

Swept Away

Tariro Ndoro

Fiela *verb* to sweep

Fiela *verb* to sweep [Sotho]

Fiela *verb* to sweep rubbish

Fiela [see also *restore order*]

Fiela human rubbish clogs the system

Fiela am I different because of my visa?

Fiela what is the degree of separation between

Fiela legal rubbish and non-legal rubbish? Go back

Fiela to your country, *foreigner*, my friend said it

Fiela jokingly but I felt the sting // are we ever safe?

Fiela Jodi Bieber captured monochrome stills of prisoners

Fiela shackled in twos en route to ~~deportation~~ repatriation fields

Fiela I wanted the images but you can't take pictures in the gallery

Fiela Mother escaped with a canvas bag of her past five years, sleeps

Fiela in refugee camp at Beitbridge // says she has nowhere to go to but

Fiela government minister says disloyal citizens got what they deserved //

Fiela Black Easter sparked by lynching foreign criminal woman // exodus begins

"Swept Away" was first published in Oxford Poetry, Winter 2017. It also appeared in Tariro Ndoro's poetry collection Agringada: Like a Gringa, Like a Foreigner, published by Modjaji Books, 2019.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tariro Ndoro is a Zimbabwean writer, poet, and storyteller. Her debut poetry collection *Agringada: Like a Gringa, Like a Foreigner* (Modjaji Books, 2019) received the inaugural NAMA Award for Outstanding Poetry Book. Her poetry, short fiction, and creative nonfiction have appeared in *Afreada*, *The Kalahari Review*, *Kotaz*, *New Contrast*, *Oxford Poetry*, and *Puerto del Sol*.

© 2017 by Tariro Ndoro

Published under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0) license

https://doi.org/10.1162/DAED_a_02006