

A Motherless Child

Jarrood Houseal

A motherless child in a world so cruel
Left to navigate life without her guiding jewel
A life cut short by a system so unfair

A community left to grieve and to care

She had dreams and aspirations, so much to give
But denied the care she needed, and so she couldn't live
A victim of medical inequality and race

Left to suffer in a world without grace

Her child now struggles with the weight of her loss
A life forever changed, at such a high cost
No more hugs or kisses, no more lullabies

Just a void that can never be filled, no matter how hard he tries

But her memory lives on in her child's heart
A constant reminder to never let this tragedy depart
To fight for equality and justice for all

To honor her mother, he will stand tall

Background: This poem is based on the documentary, Aftershock. It speaks to the reality that the inequalities that exist in healthcare access and outcomes for Black communities. The trauma of losing a loved one due to inadequate medical care is not just a personal loss but also a societal failure. I am hoping this poem will raise awareness and bring attention to this injustice.