Black women

Beautiful, Hardworking, Strong, Immaculate

I love being a black woman, I really do

But do I dare attempt to bring another Black woman into this world?

I think about bringing in a beautiful baby girl into this world, but do I want to die trying?

Do I want to die trying to bring in someone so precious, so close to me?

What do you mean by die trying, you may ask

Well I’ll let you know

The health care system isn’t in our favor honey

Never has been, never will be

They built the American health care system off of slaves!

Made us sick, experimented on us, Killed us!

Just to not let us reap from the benefits in the end

Here we are in the modern day and Blacks still don’t get much from the healthcare system

We work the hardest yet get sick and die the fastest

“A black woman is 22 percent more likely to die from heart disease than a white woman, 71 percent more likely to perish from cervical cancer” (Nina Martin)

But the health care system doesn’t worry about that

They already got their uses from our Black bodies

So there’s no point in saving us now

But we still try to live

We still have to depend on the healthcare system

We keep on fighting everyday

But there is something that is constantly tearing at us

Wearing us down, destroying us

Chronic Stress

And what are we stressing about?

A hell of a lot

Racism, Sexism, Classism you name it

And it all adds up

As we fight we still get tired

It’s this stress, it eats us up

“research shows that the stress of being a black woman in American society can take a physical toll during pregnancy and childbirth”

So its not just me complaining about it, its true

It gets to us mentally and physically and hurts us so

And some of you may think

“Well maybe its because these Black women are poor”

They just can’t afford better health care

But oh no I can assure you that ain’t the problem

You see ”you can't educate your way out of this problem.

 You can't health care-access your way out of this problem.” (Nina Martin)

“The experiences of African American women crosses economic lines” (Black Mamas 15:25)

“black, college-educated mothers who gave birth in local hospitals [are] more likely to suffer severe complications of pregnancy or childbirth than white women who never graduated from high school” (Nina Martin

So no we ain’t complaining to just complain

“There's something inherently wrong with the system that's not valuing the lives of black women equally to white women.”

And its killing us

It’s killing us Black mothers and our babies

Black women are “243 percent more likely to die from pregnancy- or childbirth-related causes” compared to their white counterparts (Nina Martin)

Is it worth the risk for me to bring in a little baby girl?

A baby who may not have a mother because she dies during childbirth

A baby that will be forced to endure the same chronic stress

The same racism

The same sexism

The same likelihood to have less quality of life because our health care system uses Black bodies instead of taking care of them

So yes I would love to have a beautiful baby girl

One I could call my own

One I could love and try to protect

But as much as I want to have a baby girl, I don’t want to have one like this

Works Cited

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