

LOVE POETRY HATE RACISM (I)

We saw off the Nazis, the NF, the BNP, Combat 18, the EDL, but once again the right rises. How did we get here?

Have we been too complacent? Children aren't born racist. But they can be brought up racist, or corrupted by greed or anger. I learned maths the hard way because I was told I wouldn't have a calculator in my pocket. Now with the entirety of world knowledge stored in ChatGPT, there's so little incentive to learn anything at school. Generations consumed by media but lacking the skills to comprehend it. Absorb the lies of parents and influencers, go to church, eat red meat, neg women, make homophobic jokes, worship flags, punch down, shout at hotels, paint roundabouts and blame anyone but yourself for the mess we're in.

LOVE POETRY HATE RACISM (II)

This was one of the first gigs & protests I went to, back in 1994. The BNP had won a council seat in London which caused 100k to protest. The BNP crumbled eventually, the decaying, relics of Oswald Mosely hanging up their boomer boots in shame. But thirty years, on we have Reform MPs and councils, and there's no shame in being racist anymore. It's exhausting. I'm too old and tired for this. I should be writing poems about nature or love or something. Instead, I'm reading riots and revolution and writing resistance.

Black SUPERHIGHWAY

...endless looping || breaking flashes scrolling || heightened vision |

REMEMBER TO BLINK || remember || to absorb || the story changes | the story stays || the same || but edited || the dizziness buffers || news cyclones || spin cycles || CLEANSE YOUR EYES || whitewash || machine learning || artificial || information falls || from the clouds || SEEING EVERYTHING || seeing nothing || there || are eighty-six thousand and four hundred seconds || in a day || if you SLEEP enough || you can never be intelligent enough | REMEMBER TO BLINK || tearing mascara runs || tears streak black || sunken eyes || COFFIN WICH DRY WEREN || ruined village spires reappear || and I can't tell WHAT KIND OF CRISIS || this is || you | shouldn't have to suffer to be aware || the spark of resistance | scorch the forests | REMEMBER TO BLINK || please just give me something || to block the noise || PLANT TREES || to soak || for shade || for oxygen || but social housing || and lock yourself in your room || HIDE || under a doorway || LIE || under a table || under your bed || CLOSE YOUR EYES || lie | to yourself || LIE DOWN || because sometimes | self protection is bliss...

FIRST PUBLISHED BY POETRY WALLS

2 # MINI ZINE

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77,

LOVE POETRY HATE RACISM

THIS HALF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK FOR YOU TO WRITE YOUR OWN REVOLUTION

Scan the QR code to head over to jamiewoods77.com/zine for playlists, top 10 lists, to get in touch, to buy my books, read more of my poems, watch videos & more

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BLACK LIVES MATTER

TRANS RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

ABORTION IS HEALTHCARE

FREE PALESTINE

THE PROPOSED NONSITUATION OF THE PERPETRATOR

The presidential address is coming live from the oval office, is coming with little stars and stripes flags either side of his important stack of papers, is coming on interns dresses, and abuse of power, an abuse of office, an abuse of her, and everyone blames the victim and mocks her while he, he, he, just carries on with his saxophone, and apologises to his wife, and to the voters and to everyone who matters, and to everyone else but not her.

And our prime ministers steal milk and close mines and sell everything they can, even the ones we vote for, and no-one stops them because we're all distracted by the Star and the Sun and the Sport, celebrity phone taps and tits on pages 3 through 27.

I have seen the greatest women of my generation strip to their underwear, forced into bikinis, just to get publicity for their music, for their art, for their talent, projected on the Houses of Parliament without their consent and forced to conform to ridiculous standards of beauty because everyone is reading Loaded and Maxim and FHM, even me (and I hate this about myself but it happened).

FROM THE BOOK "BLACK SKIES DIE STARLESS"