

Freddie Gray Blues

Kevin Devine

I'm talking Freddie Gray blues
I'm talking what happened to you
You were just 25
When they ended your life
When "to serve & protect"
Meant break your leg, snap your neck
Meant to kill you, to sever your spine
No matter what, there's no good reason why

When I'm talking these killer cop blues
I'm kinda talking my family to you
See, my dad was a cop
And his dad was a cop
And my uncles were cops
And my cousins were cops
I'm partly here because of cops
And I love all those cops
And I know not every cop
Is a racist, murdering cop
But this is bigger than the people I love
The system's broken
Not breaking
It's done

I'm talking white privilege blues
I'm talking confession to you
I can't know what it's like
To be afraid all my life
Looking over my shoulder
Behind each officer, a coroner
Entrenched inequality
No access, no empathy
Crushed in stacked decks
Institutions & death
This is not my reality
I'm afforded the luxury
Of shaking my head
I shut the screen, go to bed
I can turn off what you never can
And watch it happen again and again (and again and again and again and again, and again)

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