

justice for _____
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Riot"

my love will protect you
from the onslaught of the storm.
when the rain begins to pelt us like
bullets,
i will pull myself over you.
i will face the lightning alone.

my love will protect you
from the onslaught of the storm.
as i walk you to the bus stop,
i won't scold you for jumping into puddles
or spinning around in circles,
because the world already sees
your gentle carelessness as a threat.

my love will protect you
from the onslaught of the storm.
i will cover your eyes with my hands, so the bodies
of men who look like you on the ten o' clock news
don't taint your innocent vision.
i will plug your ears so the cries of their mothers
don't slither around your bones and
lace your heart with fear.

my love will protect you
from the onslaught of the storm.

when we are having adventures
on the sidewalk
outside our home,
(you are a knight in shining armor,
and i am the loyal sidekick who brings you lemonade
and watches morning cartoons with you)
i won't know how to save the day when you see
the headlights of a patrol car down the road
and you ask me,
"mama, why you look so scared?"

my love will protect you
from the onslaught of the storm.
i will kiss the palms of your hands
and tell you to keep your head held high.

my baby boy,
this world won't cut you down
before i can grow you up.