

**Chantal James** is a Carolina-raised, HBCU-educated global Southerner. Fictionista and poetess, she spent much of the past two years researching and writing in Morocco as a creative Fulbright Fellow, and is the author of the novel *Fes is a Mirror*. She's a proud member of the Carolina African American Writers' Collective.

## Skyscrapers, and Everythang

but this country's not  
as you'd pictured: streets fenced by  
hollow towers whose  
windows gape like missing teeth  
in dry mouths back home