

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/autumn-song-essays-on-absence/>

The speaker is a personal essayist with over 15 years of experience, and shares insights about their journey in writing essays, particularly focusing on their first collection, "All the Colors We Will See," published in 2018. This video collection details their experiences as a Black American daughter of Jamaican immigrants, growing up in Anchorage, Alaska, emphasizing themes of racial identity and immigration.

Following the completion of that book, the speaker faced a creative struggle, unsure of what to write next until inspiration struck during a trip to the North Carolina Mountains in autumn, leading to the realization that another essay collection could be developed, titled "Autumn Song." The collection explores themes of absence and loss, reflecting on the changes in life as one moves into midlife.

The term "Autumn" serves as a metaphor for transition and contemplation on what one loses or leaves behind, while "Song" represents the personal narratives and stories that shape identity. The essays in this new collection address various types of absences, including physical places lost to redevelopment, changes in personal relationships (such as the speaker's parents' divorce), and the emotional and physical changes one undergoes with age.

The speaker aims to categorize these experiences of absence and encourage readers to empathize with their narratives. They acknowledge that while absences can signal loss, they can also allow for new beginnings and reflections. The message emphasizes the importance of recognizing both absence and presence in life, fostering a deeper understanding of personal experiences, and encouraging readers to discover what emerges from their own absences.