

The Navigations of Post-Protest Depressions (a return to the silence of solitude)

Sirens

Sirens

Becoming the new

Lullabies

To Lull the Babes

To Sleep

From Sleep

Into (Permanent) Sleep

Sleep Sleep

An evermore to an insomniac's nevermore

The tumble tumble rolling rolling rumble of
Counting counting day into night into day
into night into into into endless days &
nights by the amount of

Sirens

Sirens

Warning Cries out

A Confluence

A Collision

A Collusion

Of Sounds

To Save Lives

To Destroy Lives

To Change Lives

Now now now has become

Deafening Maddening all Consuming

Which side

Whose side

I hear it when I don't hear it

I hear it when I don't hear it

I hear it when I don't hear it

I hear it when I don't hear it

This side is breaking me down

We seek out refuge comfort drive

in new Sounds

This The That White Noise

White Noise designed

to wipe out drown out mask out

the Sounds

[beat]

Black Noise is defined as silence

so I'll claim Black Sound as defiance

Engulfing enveloping encasing

the orders for compliance.

Protest [a soundscape]
May 30, 2020

Cities on fire
my heart hurts
Feelings
in isolation
Feelings
obsessively holding holding holding
onto
Whatever
I can.

Black man down
Black woman down
Black transwoman down
Black transman down
Black baby down
Black grandparent down
Black black black down down down down
Again & again & again & again & again
We learned to stand from crawling just like you
This fear of our great height is stiffling you
My heart aches
It's not us,
it's you.

A psychic pain
that I
can't fix
Cried on my back after masturbating to feel
Heavy ugly sobs
let them slide down my cheeks and pool into my ears
muffling the sounds of sounds of sounds of

[beat]

The family zoom call ended
Hope isn't enough, anymore
Wondering now, was it ever?
Keep hope alive
So many potential killers
I feel numb now

[beat]

125th and Adam Clayton Powell / 1:15pm

Warm bodies around

the most bodies around since

Hot bodies

COVID what?

We gather we cluster we move

Down down down til

116th

we Kneel we sit on roadway

Til we stand again

on pavement on concrete in intersections

Follow the leaders

Black black black seas of

rainbow hues

Faces smooth and bright and sweaty

We're watching we're watching

We're recording

We're occupying occupying this space

Occupying our space

Whose streets

Through idle cars through parked cars through waiting cars we part we unite we surge

Helicopters hovering hovering waiting

from rooftop from window from doorways from stoops watching

Sound waves

Hand claps

Car horns

Glass bottles

Whoop whoop

Metal bowl and spoon from five stories, 20 stories up

The noises carry the voices carry the footsteps carry the hearts they carry the weight they carry

You should be ashamed of yourselves

[beat]

We climbed over concrete barricades onto the FDR

FDR escalations

what

Would he

Have said?

what

Would he
Have done?
Young Black woman
Stoic face
hand raised in fist
She stared them down
face to face
They turned her around
Cuffed
Red shirt
multi hued Afro puff halo
Took her away
Does anyone know her name?

[beat]

We veered
Why did we veer?
Who doesn't have a mask?
Those ahead
on 96th
Were
Sprayed
Masks passed
If Mandela could do this for 22 years
I can get up this hill
Abuelas and grandmas and little ones cheering us on
A brother Gyrating from
an overpass on Park yelling shouting fuck the police
I'm out here for Sandra Bland
On her way to work
A woman like me
New leaders chanting the call
From fire escapes, in jumpsuits, with air horns
Sun roof raised fists bright red Mercedes Benz
in solidarity
Green lights

[beat]

I veer off
More sirens call
I feel alive. I am, alive, still.

[beat]

Mom's reflected some more:

I've been practicing the difference between thinking or even saying the words hope and intention. Hope is felt at the top of the chest and actually causes my shoulders to relax like I'm opening up. However intention is felt in my forehead and eyes and causes me to lean forward and focus.

Oh Gee

Many five points times ten splayed splashed out across rectangle body of
overlook neat big wide lines odd superstitious lines alternating stops &
divides

[beat]

Under dark navy skies

these those stars

fell on fell down shined down down down on

these those precise fine fields fine streets trails of

possibilities pathways paydays tilled by

black brown white black yellow black brown yellow red mens womens churns dirtied blended

hands hands hands tilled til

red red blood flowed n spread n irrigated n aggregated rows rows of white white fluffy gold grow

grow grow & prosper prosper prosper by hand over hand by hand over over hand

Bleached out cleaned up

Forget

Forgot

Felled on

silent ears numbed ears stuffed stuffed ears

Eyes on the

[beat]

Reset.

[beat]

Sing.

[beat]

Glory

Old Glory

wave

upside down

Blue blue blue Tears trail down down down

White white white patriarchal powers keep keep rising rising rising Up

Red black red brown red Blood runs down down down

[beat]

Glory

Ole Glory

wave

in reverse

Blue blue blue collars dirty & worn

White white white collars crisp & starched

Red red red caps rebrand reclan

[beat]

Glory

Oh Glory

wave

rightside up
Red red red
White white white
Blue blue blue blues
Now still
[beat]
Glory
My Glory
wave
never set it down
I was taught obliged expected to pledge pledge pledge to You
I once
placed You on the ground
Shamed
Half mast
Pay penance
In service to with gratitude
Forgive
Forget
Forgot
[beat]
Glory
Her Glory
wave
watch your thumbs
First draft sewn sewn with
Fine Lady hands
Later drafts revisions adjustments
mechanized machine (hands)
Man made to
[beat]
Glory
Their Glory
wave
Monument of victors
Say can you see
One way mirror your
allegiance to
[beat]
Can anybody help me?
A Brother's just trying
to get a bag of weed
help me out

Let me fly high
high high in these
Friendly
Til worthwhile to
come
Down down down
from this
New
new normal.

oh where, oh when, oh will
the allegiance reply to me?
That didn't equate
That didn't include the value of
We.

Good Fences Break Mending mending Walls (Frosted over)

In little Oaxaca a
little blue mittened hand swings free
The other holds an older bare brown hand which also holds a little pink mittened hand which
also leaves one little pink mittened hand swinging free
A trifecta, a balance, a morning drop off with an established return
The little blue mitten runs along the fence
hits a gap
runs again
it vibrates and I
shudder

[beat]

I
I run
I run my
I run my fingers
I run my fingers across
I run my fingers across bushes
I run my fingers across bushes &
I run my fingers across bushes & metal fences
I run my fingers across bushes & metal fences & brick walls
Because
I run my fingers across bushes & metal fences & brick walls
Because I
I run my fingers across bushes & metal fences & brick walls
Because I can't
I run my fingers across bushes & metal fences & brick walls
Because I can't touch
I run my fingers across bushes & metal fences & brick walls
Because I can't touch you
I run my fingers across bushes & metal fences & brick walls
Because I can't touch you
I run my fingers across bushes & metal fences & brick walls
Because I can't touch you
I run my fingers across bushes & metal fences & brick walls
Because I can't touch you
I run my fingers across bushes & metal fences & brick walls
Because I can't touch you

[beat]

In the desert heat
They discarded the boulders that inevitably wore down wore away revealing the cracks
revealing the age revealing the shifting shifting times
for concrete rock, metal of steel and electricity
Rugged and high and eight models of mismatched attempts at intimidation isolation
incarceration
Good fences make good neighbors
Or so his daddy told him
and so he continues to believe in
This fence
that has an east side
That wall
that has a west side
This fence
that has an end
That wall
that refuses to bend
Here's the _____ There's the _____
in feet in miles trace
This invisible manmade _____
Wade in the water out past past the line
Wind through the ravine out past past the
line
Fly high high enough in the sky past past the line
(We'll/ have always make/made a way)
Vehicle barriers
Pedestrian fencing
Crossing crossing
no cows
But apparantly an influx of mules (Pause)
See through in parts so you can see through me there
Neighbor, neighbor can you hear me?
Can we talk?
Remember our aged and ceremonial walks
of back and forth
our parallel steps carved into the earth?
Now
Fortified and reinforced
I'll walk on one side
as you walk on the other
trace the line of the hidden door
with my finger
as you avoid my eye

[beat]

Those older brown Fingers now,
rain kissed &
calloused
from lifting and
breaking
making a way
somehow
in the hopes of
a better life.

March for our Lives (or Disarm Toxic Masculinity)

She was the age of Sandy Hook
The babies get me
Every time

[beat]

Barricades barricades
Everyone's a drum
Today
Stars and Stripes
Bang bang ban
Police police cops leading the way
When is a March a March
Not a parade
Not a parade of waving of smiles
of serenades
But a protest
But a call to act
A call for action
A call for civil action
A call for civil civic action
A call for re-Activation of
Disobedience {peaceful or not how would you like?}
to defy the law of the land of the land that defies the wants
of its people
Must I smear my face?
Put on a grimace?
Shout til I'm hoarse?
Til you see?
Til you hear?
(Pause)
Who do you fear?
Dolla dolla bills
If I stop your rain
Will that stop our pain?
Will you Disarm your armor?
Where are my daisies?
{They died with deregulation}
Oh.

[beat]

Not a cry not a sigh
but a rallying ROAR
Rum bang rum bang rum pum pum pum
Survivors
they jump at the sound of
Tippie tippie tam tam
White shrouds
Not another one
Signs signs
Handwritten printed out sewn on signs
Is the writing on the

[beat]

Irony upon ironies
Every march every protest
Passes his name
Passes his doors
There!
look in the corner
He lurks
America's children under attack
But
Will Brown and Black lives matter
today Now TODAY?
Perhaps perhaps
yes perhaps
because the youth

[beat]

From behind the barricades
Let us in! Let us in!
And the melody of angels
Children's voices
shouting yelling demanding
Now!
Now!
Now!
Now!
Down the staircase
Stop the madness!
Up the staircase

little boy in a cape
Young ones braving doing
What the old ones won't
What the old ones can't
While Helicopters hover hover above
Flying high in the friendly skies
(Makes me wanna holler).

On America First

Say a little prayer a little prayer
for me for me for me
While I breakdown
While I mourn
While I process
Sir
Say a little prayer a little prayer
for them for them for them
While policies come across their desks {pass}
While bribes and incentives come across their desks {accept}
While the public demands demands action again and again and again and {pass}
Ma'am
Say a little prayer a little prayer
for us for us for us
That histories of mass violence stop repeating repeating repeating
That positions of power be brave and act and act and act
That putting America First means insuring that we ALL we ALL we ALL live live live
Not just those with deep pockets and lobbyist backers and deals with the (pause)
But also the acne ridden teen just trying to process sex and geometry and gaining 1000+
followers and depression
The bleeding heart teacher who pays out of pocket for fundraises for supplies her government
won't hand out won't hand out
School already for some a prison a pipeline and you're adding on adding on again and again a
cemetery
Invest invest invest in those rifles those vests those security measures!
Encourage them teach them to duck and dodge and weave and lock it down!
Oh no no no,
please don't please don't
invest invest in what would actually
provide prevent protect [beat]
One of your own was shot down
And you didn't change
wouldn't change
Can you change?
I fear for you
I fear for us
I say a little prayer again and again and again
{Hello, hello, Dionne wants her song back}
Second amendment
Self protection
Self defense
Self selection
Self destruction

Sticks and stones sticks and stones and guns and bullets sticks and stones and guns and
bullets sticks and stones sticks and stones and guns and bullets
Rain down fall down
Bleed in run down stain through
Blood blends
with tears
that never dry that never dry
Caution: wet cement
another memorial another memorial
another memorial up up up [beat]
535 determines the fate of
Less than 535 {actually}
determines the fate of
326, 766, 748
326, 766, 748
326, 766, 748
You're pushing paper pushing paper
Hoping for a paper cut
To delay delay delay
Magic tricks
Lacing our drinks
To dilute us to numb us to distract us
But we keep throwing them out throwing them out out
immunity built
shots fired
shots taken
buried
You're waiting you're waiting
Killing time
Until it's killing time
again again again
And they're off! [beat]
Before We started
We prayed
But then We got up
and moved
History only only only
changes if we change
the beat (pause)
The drummers are waiting outside
for their cue. [beat]
How much can you sedate me
until I fall asleep?

[MORE TO COME, SORTING THROUGH YEARS]