

Serena Simpson is a prose writer from Chicago, IL. She has published essays in *Barrelhouse* and *Ninth Letter*. Serena writes voice-driven narratives and Black womanist cultural criticism. Her work frequently explores our dynamic relationship to memory and place, as well as the overlap, interstices, and interplay between them.

Serena won the Guild Complex's 2018 Leon Forest Prose Award for nonfiction, was named a 2019 Tin House Scholar, was awarded the 2020 Disquiet Prize for nonfiction, was selected as a 2021 Sewanee Nonfiction Scholar, and has been named a 2026 Periplus fellow. Serena earned a BA in English at Spelman College, an MA in Writing and Publishing at DePaul University, an MFA in Creative Writing, and an MA in English Literature at Northwestern University. She is at work on her first novel and a memoir in essays.