

America

by Mahdiyyah Sauders

Thoughts
I’m stuck inside with my thoughts,
My thoughts
Alone
Thinking about whether or not Corona is over

Thinking
Thinking about Breonna Taylor
Thinking whether I will be next
Thinking about America

America
Land of the free, home of the brave
Same land stolen from Native Americans
Same land built on the bones of my ancestors

You tried to break us
Sun beaming down on Black bodies
Black bodies stained by cracks from the whip of the overseer
 overseer
officer
 overseer
officer
 overseer
officer
 officer

Officer, why is your knee on my neck?
Why are you following me?
Officer, I can’t breath
Officer, I’m not ready to die

Black people shot down in broad daylight by people who swore to protect
You care more about being able to eat outside
And turn your screens black
My life is worth more than a black screen
My life is worth more than a half-assed apology

Off-brand statements from the same brands who never hire black people and won’t
sell to us
Racism is rooted in every aspect of society
“We will hire you but you have to fix your hair”
“Black lives matter? No, all lives matter”
“Your grades are better but her family donated more money to the school”
“Go back to your country, you don’t belong here”

No, it’s YOU who doesn’t belong here
It’s you who came and spread war and disease
Not us
It’s your fault this country is not great
Not ours