

**WRITING**

# The Achilles Heel

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MSP

**TYPE**

POETRY

**GENRE**

GRADES 9–12

As a Black Woman,

We care,

We share,

We love,

We wouldn't even dare to receive.

From the emotional pain and heartache we bare,

To the hatred for us that everyone breeds.

It's ok, Black Women, it's okay.

They see you as strong, they see you as brave.

The shadow behind the hero who doesn't get an ounce  
of credit.

It's expected.

Someone they can spill their thoughts to, full of  
rotting decay.

It's ok, Black Women, it's okay.

If your counterparts won't protect you,

Then I will.

Let go of the invisible burden on your shoulder

And rest on me.

You are not as strong as you perceive,

You just had to be.

To survive in a world that wouldn't cater to you.

Be gentle, be weak,

I'll protect you even as you sleep.

Be feminine, be "fleck."

You are "that woman" for most, labeled off as disposable,

You are "my woman" though.

Worth your weight in pearls and gold, just like Beyoncé wrote.

Black Women, we are the blueprint for femininity.

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This piece was published in *Rehumanize Me: A Black Youth Anthology* (2022).

*Rehumanize Me* is a collection of poems, essays, and other creative works by 14 young

Black authors from Minneapolis, brought to you by 826 MSP.