

UCLA

Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies

Title

Phantom Rings

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3wj2w009>

Journal

Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies, 13(2-3)

ISSN

0041-5715

Author

Hunter, Janet Scott

Publication Date

1984

DOI

10.5070/F7132-3017108

Copyright Information

Copyright 1984 by the author(s). All rights reserved unless otherwise indicated. Contact the author(s) for any necessary permissions. Learn more at <https://escholarship.org/terms>

Peer reviewed

PHANTOM RINGS

by

Janet Scott Hunter

you better run
a thousand cuts
laid bare
their lonely marathon
closing circles
a waiting space
cool oasis
prayer to your
unslaked thirst

you better run
brother

promise
a green flash
across a
waterless plain

chasing blind
a phantom shadow
flees in
vehicle of travesty

brother you better
run
your sister there at
the starting gun

five rings on
her fingers
holding chains
a captive audience

frail frantic race
golden track
overtaken in
the fast lane

black sister
leaves the block
spikes undermining
the surface of your
artifice