

Safiyah Ettienne

Skills Equal Money

Title: Elijah's Place

“Go to school to get a good paying job,
The only other way to make money is to rob!”
For sixteen years that's all Elijah heard,
But in his mind, it was nothing more than absurd
With mommy in one ear and granny the next,
It was like their words never had an effect
Their nagging was always in succession
Which led the boy to the doorstep of manic depression.
As a black teenager, his parents' criticism came from every direction;
He tried so hard just to win their affection.

Besides his guardians there was one thing he did dread:
School – Elijah would rather be baldhead.
During class his mind wandered far,
They only wanted him to do well and get a star.
No matter the amount of books he read
Nothing would stick in poor Elijah's head
He tried his best, every day he would return
But the teachers gave up – Elijah couldn't learn
After school, he would put away his books
Change his clothes, and watch his granny cook

In the kitchen he felt so alive,
It was the one place that he could thrive.
By the skin of his teeth, he barely graduated,
But he was much more excited about what awaited.
Soon he was off to culinary school
Where he never felt like a fool
Four years later he was back with a culinary degree
Ready to open up his restaurant with much glee
In no time, people would line up outside of his door
The food from 'Elijah's Place' they do adore

With such outstanding abilities, the man quickly rose to fame,
Making “Elijah Jackson” a household name.
Even though he wasn't strong in Math or Science
Fast forward 10 years – now he takes pride in self-reliance.
As a celebrity chef, he made a great deal of money,

The taste of success reminded him so much of honey.
Elijah's restaurant became one of the top in the city
With the help of marketing and publicity,
In the end Elijah's story was beautifully written
He earned his success – it was definitely not given.