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# No Name Slaves

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# No Name Slaves

*Dominique Donald*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner**

Terence Crutcher, Philando Castile, Samuel DuBose, Sandra Bland, Freddie Gray, Walter L. Scott, Akai Gurley, Laquan McDonald, Keith Lamont Scott, Paul O'Neal, Alton B. Sterling, Christian Taylor, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Charleena Lyles, Shukri Ali, Deborah Danner, Rekia Boyd, Mya Hall, Miriam Carey, Aiyana Stanley-Jones, Trayvon Martin and more. To the police these names are just forget-me-thoughts... But to me these are the names of my ancestors crying. These Black lives, these Black voices are echoes from the past to the present and soon to be future.

Black lives shaped this country. Black lives fueled this country. Everything you stand on is soaked in colored blood. My blood, their blood. Our hands picked the cotton you wear. Our food feeds the bellies of white consumers. Our music was taken away and sold as pop. Our hair was taken for trash then lifted by cultural appropriation. My skin was once known as an abomination. Now the pale faces want to be colored like I am.

I can still feel the lynching. The black tar melting into my skin, like it knew me. I can still feel the lashes. Ripped flesh from the backs of slaves. I can still hear the pale faces calling me “Nigger” and raping my body, like it was theirs to begin with. I can feel my culture drip through brown fingers like I was never meant to be alive. I can feel the bullet going through the chest of young Trayvon. I can feel the white

men raping me—tearing my sweet flesh and impregnating me with their spawn. I can still hear the echoes of my ancestors telling me to run.

I was born with fear. I will always carry the fear.

You see no matter how many of us die – we will always be America’s forget-me-thoughts.



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