

I Caught You: Ode to Hibiscus

Dr. Shirley Turner
District of Columbia

I caught you when you first woke up this morning
While the dew was still on your leaves
Before the midday sun could wilt your beautiful blossom

I caught you proudly displaying your glory
While the shade of last night's moon shielded you from the heat of the day
Before the bumble bee could rob you of your nectar

I caught you shaking your head at the naysayers
While you were still in your innocence
Before you would have to give up your purity

I caught you savoring the fact that you owed nothing to anyone
While you were free to be you
Before you became the supplier of others' needs

I caught you dancing freely in the soft breeze
While others were sleeping
Before you would have to share the spotlight

I caught you nodding your head to the rhythm of the songbird
While the lavender was awakening from its rest
Before the rosebud could claim its prominent place

I caught you stealing the show with your vibrant color
While the others were striving to open their blooms
Before the day could become humdrum, just another mark on a calendar

I caught you

