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Declaration of Independence

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When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, Next month's rent is coming up, my mom pawns her rusting jewelry.

\$975 a month and the landlord doesn't care for pocket change minimum wage.

I hear people say you can't put a price on happiness my landlord smiles, says, "watch me."

So, my mom comes home from Dearden's, her hands and feet and heel blackened with a \$3 Crossword

Lottery Ticket and sometimes a \$2.50 Miller High Life.

It gives some hope. She wins, sometimes.

My brother escapes for a bit gets high but eventually the cops catch him.

For his own safety, they transport him to the grim new police station and charge a \$500 ticket plus \$250 for ditching

next month's rent, is coming up, my mom pleads my aunt to please let us borrow money again.

We couldn't afford to have the repo man here. We can't afford a home. We can't afford to pay the landlord

The police catch me for curfew aprox. 11:40 p.m., for my safety, transport me to the grim new police station and charge a \$333 ticket

the kids protest and rile up but within city regulations. permit within certain time frames proper sound decibels (no music, that's loud and disruptive) didn't get in traffic's way

compensation for the crime committed

no littering

loitering

school flaking rent paying bomb flailing oppressing destroying desecrating the monetary system not us being jail breaking, amazing government constipating revolution while we're smoldering the landlord's mailbox with a charring list of demands in our hands allowed within city regulations.

and it was not so, for

the cops will catch you.

You can't afford another ticket anyway,

next month's rent is coming up. next month's rent is coming up. next month's rent is coming up. I said next month's rent is coming up.

and so the police attend,

just in case it does get out of hand.

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later, they catch someone, anyone, for fare evasion at Mariachi Plaza;

next month's rent is coming up.

But still receive a \$125 fine so next time they know to stay in line.

Funny, I tell my landlord the other day Funny,

How sad & dead hope is, that

Fred said we need Freedom and now Hampton's head lies dead blood red inside his home, the FBI heard his ideas over the telephone and thought he must die before this hotbed of a house of revolution sets ablaze.

And the landlord needs to move out and find another place to stay.

He chuckles and says, "I got a better joke"

"What do you have when a bunch of welfare leeches are up to their neck in sand?

Not enough sand."

I chuckle and cried a little, (just a little)

then we walk away to slowly die and continue working part time.

It's almost like we're not suppose to fight back and not suppose to cry and remember we're oppressed not depressed over the fact that we're meant to digress back to the timeless hymn of toilets smeared with a bloody topaz ring around the rim and urban boys spend \$150 for Jordans because it keeps the capital flowin'

like the landlord has his servants paying him

all while the girls are taught to spend fervent time chasing beautiful,

being eager, waiting to catch their very own Justin Bieber, chasing an impossible and forgetting independence from this reality is closer within *our* thinking to see and reflect that we can't cry and sob over how we won't spill anarchy on the table, extinguish squad car

flames with spiteful red melancholy, maybe stencil our skies orange and black and attack and twist 'em 'til west becomes north and east becomes south.

Til' the day they realize babies need food inside their mouths and my mom isn't losing her teeth over the rent and the police ain't pushing teeth into cement and the heart isn't suppressing the wild anxious fire onto the grim streets of Los Angeles anymore.

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