

POETRY

E. Ethelbert Miller

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How I Found Love Behind the Catcher's Mask

All my life I've caught hell.
I never wanted to be a catcher.
When meeting a woman I never know what signs to put down.
I never have enough protection.
Once a girlfriend told me she was pregnant.
She lied but I didn't know it.
A man can only see so much.
I live a life of blueness.
Behind my mask a Buddha smile of suffering.
Before dying it's important to play catch with yourself.
You don't have to wait for a woman to throw love at you.

Mood Indigo

*Now you have been blue, yes but you ain't been blue
Till you've had that mood indigo*

-Duke Ellington

How many times has this catcher's mask
been knocked off my head? Oh, those concussions
of love. What is this crazy thing that shakes me now
into a perfectly thrown loneliness?

BIO- NOTE

E. Ethelbert Miller is a literary activist and author of two memoirs and several poetry collections. He hosts the WPFW morning radio show *On the Margin with E. Ethelbert Miller* and hosts and produces *The Scholars* on UDC-TV which received a 2020 Telly Award. Most recently, he was given a grant from the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities and a congressional award from Congressman Jamie Raskin in recognition of his literary activism. Miller's latest book is *When Your Wife Has Tommy John Surgery and Other Baseball Stories*, published by City Point Press.

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