

You're pretty...for a Black girl.  
You're smart...for a Black girl.

Coming home confused  
Why am I pretty or smart, for a Black girl?  
Aren't I just pretty?  
Can't I just be smart?  
The words permanently etched in my brain.  
I'm pretty and smart...for a Black girl.

13% of women in the US are Black  
And yet the beauty standard is still whack  
To be fair skinned is to be white  
To have pretty hair is to have straight bright hair

When will a day come when Black women  
Are respected  
When will a day come when Black women  
Are seen  
As empowering and strong.

**So here's to Harriet, Rosa, Mae.**

The blessings *not* in disguise.  
Here's to bringing Black women honor every day.  
Harriet Tubman, was the slavery era's Moses  
Who rescued from the underground  
Like long-awaited roses  
Rosa Parks, the one who refused  
to give up her seat  
Planting her feet  
Firmly on the earth  
Mae Jemison released the anchors  
Flew up to space  
We look across history  
And see the mark of Black women  
In every time and place

**Here's to Wilma, Flo-Jo, Jackie**

Sprinting across the finish line  
Wilma Rudolph, she wore braces on her legs  
But that braced her for a future of overcoming  
Turning her greatest weakness into her greatest strength  
Florence Joyner, who was the fastest woman of all time  
Breaking barriers and crossing every line  
Jackie Joyner, I guess seven is her lucky number  
Winning the heptathlon even in her slumber  
So here's to them

Not being *pretty* good, being the best

Important Black women aren't just dusty figures

In our history books

They are bright empowering women in our everyday life

So here's to my mom for pushing me further

Here's to my sisters for keeping me on my toes

Here's to myself, for being me

Despite being "just" a Black girl

So here's to being a strong Black woman

Here's to letting Black women triumph

And here's to our Black girl magic.

Here's to us all for being...pretty smart.