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Underestimated

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Underestimated

Author Bio

Athena is working towards a career as a book editor with the goal of helping underrepresented/hidden voices and stories get heard by the people who need them.



The green in my eyes stands for poison
My native jaw knows how to cut
These broad shoulders, inherited from my father, know
how to bear weight
And my hand won't shake when my sword finally swings
For this creator's mind knows how to erase
And this caring heart knows how to forget

You thought I was harmless
Underestimated the danger under my skin
You followed me to my workplace
Spent your time walking outside my home
Gained a following for your lies
Copied my interests like they were your own
You thought I did not see the moves
That you made to undermine me

But my namesake was no mere coincidence
They say demons run when a good man goes to war
What happens when women like me join in?

We make it our own.

Author Statement

"I think we have all had experiences where we were underestimated, especially as women. In 'Underestimated' I wanted to explore my own features and traits and twist them into reasons why I, and women in general, shouldn't be underestimated. In the poem, I also explore several different instances that form a collective experience of being seen as a woman that others could take advantage of."