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Why I Write: My First Prize Woman

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Why I Write: My First Prize Woman

She was bent forward, like a tulip bent on its stem, like when you are looking for something for so long that you have forgotten what it was but you still remember the feeling of looking for something that belonged to you. Squinting her eyes, like the roaming wind making desert dunes, she would stand on her doorstep looking for someone to tell her stories. Neighbours ignored her because "she talks a lot", "she is living the past". But, she and I, we loved storytelling. So, she would talk for hours of her love, sorrow, joy and pain; and I would listen.

"This story is the voice of a woman who wanted to be heard and that is why I write", I walked down the stage holding her prize in my hands and I knew she was in the room standing upright, smiling.