

Me, with my bright, overwhelming blue.
You, with your confident, subtle red.
Red is inherently strong, exuberant, outspoken.
But when does the red fade?

In the classroom, students with their blue tongues, azure eyes direct their attention to you, blood in the water.

"I personally think—"
"Excuse me? What did you just say?"
"I said I—"
"Your opinion is wrong."
"I mean it's an opinion so..."
"Wow, racist."
"What did I say?"
"Go back to Texas, where you belong."

Nutjob. Hick. Silver spoon. Radical. Misogynist. Nazi. Basket of Deplorables.

Oh, okay.

The students throw you off the Golden Gate bridge into the bay, saying that they'll fish you out once you are able to camouflage with the ocean, its violent waves tearing you asunder. You're swimming with sharks, ebony eyes jabbing into you. The wrong motion can cause you to get swallowed.
They circle you,

circle you,

circle you,

circle you,

waiting for you to flinch, to squirm, to cave.

Although you know that you will always be fire, you extinguish it until the students find you safe to touch. You've escaped the sharks for now, but the fire always reignites, and the cyclical fishing continues.

You know, at the back of your mind, that not all reds are wildfires and not all blues are tsunamis. Not everyone has the turbulent currents of an ocean, sometimes they have the tranquility of a pond. Not everyone has the destructive power of a forest fire, sometimes they have the spirit of an ember. So why do they, I, and sometimes even you treat puddles as floods, and candles as burning hell?

Why do they try so hard to scrub the red away?

Don't they know that Abraham Lincoln was a flame of freedom?

If they extended their blueness to your redness and vice versa, then perhaps there would be something beautiful. Is the intersection of water and flame, violets? Can the two conceive this exquisite flower, using the light of the red and hydration of the blue?

Me, with my blazing blue.
You, with your overflowing red.
Us, with our blossoming purple.

Make America Great.