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I Am At Risk

Fontaine Baker

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Fontaine, Baker, "I Am at Risk" (from *Poetic Justice* poetry collection)

They said,
I'm at risk of being shot,
On the block or by a cop.
I'm at risk of being choked to death,
By a racist bigot driven by self.
I'm at risk of being stereotyped,
By a prejudiced immature opinionated person.
I'm at risk of being arrested,
By a quota pursuing officer.
I'm at risk of being discriminated against,
By those who are a part of the establishment.
I'm at risk of being hated because of my color,
By someone of a different race.
I'm at risk of not being treated fairly,
By those who see me as an animal.
I'm at risk of not being given adequate medical attention,
By those who put a price on medical submission.
I'm at risk of fitting the description,
Of those who patrol my hood.
I'm at risk of having my human rights violated,
By those who don't see me as human.
I'm at risk of being hung,
By those built on assuming guilt.
I'm at risk of being dragged to death,
By those who wear white sheets.
I'm at risk of being incarcerated for a long time,
By those who sit and judge me a beast.
I'm at risk of being seen less than,
By a society with a billion secrets.
I'm at risk of being kidnapped,
By those who reframe and rename slavery.
I'm at risk of being paralyzed,
By those with eyes on stealing the prize.
I'm at risk of being oppressed,
By those afraid of my size.
I'm at risk of being traumatized,
By those driven by hate.
I'm at risk of having a mental illness,

Brought on by those out to seal my fate.
I asked, "Why is my risk so high?"
They simply said, "It's because you're Black!!!!!"

Genre: Poetry

Tags: Racism; Policing; Racial profiling; Racial violence; KKK; healthcare; mental health;
Slavery (legacy of)