

# HB1134

You're uncomfortable now?  
I have been uncomfortable  
this whole time.  
Do you think I like being reminded  
that I don't know my family name  
because I was branded with yours?  
My history is not just  
a theory.  
It's a whole  
reality  
I have  
to live with daily.  
You may try to treat my body  
like a book  
to ban and burn  
or bury on your shelves  
as if I have an end  
or can be read so easily.  
But this thick skin is not your children's coloring book.  
My colors get out of  
line sometimes;  
writes my name on the pages' edges  
like it has more ownership than the name on the spine.  
We splatter black ink on white pages  
repeating the same words as our oppressors:  
"Let freedom ring" on a cracked bell.  
How interestingly our country marvels  
at obvious fault points in its glorious symbols  
until we point out the cracks in its freedoms.

In every story there's a protagonist,  
but they're not always the hero  
and that's okay.  
And all antagonists are only villains  
if they're written that way.  
The theme of the narrative is what the reader learns  
so their story will be better.  
What is telling the story  
of my body  
better  
a flash and a filter  
or the healing scars?

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