

I See 1 – an Ekphrastic Poem

*I see four
But you see one
See us for what we are and not what we are not*

*We are not the trigger we had to pull to protect the one we love from those who were supposed
to protect us*

*We are not the cheek being grinded into the ground as a knee tries to make the veins in our
neck explode*

*We are not the "thieves" jogging in a neighborhood whose value is reduced to the cleanliness of
our toenails*

We are not the gun which you mistook for a taser that shot the life out of us

We are not monsters

*We are naps growing out of a face so perfect God smiles when the sun sees it
We are skin so dark the night time wraps around it and lifts it up to see its glory in the moonlight
We are cocoa smiles mixed with the royalty of gold
We are the burnt bleached unsweetened sweet that gets stuck under your gums*

*We are not a person
We are a people*