FLAMES
© Cat Brooks

If you're going to burn America
Then burn
I am weary of waiting

And I don't mean these piddly brush fires popping up in urban centers in the aftermath of rage and protest

I mean uncontrollable, unstoppable, Intentional...

flames...

Determined to turn injustice into ash To burn this system to the ground And make way for something else Anything else Anything but this

I'm tired of being spit on Shit on Lied to Lynched

Let the Flames burn
Flames that cannot be outted by threats of arrest or martial law
Cause we're not scared of that no more
Cause nothing is scarier than waking up and walking each and every day

Black

in America

If you claim these are your streets, my people
Then take them
And refuse to give them back
Until every life they have stolen from us is accounted for Is avenged

Until their names roll off the tongues of your countrymen like their pledge of allegiance to this country that wont stop killing us

Yet demands our loyalty, our labor and our love

She ...

America...

This great democracy

is the narcissistic abuser who manipulates and mindfucks; artfully gaslighting us into believing that our lived reality is fantasy

made up in the minds of those discontented for no reason

Nevermind it remains open season

On niggas And negresses

Daily

Stop with the meager threats of interrupting business as usual And make the new business the constant beat of revolution

We've marched
We've prayed
We've voted
We've protested
We've contested
We've sang and danced and organized and advocated

And today

Today we are told that holes in walls matter more than holes shot through a sleeping Black woman's body in her own goddamn home

Once again it is affirmed that the following things are a crime while Black:

- Breathing
- Living
- Walking
- Loving
- Resting
- Working

- Shopping
- Driving
- Texting
- Talking
- Eating
- Sleeping
- Sleeping
- Sleeping

Sleeping is a crime if you're Black, female, educated, employed and sleeping ... peacefully ... next to your love

Anything And I do mean ANYTHING that ANYONE else -

not Black of course -But ANYONE else does every single day when done by us is ...

justified causation for our bloodspill

And still They want folks like me to Still ...

The waters

But today I say

Let the waters boil Let the dams break Let the streets flood

And not with our blood
But with our resistance and insinstance

Our resilience and our brilliance

This shit stops Today

Let the people be more fearful of continuing to live this way Than standing for our freedom And whatever consequences that may bring

Sing the warrior songs of our ancestors Beat drums for medicine to carry us into battle Say prayers to Nat and Harriet and Huey To Fannie and to Ida

Ask them for guidance
And
forgiveness
Cause it never should have got this far
We let too much shit slide
Too many of of our loved ones die
And instead of fight
We've cried
Easier to absorb their lies
Than bring about their demise

But its time Been time Beyond time

Im protecting whats mine
And suggest you do the same
The change
You put on them signs
Aint coming without sacrifice

Are you ready? Are you willing? Are you ...

Black Tired Mad Done Ready?

Ready for it to burn.

Are you ready for ...