Podcast Episode One:

Women on Death Row, an Introduction

Lucy Davis here, ex-death row con and survivor of life. Today I'm making my first podcast about women on death row. While we're staying in Portland, Oregon, my nieces Jewel Anne and Beverly Lee have helped me set up this broadcast with a USB mic and software. It's yet another avenue of technology completely new to me but very appropriate to what I'm trying to accomplish. And that's to bring awareness to the realities of death row and mental health. Much of the proceeds from my books and all the money we receive for the Lucinda Bowers Foundation goes into helping women on death row with their legal appeals. So many of these women have landed on the Row because of court appointed attorneys who were inept and ineffective. Outright law school losers. Some are negligent and don't belong in the legal profession. The ABA needs to disbar them. It's not to say that these death row inmates are innocent little lambs, but it's questionable whether they deserve society to slaughter them like lambs at the altar.

Let me begin by giving my listeners some background on the death penalty in America. In Furman vs. Georgia, 1972, SCOTUS held that capital punishment was unconstitutional and they struck down death penalty laws nationwide. Four years later the Supreme Court reversed its ruling in Gregg vs. Georgia and upheld that a death sentence was constitutional. In 1979, John Spenkelink became the first inmate executed after this ruling under Florida's new statutes. The states have executed more inmates during Donald Trump's presidency than under any other president since Grover Cleveland.

Throughout the US, thousands of men are on death row while only fifty-one women are currently serving a death sentence. California has the highest number of condemned women with

about twenty. Texas has six, Alabama has five, Arizona and Florida have three each, North Carolina has two, and Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky, Oregon, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Idaho, and Georgia each have one woman on death row.

The types of crimes these women have committed vary. Some are serial killers, no doubt, others are husband killers or murderers of their own children. Some killed while robbing for drug money or they hired hitmen for financial gain. One woman killed her son's ex-girlfriend, another killed a cop, and one robbed and killed an elderly woman. In one case, a boyfriend and girlfriend stole their victims' car and then shot them pointblank. A few of the women killed by using poison, a method women murderers use more often than men, and one woman set her victim's body on fire.

What motivates these women to commit such terrible acts? Are they trapped in bad relationships? Do they come from childhoods filled with abuse, trauma, and neglect? Or are they simply psychopaths? Through my own research, it seems that most women on death row did have terrible childhoods which caused them PTSD symptoms that cluttered their minds with misconceptions about themselves and the world. They aren't all purely evil people with depraved motivations like Jeffrey Dahmer, John Wayne Gacy, or Charles Manson. They are products of horrible backgrounds. Family and society failed them. Some were little girls when their own mothers pimped them out. Often ruthless men beat, raped, and tortured them. Years of such abuse weakened their mental capacity and inner cores. "Everything got out of hand, I got carried away," one woman admitted during her trial. "I didn't think about what I was doing until long after the fact."

Since SCOTUS lifted the moratorium on capital punishment, states have executed sixteen women. The first occurred in 1984 when North Carolina executed Velma Barfield by lethal

injection. Her appeals contested that she suffered from childhood abuse and that after she had a hysterectomy, she became unhinged. A psychiatrist claimed she suffered from multiple personalities, a condition that psychiatrists now called dissociative disorder, but her appeals failed and she eventually stopped her fight for any reprieve. People considered Velma a serial killer who poisoned her husbands and elderly victims under her care. While on death row, she became a devout Christian and ministered to other inmates. She even had the support of Billy Graham. Before she met her Maker, Velma made an apology to the families she caused pain because of her crime.

Folks, I'm not one to believe in psychological labels and disorders, such as multiple personalities. I talk about this in my second book. I simply resist making unscientific conclusions about a person's mental state. Psychological terms are labels, not scientific facts. However, I do believe that past trauma sometimes overwhelms a person's ability to think clearly. At the same time, I'm convinced that some people are born evil with selfish psychopathic motives. But I also believe in redemption, if a person really wants it, and forgiveness, especially self-forgiveness.

That's it for my first podcast about women on death row. I'm an ex-death row con myself and the world has given me a second chance to redress the world. This, in my opinion, is the best thing we can do with our lives. Again, this is Lucy Davis. Follow me on Facebook and Twitter #survivinglife.

Podcast Episode Two:

Women on Death Row, Coffee Creek, Oregon

Lucy Davis here with my second in a series of podcasts about women on death row. This podcast is about women on death row in Oregon. Jeannace June Freeman was the first woman sentenced to death in Oregon back in the 1960's. I've known about this tragic case since I was a

little girl because whenever I misbehaved my father threatened to toss me off a bridge *Like that lesbian did to her kids* he would say. The famous crime happened in Oregon the year I was born.

Jeannance and her girlfriend Gertrud were a same-sex couple decades before the LGBTQ community came into its own and SCOTUS allowed for same sex marriages. The newspapers at the time of Jeannance's case described her as a scrawny woman who dressed like a boy. Back in those days, people assumed lesbian couples involved one woman taking on the role of the man. It was a typical narrowminded stereotype. Jeannance's girlfriend, Gertrud Jackson, had a small boy and girl with her African American husband, which was another oddity back in those days. In fact, I believe biracial marriages were illegal in parts of the country. It seems that Jeannance found Gertrud's children inconvenient and decided to get rid of them. The women mutilated the children hoping to fool investigators into thinking that a sex offender had abducted and raped them and tossed them off the bridge over the Crooked River Gorge. The court, however, didn't buy their story and convicted both women of first-degree murder and sentenced Jeannance to death. After voters abolished the death penalty in 1964, Governor Mark Hatfield commuted her sentence to life in prison. She died in 2003. I don't know what happened to Gertrud.

Today I paid a visit to the Coffee Creek Prisoner Intake Center where Oregon imprisons its only female death row inmate. In 2011, the court sentenced Angela McAnulty to death for the aggravated starvation and beating of her 15-year-old daughter.

Angela is only a few years younger than me. When I met her today, she sat in a closet like cubicle behind a plexiglass window. Through a phone system, we mostly talked about her appeal which raises issues of insufficient and ineffective counsel during her trial. I told Angela that I would be making this podcast and she asked me to discuss her case. We then talked about the trauma of living on death row and trying to find self-forgiveness. We didn't talk about her

crime or whether she has remorse. If she brought that up on her own, then I would have let her talk about it without my imposing any questions. I want to treat the women I meet on the Row with as much respect as I can. I doubt that's something they're used to getting. Besides, Angela killed her daughter and I really don't like talking about cases involving the death and abuse of a little girl.

Many women are on death row because they murdered their own children which is difficult to fathom even though I've never been a mother. Still, I wonder what could possibly motivate a mother to kill her child. Drugs, derangement, or severe mental impairment such as in the case of Andrea Yates who drowned her five children in the bathtub, or just plain evil intent to get rid of the children for a lover such as in the 1994 case of Susan Smith and the 1960's case of Jeannace Freeman. I don't want to make judgements when meeting with the women on death row. I want them to tell me about their appeals for a reversal of their death sentence or let them describe their feelings about their life on the Row and impending execution. As part of my charity work, I want to help them achieve a healthier mind, if I can and if they can. But I'm always faced with the question of how to separate the person from her heinous crime. It feels like a total disconnect to be impartial about a woman who causes the death of her child. Do I separate myself from my own crimes? You may wonder. I make no excuses for myself or for anyone else, but I have separated myself from my past, from my crimes, and from my childhood traumas. Me and my mind have moved on.

This is Lucy Davis finishing her second podcast about women on death row. Please follow me on Facebook and Twitter #surviving life and consider downloading my books from my website. And remember, to survive life always be calm, leave the past behind, and let your spirit and mind live in the moment at hand.

Podcast Episode Three:

Women on Death Row, Mountain View Unit in Gatesville, Texas

Greetings, Lucy Davis here. My nieces and I are now on a road trip traveling in our RV from Arizona to Florida with book signing stops in Tucson, Las Cruses, El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, and Waco, Texas. I plan to visited two women on death row at the Mountain View Unit in Gatesville, Texas. The facility incarcerates about 4000 women; the state has condemned six of them to death.

On this third podcast I want to discuss the extraordinary life stories that led some women to the ultimate punishment. Not all of them come from neglectful and traumatic childhoods.

Depraved men didn't lead all of them astray. Some had average and even good childhoods. What led them down the wrong path? Was it a moment of passion that caused an ill-fated, split-second decision that would ultimately take their lives?

Texas became the first state to implement lethal injection to carry out executions. In 1998, Texas used this method on Karla Faye Tucker, the second woman executed after the reinstatement of the death penalty during bicentennial year. Fourteen years had passed since North Carolina executed Velma Barfield, the first woman put to death after the SCOTUS reinstatement of the death penalty.

People in Houston knew Karla Faye Tucker as the "Pickaxe Murderer". At age 23, she brutally plunged a pickaxe into her victim's chest and left the scene. Like many of the women on death row, including myself, Karla came from a traumatized childhood. By age twelve, she was using drugs and her mother was pimping her out. During her fifteen years on the Row, Karla changed her life and became a devout Christian rather like Velma Barfield had done. Much of

the world, including Pope John Paul II, supported Karla Faye's appeal for clemency. However, George W. Bush who was governor of Texas at the time denied her any leniency.

Another famous case in Houston involves Andrea Yates, the woman who drowned her five children in the bathtub the year of the 9/11 tragedy. The court convicted Andrea of capital murder but then the appellate court overturned her sentence and found Andrea not guilty due to insanity. Psychiatrists claimed she suffered from postpartum depression and psychosis as well as schizophrenia. They placed her in a Texas State Hospital where she now resides.

This begs the question *Why didn't Susan Smith get a death sentence?* She drowned her two toddlers by driving her car into a lake with the boys strapped into the back seat. What she did to her sons is as reprehensible and heinous as any crime deserving a death sentence. But the court sentenced Susan Smith to life in prison after her attorney claimed that she suffered from severe depression. Their defense theory was that Smith drove into the lake intending to kill herself and her two sons but she got out of the car at the last minute. The prosecution claimed she wanted to get rid of the children so she could start a new life with her lover. They argued for a death sentence but the jury ultimately voted against it. It seems unfair that some women get off for mental issues while others don't. There's no consistency in delving out a death sentence. And it's often given to those who can't afford a top defense team.

However, if this is case then I ask you *What about Scott Peterson?* He had Mark Geragos as his attorney and he still got a death sentence. And Geragos is a hotshot LA attorney whose clients included Michael Jackson, Chris Brown, President Clinton's brother, and Winona Ryder. And then there's OJ who had the dream team and it seems he got away with savage murders. The point being, the justice system is a hodgepodge in the way it delves out death sentences.

As of 2019, there are ten condemned women residing at the Mountain View Unit at Gatesville, better known as Prison City. I visited two inmates but am keeping their identities secret to respect their privacy according to their requests. Each visit lasted only one hour. As I spoke to them, I sat behind a long plexiglass panel and rested my arms on a green formica counter. It's a change for me. Just a few years ago I was on the other side of the glass panel.

"How are you doing," was my first question to each of these women.

"It's hell in here," one woman answered. "Officers hate us for being different."

One of the death row inmates in Prison City Texas is Linda Carty, a British subject. The people of Britain are protesting her sentence because the UK abolished the death penalty in the 1960's. The last British woman the US executed was Ruth Ellis over fifty years ago. A jury found Carty guilty of masterminding the kidnapping and murder of a woman found suffocated in the trunk of Carty's car. The prosecution argued that Carty enlisted three men to snatch the murdered woman's newborn baby so that she could keep her boyfriend from leaving her. Carty had been faking a pregnancy and planned to claim that the stolen baby was hers. In her appeals, Carty states that she had a terrible defense attorney who is notoriously known as the "Undertaker" because he has lost 20 of his cases to death sentences. The only time he met with Carty was fifteen minutes before her trial. The three men who committed the actual murder testified against Carty in exchange for life sentences.

A Texas jury sentenced Darlie Routier to death for stabbing her five- and six-year-old sons. People call Routier the "Silly String Mom" because of a video-tape that shows her joyfully spraying silly string over her sons' gravesites shortly after their murders. The video rubbed the jurors the wrong way. In her defense, Routier argued that the jurors took the Silly String clip out of context, that it was a small snippet of the entire memorial service and that she was celebrating

the birthday of one of her sons. On an appeal, Routier turned down a chance to get a life sentence because she wouldn't admit to her guilt.

My question about Routier is this--What was this woman's motive? She was a seemingly happy, middle-class mother and wife in a good home in a good neighborhood. She had two beautiful sons and a new baby. Why would she be so perfectly normal then suddenly snap and commit an atrocious crime and then snap back to normal again? People also call Routier the Susan Smith of Texas. She has remarked that Karla Faye Tucker gave her a hug when she arrived on death row a few years before Karla met her fate.

Well friends, this is about all I have to say concerning the women at Gatesville prison.

This is Lucy Davis signing off from my third podcast. Please follow me on Facebook and

Twitter #survivinglife and consider donating to the Lucinda Bowers Foundation. Your donations help women on death row find legal resources and perhaps some peace of mind during the remaining days of their lives. We, as a society, are quick to harshly judge and condemn. Our foundation believes that life is sacred and redeemable. These women may have committed horrible acts, but they deserve a chance to realize a better mindset than what the world's made them out to be? Have we no compassion for those who are about to die? As an ex-con from death row, everyone asks me if I have remorse or make excuses for myself? Yes. I have remorse. No. I do not excuse myself. No one should unless they are braindead.

Podcast Episode Four:

Women on Death Row, Tutwiler, Alabama

Lucy Davis here in Alabama where five women and 183 men are currently on death row.

The State houses its death row women at Tutwiler while they house the men at the Donaldson

Prison or the Holman Prison where the executions of all Alabama inmates take place. Per capita, Alabama condemns more people than any other state, including California and Texas.

Since 1927, Alabama has executed four women among the scores of men. 1930, the same year Arizona hung Eva Dugan, a black woman named Silena Gilmore became the first woman to die in Alabama's electric chair, although Alabama probably hung plenty of black women prior to this time but left no records. Gilmore's execution went horribly wrong when her body began to sizzle and smoke and she didn't die right away. During her trial, Silena claimed intoxication caused her to shoot a waiter who had asked her to leave his establishment. Her final words were, "Crime does not pay." In 1953, Earle Dennison became the first white woman to die in Alabama's electric chair after the court convicted her of poisoning her two nieces for insurance money.

In 1957, Alabama executed the serial killer Rhonda Bell Martin who had confessed to poisoning her mother, two husbands, and three of her children. According to her defense, Martin suffered from a form of Munchausen Syndrome, a mental affliction that causes people to fake an illness to gain sympathy. They claimed that Martin suffered from Munchausen Syndrome by proxy because she had inflicted illnesses onto her victims to gain sympathy as their caretaker. In my opinion, as with most mental disorders, this is merely a theory. A conjecture. Who knows what really motivates such callous serial murders? Only the murderer herself truly knows her mind, heart, and motive.

In 2002, after 45 years of not executing any woman, Alabama electrocuted Lynda Lyon Block on what the inmates call "Yellow Mama." The court convicted Block of killing Opelika police officer Roger Motley. What's unusual about Block is that she was a well-educated white woman with no background of neglect and abuse or any other form of mitigating circumstances.

She and her husband were evangelical Christians who were anti-government and didn't believe in having a driver's license or paying taxes but fervently believed in their second amendment rights. On the day of the crime, Lynda and her husband were driving around with a carload of firearms. At a Wal-Mart parking lot, Lynda was using a pay phone when officer Motley approached her husband sitting in their parked car. When Motley asked to see a driver's license, the husband pulled out a gun and a shootout ensued. Lynda shot and killed the officer. She maintained that she never meant to hurt anybody and that she was only defending her husband. But the jury deliberated her fate in less than an hour. After Block's execution, Alabama switched to lethal injection when carrying out death sentences. Alabama has not executed a woman since Lynda Lyon Block.

The Alabama women currently facing execution are all convicted of killing children which seems to be a common crime for women sentenced to death. The jury convicted Patricia Blackmon of killing her two-year-old adopted daughter Dominiqua Bryant whom authorities found with a fractured skull and a shoe imprint on her chest that indicated Blackmon had stomped on her. Jurors convicted Tierra Gobble in 2004 of killing her four-month-old son Phoenix Jordan "Cody" Parrish. The child died from head trauma and had five broken ribs, broken wrists, and numerous bruises. In 2008, the jury convicted Christie Michelle Scott of setting her house on fire to kill her six-year-old son Mason Scott. Her motive was to collect life insurance money. An Alabama jury convicted Heather Leavell-Keaton of torturing and poisoning her two step-children then throwing their bodies into the woods. No one found the children or reported them missing for six months.

As of 2019, more than two years have passed since Alabama executed any death row inmate, male or female, and it isn't clear when they will re-start executions or who will go first.

This ends my fourth podcast about Alabama women on death row. Please find me on Facebook and Twitter #survivinglife. I'm Lucy Davis, ex- death row inmate living with a second chance and trying to make a better difference in the world.

Podcast Episode Five:

Women on Death Row, Lowell Correctional facility, Florida

Lucy Davis here on my epic trip in Florida which began in Pensacola over the Gay Pride Memorial Day Weekend. It was in Pensacola in 1978 that an unsuspecting police officer finally nabbed the notorious psychopath and serial killer Ted Bundy. Nearly ten years later, Florida executed Bundy in the electric chair at Florida State Prison located between Jacksonville and Lake City.

Since SCOTUS reversed the moratorium on the death penalty, Florida has executed nearly one hundred condemned inmates at the Florida State Prison. Two of these inmates were women. The first was Judy Buenoano, the notorious serial killer known as the Black Widow because she poisoned her husband, son, boyfriend and fiancé, and perhaps a few other victims. She murdered for the insurance money which our justice system considers an aggravating factor as bad as hiring a hit man to do the job. Buenoano spent thirteen years on death row and was Florida's first woman executed since 1848 when the state hung a slave woman named Celia for killing her master. I can only imagine that Celia had every justification for committing her crime. Buenoano was the third woman executed nationwide since 1976, after Velma Barfield in North Carolina in 1984 and Karla Faye Tucker in Texas in 1998. Like Barfield and Tucker, Buenoano became a born-again Christian while serving her death sentence. She had no final words and kept her eyes shut during her electrocution on "Old Sparky" probably to avoid seeing the witnesses.

The other woman Florida executed was Aileen Wuornos, the most famous female serial killer in the US. Hollywood made a movie about her titled *Monster* and starring Charlize Theron. Florida executed Wuornos on October 9, 2002, for shooting seven men at pointblank. Wuornos was the tenth women executed in the US since 1976. After SCOTUS had denied her appeal, she petitioned the Florida Supreme Court but later abandoned all appeals and admitted to her crimes. She claimed she'd kill again because, as she put it, "hate crawls through my system." When ask if she had any final words, Wuornos said, "Yes, I would just like to say I'm sailing with the rock, and I'll be back, like Independence Day, with Jesus. June 6, like the movie. Big mother ship and all, I'll be back, I'll be back." People still wonder about the meaning of her last words.

Florida had sentenced fifteen women to death but the courts reduced the sentences of twelve to life. Three are currently awaiting their execution. Tiffany Cole, 26, received a death sentence in 2008. The court convicted her of masterminding the double murder of an elderly Jacksonville couple whom she knew. Cole and her gang buried the victims alive. In 2011, the court sentenced Margaret A. Allen, 44, to death for torturing and killing her housekeeper because she believed the housekeeper stole money from her purse. Prosecutors claimed that Allen tortured her victim for hours before strangling her with a belt. The court also convicted Allen's roommate and nephew for helping to bury the body in a shallow grave. The third Florida woman on death row is Tina Brown, 43. In 2013, the court condemned her for beating her victim with a stun gun and a crow bar and then setting her on fire. The victim lived for two weeks before she succumbed to her injuries.

The condemned women in Florida call their death row corridor "life row" because, as one inmate told me, "We're alive, not dead."

This concludes my podcast about death row women in Florida. Please check me out on Facebook and Twitter #survivinglife. Be good. Stay safe. And don't follow a path or a person that takes you to death row! It's no place to be alive.

Podcast Episode Six:

Women on Death Row, Chowchilla, California

Hi, Lucy Davis back again for podcast number six. This time I'm discussing California's condemned women incarcerated at the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla, which is halfway between Fresno and Modesto—home of Laci Peterson who was nine months pregnant with her son Conner when her infamous husband Scott murdered her because, evidently, he didn't want her or the baby around. Sort of reminds me of Susan Smith. Scott Peterson is currently serving a death sentence at San Quentin.

California executes both its male and female inmates at San Quentin. The State transports the women from Chowchilla to the San Quentin execution chamber which is similar to what happened to me nearly five years ago. For twenty-two years, Arizona had kept me housed in Perryville Prison and when they set the execution date, guards transported me nearly one hundred miles to the death chamber at Florence State Prison.

Over the years, California has used different methods of executing its condemned inmates. The State first hung the condemned, then they put inmates in gas chambers. In 1995, the court ruled that the gas chamber was "cruel and unusual punishment" and the prison began using lethal injection. Since then, until 2006, San Quentin has executed eleven inmates by lethal injection. None of them have been women. Since 1893, California has executed only four women, the last being fifty-eight-year-old Elizabeth Ann "Ma" Duncan in 1962. The court convicted Duncan of masterminding the murder her pregnant daughter-in-law.

Over ten years have passed since the last execution and currently more than sevenhundred men and women are living on California's death row. Governor Gavin Newsom has granted a reprieve to all the death row inmates but this doesn't change any of their sentences. These inmates are still on death row.

Many of the death row women in Chowchilla turn my blood cold. But they are all human beings and something caused them to commit the ultimate crime. How does someone, a woman in particular, develop into a force of such harm? Had men, or other women, battered, bruised, and harmed them? Is that the cause? Or is it simply something in their DNA? Has some demon god placed them on earth to kill?

Personally, I'm more prone to believe in the nurture theory, that there is a source, a cause for the woman's motivation or impulse to become the worst human being she could possibly be, except maybe for Hitler or other masterminds of genocide, or flagrant psychopathic serial killers like Ted Bundy and the Night Stalker. Those types of people are beyond my capacity to understand or even discuss.

But they are all human beings, creatures of this Earth. And my focus is on the women now living on the Row and how they view themselves in their final days. They are not beyond anyone's empathy or compassion and if we think they are then we ourselves are flawed. One of my main objectives with my foundation is to help certain death row women realize a more positive view of themselves away from all the traumatization and negative conditionings since childhood and all the degrading labels society and psychologists pin upon them. In a sense, my aim is to help these "bottom of the barrel," thrown-away women find a certain amount of self-worth before our society puts them down like rabid dogs. If there is no hope for these women to find a better view of themselves, then I maintain that there is no hope for humanity at all.

This is Lucy Davis concluding my podcast about women on death row in California.

Follow me on Facebook and Twitter #surviving life. Be a survivor and not a follower led astray.

Be compassionate and understand that there are many lessons to learn along the treacherous path of surviving life.

Podcast Episode Seven:

Women on Death Row Updates

Lucy Davis here during the global COVID-19 outbreak. Today, my first update is about the one woman in Oregon who was on death row. That's right. Was. On Aug. 3, 2020 the appellate court commuted the death sentence of Angela McAnulty to life in prison. As I explained in a previous podcast, the trial court had sentenced McAnulty to death for killing her 15-year-old battered and starved daughter in 2009. In a brief to the appellate court, Angela discussed how her court-appointed trial lawyer had given her an inefficient defense. He had convinced her to plead guilty in exchange for a life sentence but hadn't made any deal with the prosecutor who maintained the death sentence. During Angela's trial, her attorney was working simultaneously on another capital case and thus not devoting his full attention to her case, he failed to investigate Angela's background of childhood trauma that he could have used as mitigating evidence, and he failed to show the trial court that Angela would not pose a future danger to society which is a law Oregon requires before the court imposes a death sentence.

My other update concerns the one woman who was on federal death row. On January 13, of this year, the Federal Government executed Lisa Montgomery. In 2007, a jury in Kansas City had recommended her death sentence for strangling Bobbie Jo Stinnett then cutting her open to steal her unborn baby. Montgomery kidnapped the baby and took it across state lines which made her crime a federal case. She was the sixth woman executed on federal death row. The

other women include Mary Surratt, a slave owner and co-conspirator in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and Ethel Rosenberg who the US accused of providing the Soviet Union with top military secrets, along with her husband. The Rosenberg conviction for espionage occurred during the McCarthy witch-hunt era and the Feds may have railroaded the Rosenbergs into a hasty condemnation. Stinnett died by hanging, Rosenberg died in the electric chair, and Montgomery died from lethal injection.

This is Lucy Davis ending my updates about women on death row. Follow me on Facebook and Twitter #survivinglife and remember, eternity is in the moment at hand but history has a way of repeating itself. What is the reality of our current political climate during this global pandemic? Does our society treat all people with equal justice? Do the courts? Are some people doomed to die needlessly because of political whim? Because of their social standing? Because we don't value them?