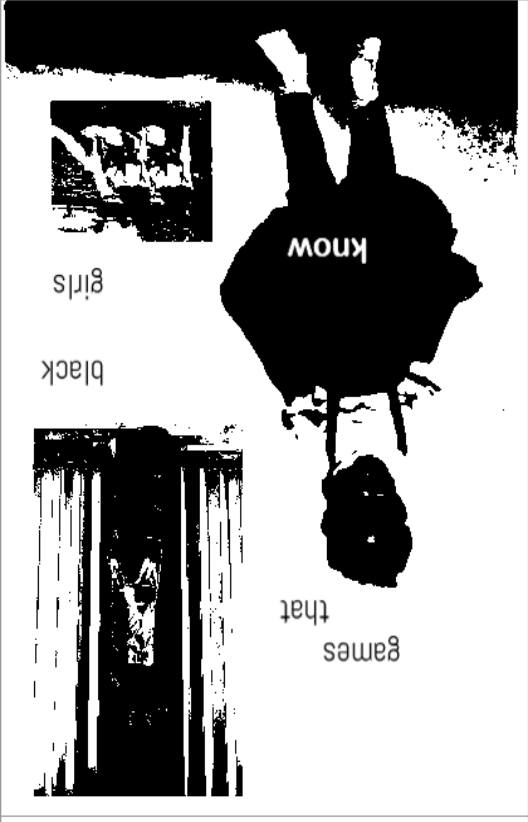
Say nothing to any passers by, even if they speak to you first

Do not wash away any bugs

Do not attempt to protect yourself from the elements

Measure your breathing in time with the rustling of leaves

know that the Earth loves you especially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