

1996

## I am the Sixteenth Virgin Mother on The Block

Sarah Addae

Find similar works at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/seeds>  
University of Central Florida Libraries <http://library.ucf.edu>

This Work is brought to you for free and open access by STARS. It has been accepted for inclusion in SEEDS: The Literary Journal of the Sisters of Color by an authorized editor of STARS. For more information, please contact [STARS@ucf.edu](mailto:STARS@ucf.edu).

---

### Recommended Citation

Addae, Sarah (1996) "I am the Sixteenth Virgin Mother on The Block," *SEEDS: The Literary Journal of the Sisters of Color*. Vol. 4, Article 2.

Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/seeds/vol4/iss1/2>

## I am the Sixteenth Virgin Mother on the Block

We don't know how to lose.  
Whatever comes, we say,  
I didn't know winning would be like this.

We plant narcissus bulbs,  
They come up but never flower.  
We keep gathering stems.

Our block is shaped like a horse.  
We gallop away  
in tiny houses.

Living in Bonsai arrangements,  
with used tires here,  
living rooms there,

We know how to start the grill.  
We know how to light the charcoal.  
We eat our fathers up.

Cut into small pieces,  
We eat our fathers,  
and spit them out as sons.

Light candles for us,

We light candles for you.

We have no mothers, we have no mothers,  
we are dancing to what our fathers told us,  
The world is not fair.

no.no.no.  
it is not.  
no no no

It is dark and deep.  
It is pale as night.  
We are dervishes now.

The world is not fair.  
no, it it not.  
It is a strong embrace of red.  
It is what we imagine.  
We stand in a most delicate space,  
Imagining grieving, imagining hope.

*Sarah Addae*