

POETRY

False Positives

by Sarp Sozdinler



"False Positives" by Eryk Siemianowicz

The test said I was
53% Middle Eastern
19% Caucasus
0% certainty
and 100% trying
to build a nest out of
mortar and bricks
I scrolled past the map
zoomed in on red clusters
of where I might belong
clicked too fast
left fingerprints on pixels
I told my friend it felt like a scam
she said it was still a story
still a frame
we need something to
hang the body on
I tried using mine
but it slipped
like language does
when you've forgotten
the mouth it came from
like my name when
the barista writes *Maryan*
and calls *Marian* and I nod
because it's easier
because I don't want to
explain the spelling
the lineage
the ache
I rewatch old wedding
videos in standard def
the women clapping

hips like prayer
my mother's voice offscreen,
saying you dance like your aunt
and I think maybe
just maybe
that's inheritance
not the percentages
but the way I sway
unverified
unbroken