Darius V. Daughtry, “Poetry is a One Hour Forty-Three Minute Playlist”

From *And the Walls Came Tumbling* (2019)

The Message
is simply
I Ain’t No Joke
and neither are you.
I Know You Got Soul
so, you better
Fight the Power
cuz in this walk
Ain’t No Half Steppin
and
Dear Mama
in the midst of it all, please
Keep Ya Head Up
until eternity. Know that
The World Is Yours
and though I may not deserve it
I Need Love
Sometimes, it’s my
Mind Playing Tricks on Me
Convincing me that
I Used to Love H.E.R.
– you, and I only need
Me, Myself, and I
and that
I Got It Made
because being
Paid in Full
is enough. Though I
Can’t Knock The Hustle
there is much more needed for true
Liberation
Scream with me,
You Must Learn
everything you can to
Bring the Pain
to all corrupt systems that use our
Complexion
gender, ethnicity, orientation, religion or class to
Regulate
our existence. And let us create a
Slum Beautiful.