

SYLVIA JONES

# BECAUSE THE IDEA OF HAVING KIDS IS MUCH OLDER THAN MASS SHOOTINGS

Together wherever they are  
at the bar in heaven  
or perhaps some  
different room  
altogether or maybe  
even right here right now  
like us on this stain  
ridden mattress California  
queen we smuggled  
out from your cousin's basement  
after hurricane \_\_\_\_\_  
I went downstairs for a nap  
and met our doubles fast  
awake, and steadily gene-splicing  
our ghosts as we slept like newborns

second chance is downstairs taking old doors  
because you've had a scare of knowing  
all the poisonous berries in Pakistan  
if I need a new kidney, why does it matter  
if I'm black or white or hispanic?  
The sleeping man in the entrance of  
the elementary school had a giant guess bag.  
Another extraordinary harmonica player.  
Another extraordinary harmonica player.  
and you'd say, everybody has a shark  
that they think is a life-jacket  
and then I'd say  
you're sunbathing  
but there's no  
sun out.

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# MOUSE WARS

107 Plum Street:

There's a hole in the wall behind the floor cabinets in my kitchen. Got the only path coming from it via the corner, shoved with bait and a sticky trap. It's amazing how little space they need to get in. Haven't found any evidence of them in a year.

What did it take to get here? Renovations.

One day, I'll retrofit the cabinets and finish the job — cement board, here I come.

Let it be known I fully support the cat approach if it works for your living situation, but not all cats are mousers.

Got to seal up your house or you will keep having the same issue.

I've narrowed their entry points into my house down to one.

I do see minor signs of mice, but it is nothing compared to the last two winters— We were literally overrun with gaggles of mice.

So yeah, get rid of your mice with rats.

40 W Biddle Street:

I've been battling mice for 3 winters! After about a year and 800 bucks to a pest control "expert" I'm seeing more of the little critters than ever. All the pest control does is send someone out quarterly, fill the bait traps and charge me \$90.00. The mice have learned to avoid the capture, glue, and snap

traps that I've put out. I feel like I have plugged every hole. They laugh at my glue traps.

This winter, they've almost disappeared, and I'll tell you why. Rats.

The rats have taken over in the foundation and all around the house I rent from (I'm in the attic unit).

The landlord hired an exterminator, but the big holes outside are multiplying.

I assume the rats.

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# ANOTHER VIOLENT INFLECTION POINT

Gorbachev dies August 2022  
and all the pictures of Robert E.  
Lee got taken down upstate  
at West Point my cousin Noah  
said to my Uncle Rob who told Grandma, who  
then called and told me earlier today between  
meetings that Steven Biko's forehead looked  
shiny as hell in an old photo on TV.

As everyone's inflation worries  
ebbed I always wondered why hurting  
stands so much and how well  
I'm metabolizing my antidepressants:  
*like peace to the mind*  
*health to the body*

I hate seeing the dykes  
not get what they deserve.  
I hang out on a subreddit devoted  
to people seeking help.  
See how the poem creates  
time and distance?

What better boosts  
the floating offshore wind energy?  
The blue-black box of sitting  
down on the couch and whining, or  
an unedited brightness across the  
room?