

## Not My America

This is not my America  
America  
That land of the free  
The best country on earth  
Haven't you heard?  
Red white and blue  
Red strewn through the land  
Red since Columbus sailed the ocean blue and propagated the hierarchy that tells us what we are  
What we can be  
From sea to shining sea  
We are told  
Oh living in the land of the free

Soil is red  
Red from the lynchings  
The lynchings and the rapes  
The injustice  
The red painting is complete  
Completed by our wonderful authoritarian king  
Is America now great?

America  
That land of the free  
The free whose tears have fallen wetting the earth as they march  
Following the long trail of hate because they are not part of the America we want  
Are they still free  
Forced from their lands  
The free  
The free who spent their days in camps waiting, waiting until they could be Americans again  
Rounded up in raids  
Cries from a family torn apart

So how can it be mine?  
Mine if not theirs  
How if the good is pounded down  
Pounded by those tiny hands that rip and wrangle, wrangle and grab at anything it can

This isn't new  
This America  
This is America  
Lucky enough to grab power  
Rape and wrangle the land of the free

Oh from sea to shining sea  
Apparently still the land of liberty

Beatrice March, "Not My America", *AmeriQuests* 13.2 (2017)

As we tell people who can and can't be part of this exclusive club  
American

A true American  
What a funny concept  
If your religion isn't mine  
If your politics aren't mine  
If your skin isn't mine  
Then are you an American?  
America

I can say I am an American  
A proud patriot daughter  
Dressed in the flag  
But not this America  
For we are not yet free  
Not my America