

# B.L.M. Protests

By

*Rp Verlaine*

**WHY I LIKE IT:** *Poetry Editor HEZEKIAH writes...With shame, I confess, I omitted one of Rp's poems in issue 10, which could be a wonderful plug for one to visit our archives and return to the rest. 'B. L. M. Protests' is the missing link. Verlaine remains as racy as relevant, as poignant as impertinent. Self-confessed to be enviously fueled by alcohol and assignations, his social conscience endures admirably in tact: "A candlewick thin girl / falls on a pregnant black teen, / taking the cop's baton blows." "White Supremacists / mix among the protesters / with their stealth hate." Besides the beauty of his poetry, if more people shared his sentiments the world could very well be a better place. I'll get of my soapbox before you get some lye in your eye. Rp's a can't miss...okay, so I made a mistak . . .*

## **B.L.M. Protests**

A candlewick thin girl  
falls on a pregnant black teen,  
taking the cop's baton blows.

White Supremacists  
mix among the protesters  
with their stealth hate.

In police wagon  
rounded up protesters  
cannot social distance.

TV news escapes truth,  
showing fires and looting,  
ignoring the sparks.

The spreading cancer  
of Black Americans  
killed by police.

Even with tear gas,  
all who watch can see  
change must come.

**THE POET SPEAKS:** *My muse Jesse, bravely took part in many of the protest in and around New York City. I stayed home after contracting co-vid and watched news accounts on TV. There were few reports of the violence against the protesters by the police. They seemed to take a particular joy in rounding protesters into crowded vans with no room for social distancing.*

**AUTHOR BIO:** Rp Verlaine, a retired English teacher living in New York City, has an MFA in creative writing from City College. He has several collections of poetry including *Femme Fatales Movie Starlets & Rockers* (2018) and *Lies From The Autobiography 1-3* (2018-2020).