

American Civil War

Brains splatter

Guts splatter

See the dripping blood? Splatter

Hearts splatter

Tears splatter

How could this ever happen? Splatter

Welcome to the raging war,

A “game of life”

Beginning with the conception of fear.

It feeds from our own self-destruction,

Our own carbohydrates of hate.

Every day,

We are halted at the toll booth

And pay with our coins of dignity

Letting the fear unravel,

Letting it blossom and wrap its grimey little hands around our heads and our hearts

While we waltz

To the 1, 2, 3 tugs like the puppets we all are.

The master makes us question our neighbor,

Sneer at the stranger stumbling in the supermarket,

Loathe the dinner table discussion.

We are taught to wear our crowns of liberty high on our heads,

And give no mercy to ideas that are so far removed

That we block the music from entering our ears.

Did you ever imagine

That there is a war brewing in the United States?

Media splatter

Politics splatter

How many controversial topics can we list? Splatter

Gun control, abortion, global warming, vaccination splatter

Race, gender, orientation, immigration splatter

Must we live in a world of screaming conflict? Splatter

This American Civil War

Puts grenades with ticking insults into our hands,
Slaps on contradictory opinion-proof vests,
And paints red or blue on our cheeks.

This war

Has us representing an army of one:

One belief,

One view,

One system,

Has us fighting for our right to love freely,

Has us battling over how to protect our daughters and our sons

Or how to prevent bankruptcy in the long run;

These voices keep crashing and exploding.

This war

Says that my “right” is different from your “right,”

And your “wrong” is different from my “wrong,”

But my “right” is right and your “right” is wrong.

Did we forget how to coexist?

How to listen and how to love?

How to accept instead of interject?

Let us give peace a chance.

Let love heal all wounds.

War might be the toll of living,

But that does not mean we have to pay it.

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Inspiration: *Army of One* by Jeff Champion