

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