

# Explained Away

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Someone told a story about a man who'd lived through Hell  
And stumbled, orphaned, to his home, to find the servants living well  
And how they welcomed him like family as they plotted out some deed  
To kill him in his sleep and stay to satisfy their greed

I thought of who it is whose story gets remembered in the end  
And through how many careful tellings does one practice their defense  
Some nuances the narrator selectively omits  
A once collective memory is destined to forget

Yeah we make decisions that account for the worlds that we live in  
We make explanations that amount to the ones we envision  
It isn't just the horror of the way he killed those kids  
But the way the tale was told explained away the deed he did  
You know that everybody needs a place to live

You show your willfulness to ignorance with the council that you give  
The testimonial performances belie the lies you've lived  
Another actor on the podium feels slighted by the ways  
And abstractions been amended on some broken, bygone days  
Yeah but these politics have victims, they get stuck there in the space  
Between the weight of great ideals and the narratives they shape

It wasn't you there with the handgun, but your fax machine and pen  
Your personal computer, and your business acumen  
Appeal to a notion that we all deserve what we can reach for  
That what sits in your sight is a God-given right  
Yes in spite of the slights you can't speak for  
Sees fairness as a function of the rules that you can't bend  
Takes action over nothing but the naked will to win