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## Born A Crime

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## Born A Crime

Elsie Bunyan

I was born a crime  
 By virtue of just being black  
 Since day one, a target  
 Has always been loaded at my back  
 There are many struggles and pain  
 Of being black in America.

I was born a crime  
 By virtue of just being black  
 I am the police's favorite target  
 Because of the color of my skin  
 Because of the color of my skin  
 They paint me as  
 Violent  
 A threat to society  
 A thief  
 Someone who always resists arrest  
 These are the many struggles and pain  
 Of being black in America.

I was born a crime  
 By virtue of just being black  
 My life has been normalized  
 Normalized to being a statistic  
 A statistic of police brutality  
 A hashtag of senseless killings  
 A 911 call for being African American

I was born a crime  
 And all these Karens are fully aware  
 These Karens are fully aware of their privilege  
 The privilege that they enjoy which I lack  
 So they bank on time  
 And more times than we are ready to admit

Frame a black man for an injustice he didn't commit

Karen is fully aware of this fact so she calls

The cops immediately

Karen makes these false accusations which

Happen more often than we think

False accusations made to the police against black people

I was born a crime

By virtue of just being black

These are struggles of being black in America

I was born a crime

So my voice is powerless

So my cry is silent

So my pain is meaningless

So my anguish is their music

So my fear is ignored

I am dead now

Being black in America wow

It's what got me killed

I cannot breathe

I cannot breathe

My stomach hurts

My neck hurts

My everything hurts

I cannot breathe.

Dear police officer, I am dead now

Dear Karens, I am dead now

Do you not hear me

Do you not hear the wailing cries of the dead

We are dead now

Why is your knee pressing down on my neck

Why are all 3 of you killing me

Why are all of you killing me

Is it not enough that everyday

I am powerless  
 Powerless in a system that says my blackness is a crime  
 Is it not enough that I cannot breathe  
 Can you not feel my pain  
 I could still be alive  
 I could still be alive  
 Had you checked my pulse

I am dead now  
 My blackness in America killed me  
 I cannot breathe  
 I cannot breathe  
 My everything hurts  
 Being born a crime  
 By virtues of being black  
 Has killed me  
 I simply cannot breathe.

Please do something  
 So my death does not just become another hashtag  
 So my death does not just become a series of furious posts  
 I am dead now  
 Do not kill another of my fellow black brothers.  
 Being born black killed me.

One Karen took this to the extreme,  
 All I did was politely ask she observe the law  
 The law which so often works against me  
 "Put your dog on a leash"  
 But to her I'm an African American  
 A police man's favorite target  
 So she threatens me  
 And calls 911  
 Informs me that she's "going to tell them there's an African-American man threatening my life,"  
 I am a black man in America  
 There is always a target at my back

I am a black man for an injustice he didn't commit  
 Karen is fully aware of the fact so she calls  
 The cops immediately  
 Karen makes these false accusations which  
 Happen more often than we think  
 False accusations made to the police against black people  
 I was born a crime  
 My crime of just being black  
 These are examples of being black in America  
 I was born a crime  
 So my voice is powerless  
 So my cry is silent  
 So my pain is meaningless  
 So my struggle is their music  
 So my fate is ignored  
 I am dead now  
 Being black in America was  
 It's what got me killed  
 I cannot breathe  
 I cannot breathe  
 My stomach hurts  
 My neck hurts  
 My everything hurts  
 I cannot breathe  
 Dear police officer, I am dead now  
 Dear Karen, I am dead now  
 Do you not hear me  
 Do you not hear the wailing cries of the dead  
 We are dead now  
 Why are all of you killing me  
 Why are all of you killing me  
 Why are all of you killing me  
 If it not enough then everything