

I'm Numb, Take Me While You Can Rowan de los Reyes, Lamar High School

I hope you're an expert marksman,

I hope you shoot me and move along as if I am nothing more than a mere tally mark to you.

Another cross on a green lawn,

Another dead man.

I know it's foolish of me to try carrying the world on my back,

Yet I can't shake your load, dear gunman.

The fears you've normalized in me,

The softness you gave screams,

The gentleness you gave tears.

I only wonder what God will do to you and I,

Will we be equals then?

Or will I be before you in the judgement line because I died first.

Not just as a corpse,

But I died in my heart when your murder failed to ring my sorrow bells.

I am dead even now,

I cannot escape you in this free shooting range.

I am dead in spirit because you've shot holes in those around me,

Tiring me of perpetual grief.

I may be numb to your actions, soldier,

But I won't say the same when your lead kills my body.

For what am I after all,

But a man who felt too much on the wrong day?

What am I,

But the next three day national news tragedy?

I am a man who is dead,

And will be doubly so soon enough.

Go ahead,

Shoot me,

I dare you.