

2018

## I Am

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### Recommended Citation

Arrington, Don (2018) "I Am," *Toyon Literary Magazine*: Vol. 64 : Iss. 1 , Article 2.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/toyon/vol64/iss1/2>

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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.