

# Bradley Manning

Cass McCombs

When Bradley moved back from western Wales  
His Okie accent still wouldn't fail  
Sleeping in his pickup truck, his Soul wouldn't calm  
He wrote to his mother, "I'm nobody now, Mom"

It's hard to imagine why bullies dig  
But Bradley understood it came with the gig  
He wanted an education with all his will  
So he walked in and signed up to get that GI bill

"I want..."

Today, those who got up in Bradley's face  
Wish to remain anonymous, in their disgrace  
They spread rumors around that he wet himself scared  
Even if that's true, you know I don't really care

"Recycled" from Iraq and stationed at Fort Drum  
His boyfriend introduced him to Triskelion  
He met the hacktivists at MIT  
"Randomly hung out with some pikans"; "At last, people like me"

"I want..."

Deployed to Base Hammer, near Iran  
Built from freight containers and sheer boredom  
The bullies on the base went in for the kill  
They said, "We got a saying here: Shit rolls downhill"

On leave in Boston, but his boyfriend had flown  
Bradley wrote him on Facebook: "I have no real home"  
And before the Builds launch party, he went on to vent:  
"Bradley Manning is not a piece of equipment"

"I want..."

While passwords are written on sticky notes  
And stuck to laptop screens, Bradley explodes  
Found in a storeroom stabbing a chair  
Bradley carved, "I want..." with a passion that's all-too rare

Now he's due to be court-martialed this December  
To prove bullying is better than a wild temper  
Now, when we say "I want", we invoke his chair  
Bradley, know you have friends, though you're locked in there

"I want..."