

# Terri Nunn, 89 Lines

As a dog with a bone is always  
In danger, so's a woman with a  
Bag when meeting dark strangers  
She holds it just a little bit tighter  
Which she wouldn't do if my skin were lighter  
It's not in my mind, I've been around the block a few times  
Every time she crosses to the other side  
Women supposedly got that intuition  
So they should no better, but that's a dubious distinction  
It's not a figment of my imagination it happens a lot  
When I flag down a cab it doesn't stop  
Not because I look dangerous or nothing like that  
It's not 'cause he's off duty it's cause I'm black  
The police come flying around  
The corner with the red light screaming  
I pulled over to let them pass, they pulled over too,  
I thought that I was dreaming  
I'm scared to death of our men in blue  
It must be cold over there in your shoes

So close your eyes  
In silent night  
Bet you can't tell  
If I'm black or white

Turn out the lights  
Stand here by my side  
Cause we're all alike  
On the inside

One step up  
Then two to the side  
One more man  
Let the sleeping dog lie  
From the back of the bus  
To screams in the night  
Planting flowers of fire  
With these 89 lines

Doesn't it bring back some terrifying memories  
There goes the president making more enemies  
If he's doing to his wife what he's doing to the country  
She'd be happy, we could stand up and dump the monkey  
I ask not what I can do for my country  
Cause I wonder sometimes if it cares for me  
The government could change a lot with education  
And catching kids before they start to think in races  
And eliminate a lot of infuriating situations  
Your blindness not of eyes you go public with your lies  
Then as to prove you have a heart in private you apologize  
Seems my history is a set of lies agreed upon by you repeated  
So many times and for so long accepted as the truth  
Like an unfriendly takeover attempt  
I get in you hold on fuckin' coincidence  
Like a nicotine stain it won't go away  
And it won't if you raise your kids this way

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What's your favorite color  
What's your favorite color?  
For those victimized by this ultimate violence  
We now observe a moment of silence