

POETRY

FLICKERING LIGHT

Johanna Ataman

*To be a black candle means to be odd.
It means to shine out even though you're not of the color to reflect white light.
It means to pipe down and lay low
Because you're outnumbered and not in your home.*

*It screams of a voice that is too minor, too low to be heard or make a difference.
To be a black candle among white ones means to hold the fire like everyone else,
But to be the only one burning into a messy puddle of wax.*

Author's Note



Johanna Ataman is a 16-year-old writer and poetess, who hails from Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. Through her writing journey, she has acquired a Certificate of Participation in the African Human Rights Short Story Competition, 2022, and a Certificate of Publication in the Amazing Young Writers' Challenge, 2023. She has also been published in Issue 1 of the Writeadelic Magazine and emerged the 1st Runner Up with a Certificate of Award in the 2nd African Teen Writers Award for Poetry, 2023. As a human rights activist and passionate writer, Johanna's writing hopes to speak for the voiceless people of society and relate to the troubling issues of life. She dreams of a world inspired and bettered by her bleeding out on paper the feelings that so often are not spoken. This is her second contribution to our *Journal*, and we welcome her back.