

## **Groundhog Day** by Len Lawson

Wake up  
Shower  
Brush teeth and hair  
Lotion with cocoa butter  
Get dressed  
Drink coffee  
Drive to work  
Drive home  
Stopped by police  
Demanded to show license  
Ask why  
Get cursed out  
Curse back  
Reach for license  
Dead

Wake up  
Shower  
Brush teeth and hair  
Lotion with cocoa butter  
Get dressed  
Drink coffee  
Drive to work  
Drive home  
Stopped by police  
Demanded to show license  
Be polite  
Explain you have a family  
Be polite  
Explain you are reaching for license  
Dead

Wake up  
Shower  
Brush teeth and hair  
Lotion with cocoa butter  
Get dressed  
Drink coffee  
Drive to work  
Drive home  
Stopped by police

Demanded to show license  
Be polite  
Ask how cop's day is going  
Get angry at response about too many  
niggers on the streets  
Attempt reasonable conversation on  
diversity  
Get cursed out  
Screamed at to show license  
Do nothing  
Get jerked by collar  
Stay frozen  
Gun aimed at your face  
Stay frozen  
Not even blinking  
Get dragged out of car  
Attempt to stand  
Dead

Wake up  
Shower  
Brush teeth and hair  
Lotion with cocoa butter  
Get dressed  
Drink coffee  
Drive to work  
Drive home  
Stopped by police  
Demanded to show license  
Drive  
Drive  
Drive  
Get chased by cop  
then another then another then another  
Until you lead a troop of squad cars through  
town  
Poke head out of window  
Laugh maniacally  
Smile at chopper overhead  
Drive onto the interstate  
Get cheered by other black men standing  
by  
Remember your family

See your wife's face crying at her TV  
See your child asking Mommy tough  
questions about Daddy  
See your phone ring in the car  
Answer with *Baby I love you*  
Get asked *Why are you doing this*  
Answer *It's the only way out*  
Hear screams of Come home  
Hear child yell Come home Daddy  
Hear chopper blades & sirens with wife's  
yelling  
Stop the car  
Get out  
Raise hands over your head  
Say to police *I want to go home*  
Dead

Wake up  
Shower  
Brush teeth and hair  
Lotion with cocoa butter  
Get dressed  
Drink coffee  
Drive to nearest pawn shop  
Buy gun  
Drive to work  
Leave gun in car  
Drive home  
Stopped by police  
Demanded to show license  
Grab gun under seat  
Point at approaching cop  
Relish in cop's fear before screaming *Is this  
what you want!*  
Point gun at self  
Dead

Wake up  
Shower  
Brush teeth and hair  
Lotion with cocoa butter  
Get dressed  
Drink coffee

Drive to work  
Look up cop online  
Research his credentials  
Search for his family on social media  
Find his wife  
Find their address  
Leave work  
Go to cop's home  
Greet cop's wife at the door  
Explain that her husband has killed you  
Each of the last five days  
Ask why her husband hates black people  
Ask how you can convince her husband  
that you are a man with a family who wants  
a bright future for his child  
See three police cars pull up behind you  
See get husband get out  
Realize she called the police before you  
approached the door  
Raise hands and kneel to the ground  
Close your eyes and whisper to your wife  
you love her  
Get beat down by police on the pavement  
Get thrown into a cop car  
Feel broken bones and see with blurry  
vision out of only one eye  
Ask cop how many black men has he killed  
Hear him cackle and say *Not enough*  
*All of them if I could*  
Do not survive car ride to jail  
Dead

Wake up  
Kiss your wife  
Kiss your child  
Brush teeth and hair  
Observe the wisdom and grace of the scarf  
on your wife's head  
Lotion with cocoa butter  
Remember the smell of your child moments  
after leaving the womb  
Get dressed  
Hug your wife

Hug your child  
Cry at the sight of your child's bright face  
Pick up child in your arms  
Notice the eyes, nose, and smile like yours  
Tell your family you won't be home tonight  
Hear your shocked wife ask why  
Answer through tears *I don't know*  
*Maybe one day*  
*But maybe not today*