**What They Did Yesterday Afternoon**

by Warsan Shire

they set my aunts house on fire  
i cried the way women on tv do  
folding at the middle  
like a five pound note.  
i called the boy who use to love me  
tried to ‘okay’ my voice  
i said hello *he said warsan, what’s wrong, what’s happened?*  
i’ve been praying,  
and these are what my prayers look like; *dear god  
i come from two countries  
one is thirsty  
the other is on fire  
both need water.*  
later that night  
i held an atlas in my lap  
ran my fingers across the whole world  
and whispered  
where does it hurt?  
  
it answered *everywhere  
everywhere  
everywhere.*