Black Trans

1 for the love of power
1 for the sake of power
1 in service to power

that becomes my relationship to risk, connected strings of images that bring you to a moment – to connect your experience to what is happening onstage

everything you do
everything you don’t do
Deceives

When I love, you are no longer my enemy
But the words you spoke I keep within me.

Langston Hughes once said “nobody loves a genius child”
My Beautiful genius children stay getting murdered in the streets

Black Trans girl brilliance, shining too too bright
The boys on the block can’t escape their light

They reach to the heavens, but the girls throw shade
They step back to their villas, to sip Lemonade

The recent increase in celebrity “visibility” that clearly
Does nothing for the most vulnerable

Makes us all targets for bigots in statehouses
Whose hatred is uncontrollable

Black women carry around pain in brown paper sacks, in shack packs, in Louis Vuitton, Chanel, and Coach, sometimes it’s a laundry bag that looks too heavy
Or a backpack, or a diaper bag, “damn Ma what you got in yo’ purse, a 45?”

We carry the weight of movements strapped over our shoulders, burlap sacks filled with dead bodies
#sayhername

Monica Loera, 43 y/o Trans woman
Jasmine Sierra, 52 y/o Trans woman
Demarkis Stansberry, 30 y/o Black Trans man
Kayden Clarke, 24 y/o Trans man
Nadine Stransen, 89 y/o Trans woman
Kedarie/Kandicee Johnson, 16 y/o Black gender-fluid person
Kourtney Yochum, 32 y/o Trans woman of color
Maya Young, 25 y/o Black Trans woman
Veronica Banks Cano, 41 y/o Trans woman of color
Shante Thompson, 34 y/o Trans woman of color
Keyonna Blakeney, 22 y/o Trans woman of color
Reese Walker, 32 y/o Trans woman of color
Mercedes Successful, 32 y/o Trans woman of color

by Andrea Jenkins
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