

Reading *For Alex Jeffrey Pretti*

Amanda Gorman  
Read by Shela Cunningham

**For Alex Jeffrey Pretti**

**Murdered by I.C.E. January 24, 2026**

**By Amanda Gorman**

**We wake with  
no words, just woe  
& wound. Our own country shoot  
ing us in the back is not just brutal  
ity; it's jarring betrayal; not enforcement,  
but execution. A message: *Love your people & you  
will die*. Yet our greatest threat isn't the outsiders  
among us, but those among us who never look  
within. Fear not the those without papers, but those  
without conscience. Know that to care intensively,  
united, is to carry both pain-dark horror for today  
& a profound, daring hope for tomorrow. We can feel  
we have nothing to give, & still believe this world wait  
ing, trembling to change. If we cannot find words, may  
we find the will; if we ever lose hope, may we never lose our  
humanity. The only undying thing is mercy, the courage to open  
ourselves like doors, hug our neighbor,  
& save one more bright, impossible life.**

**Amanda Gorman at Minneapolis, Minnesota.**