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I Am

Don Arrington
College of the Redwoods

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I Am
Donel Arrington

I am
the beauty
 and the light
I'm the darkness
 and the plight
I'm the things
 you think at night, I am—

I'm the bullet
 and the gun
I'm the moon
 and I'm the sun
I'm the heartbeat
 and the drum, I am—

I'm the prison
 and the cell
I'm the mental
 anguish hell
I'm the curse
 and I'm the spell, I am—

I'm the criminal
 the crook
I'm that last life
 they took
injecting lethal
 heart stop shook, I am—

I'm the fulfillment
 of the dream
I'm that friend
 you couldn't keep
I'm the charmer
 and the creep, I am—

I'm Jericho
 and its walls
the revolution
 and its balls
school shooters
 inside malls, I am—

I'm the order
 of this world
misogynistic
 men and girls
I'm the straightener
 to your curls, I am—

I'm your wedding
 and your dress
I'm that drunken
 mid-day sex
all the anguish
 and the stress
that feeling deep
 within your chest, I am—

I'm the soil
 and the trees
I am money
 I am greed
I'm the plant
 and I'm the seed, I am—

I am that,
 that isn't seen
I'm the Pope
 and I'm the Queen
presidential nominees, I am—

I'm the war
 and I'm the peace
Islamophobia beneath
 austerity in Greece, I am—

I'm Sandra Bland
 I'm Michael Brown
I'm Freddie Gray
 inside the ground
I'm Sam DuBose
 I'm Tamir Rice
I'm Walter Scott
 I lost my life
I'm Eric Garner
 "I can't Breathe"
I'm mass rebellion
 in the streets
my hands are up
 I'm on my knees
the status quo
 is what police
enforce
 we all beneath
the dream is not
 within your reach

Amerika ain't free
 she just,
 took off her sheets—

I'm occupy
 the fucking streets
I'm that mace
 that they release
the Brooklyn Bridge
 arrest police
the not yet born
 and the deceased
the climate change
 the mass concrete
the car you drive
 that pig you eat
the cow that's there
 that you call beef
the barricades, yeah
 the news cheats

the media
 is just a cheep
tool used
 by the elite
 I am—

I'm say her name
 I'm Yazmin Payne
I'm national pride
 I'm so profane
I'm this culture
 gone insane
for all the bad
 we all to blame
solutions not
 within this game
that we call politics
 today,
I am black,
 white, and grey

all the music
 ever made

the revolution
 and the way,

I am.