

If You Took My Hand in the Dark

by Eloise Shepard

(Adult Honorable Mention)

If you took my hand in the dark, you would not know the color of my skin.

If *I* took *your* hand in the dark, *I* would not know the color of *your* skin.

If the back of your hand was wrinkled or smooth, I might know if you were young or old.

Maybe.

By your fingernails or bracelets, I might make a guess at your gender,

But probably not.

If you had certain rings on certain fingers, there's a chance I'd figure out if you were married or single,

But it would be a guess.

The perception of race disappears in the dark.

Or if your eyes are closed.

The trick is to use your eyes to see the *person* and not just the skin.

To see how we are different, and how we are the same.

To appreciate the differences, *truly* appreciate the differences.

And allow the sameness to make us open to *all those we see* in the bright day.