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Ethnography of Childhood Ghosts Ghost Two: Maduabuchukwu 1977-2006

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I, under the night-gaze of a bridge, was jolted out of Man's World by a drunken car. White light, bright as my soul, spilled from my new watch, draining me. I still burn like the noon sun! I bellowed at *Chineke*. Shimmer like you, I gasped at the young Samaritan-thief patting pockets of my roadside-corpse. I'm only twenty-nine! I yelled to pulsing dancers outside *De Pussy* nightclub on my street. What can be the sense of this cruel game that unseen hands play? See, I moaned at World Above, pointing at glowing objects in my room, passed fingers over the bookcase, along folds of the couch, I touch edges of mother's portrait on the wall, pick up chiming keys of my '89 Honda on the polished table, lift dish of unfinished garri and groundnuts on the TV, press red button of TV remote—
taking the heat of everything.
Then I laid a hand on my favorite armchair
by the open window
and wept.

About Iheoma Nwachukwu

Iheoma Nwachukwu has received fellowships from the Michener Center for Writers, University of Texas, Austin, and the Chinua Achebe Center for African Writers, Bard College, New York. His work has appeared in *Unstuck*, *Black Renaissance Noire*, *The Apple Valley Review*, *Eclectica*, and other publications.