

Taking a risk

by LeConté Dill

On the day after

my Birthday

Found out

I was

pregnant

The doctors were

“cautiously optimistic”

because of my levels

Said “Congratulations”

Said to come back

in two days

The day after

is when I learned or

that I heard that

No longer

could I celebrate this month

Not sure

Talking in hushed tones

“Because of my age”

Said they were sorry

Said I could try again, but

I would start bleeding...

LeConté Dill was born and raised in South Central Los Angeles, California, the granddaughter of sojourners of the 2nd Wave of the Great Migration. She remains curious about sojourning, migrations, and landing and launching places and spaces. “Le Conte” literally means “The Fairy Tale,” and likewise, LeConté listens to, documents, dreams, and creates stories of reimagining. She is a scholar, educator, and a poet in and out of classroom and community spaces. LeConté holds degrees from Spelman College, UCLA, and UC Berkeley, has participated in VONA Voices and Cave Canem workshops, and was a 2016 Callaloo Creative Writing Workshop Fellow. Currently, she is an Associate Professor of African American and African Studies at Michigan State University. Her work has been published in a diverse array of spaces, such as Poetry Magazine, Mom Egg Review, Journal of Poetry Therapy, and The Feminist Wire.