

# A Conversation with Falu

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“Home Sweet Home/ Where Chrome Meets Chrome”

Penmanship poet and author of “10 Things I Want to Say to a Black Man”, Falu, says that, outside of “devices, structure and format”, thoughts and poems are one and the same. “You think it so you write it.” Getting in on what people think is not always comfortable. Actually, most of the time it’s uncomfortable. We are all built out of individual experience so, coming together is often a clashing. This is part of what makes spoken word vital, a voice outside your experience reaching out, opening the front door to the world they live in and inviting you, the audience, in. It’s both foreign and familiar. This makes a poem’s performance a warm, vulnerable, uncomfortable, and homey thing for the audience and the poet, the outside coming in close. It’s a reminder of what is home and what is not and where the bridges are.

Falu hails from “Bangladesh, Brooklyn” aka “the furthest point in East New York, so far from civilization that no one really comes to visit unless there is food involved”. Her home is “a little two bedroom apartment, with poems painted on the walls and 50 year old furniture.” It sounds like a place I would like to curl up in and never leave, (which would be cluttery and more than a little awkward, I know.)

A large part of Falu’s writing is about trusting that home enough to push herself out of it, to leave herself vulnerable where she needs to be. “The poems that make me most uncomfortable while writing are the poems that needed to be written. I have cried while writing. Cringed while writing. Second-guessed myself while writing. But I have never stopped and asked if it matters that this poem makes me uncomfortable. I just write.” You have to hash out what hurts to keep it from infecting what’s good. Her favorite piece of advice came from Mahogany Browne who said “write till it don’t hurt no more.” You have to step out into the storm to hold up the walls of the eye. Writing can be a way to protect your home, and Falu is all about protecting and appreciating the good things she has. “I go from zero to pop off quite easily, especially when my black man, my children and my friends are involved. Aside from that, it’s so ridiculous how pleasant and delicious I am”

“The only place that feels as good as home” to Falu “is church.” When she’s trying to write she goes to the Bible. It’s the book she quotes most often, along with Jay-Z. “Understand,” she says, “He. Is. A. Book. Both The Bible and Jay-Z are applicable in all aspects of your life.”

Truth: “it’s home sweet home/Where personalities crash and chrome meets chrome”

When asked what one person place or thing she would save at the end of the world she refused to choose. "I wanna say my children, but I have two. Also wanna take my black man, that way we can repopulate the earth, cause I'm about helping mankind. I wanna take chapstick and mango and my bike...so many things." So she would just take everything she needs, screw armageddon. Yup. "This one person/thing crap is selfish and oppressive." Fair enough. I can believe that a ridiculously "pleasant and delicious" woman with poems painted into her walls, who writes to the rhythm of tears, temper and love could carry everything she cares about if she needed to. That's what this is all about.

<http://penmanshipbooks.com/a-conversation-with-falu-kate-g/>