

Speakers Who Dare

We are the risk takers
The dream makers
The movers and shakers
High roll and low-stakers
We are the fo' real and deal breakers
Not donut and cupcake
But cake bakers---

We are the lovers who outlasted the heartbreakers
The personification of pimpin'
Prose and poetry, groundbreakers
Not always right and sometimes mis-takers---

Using words, we bought our own freedom
And signed our own papers
For that, we have haters---

Scared to climb the reason of mind, BLIND!
Morphed into systemic structures
Hard to find a beautiful mind
That chooses the high road
And not the decline---

We mean well
And it's our story we'll tell,
Sell, yell and party 'til the clock strikes twelve
And uh-oh-uh-oh-uh-oh-uh-oh
Cinderella has lost her shoe
When there seems nothing more one can do---

Constrained, maintained, detained
Profiled in an I-cloud
Framed---

Causing one to stop and stare
Eyes closed due to blindness
By the glare---

Some bureaucrats, aristocrats and politicians
Don't really care!
Clothed by a title, but on the microphone
Stripped naked and bare---

We are the purveyors and surveyors
Representing speakers who dare!

Dare to unleash the flare for linguistics
And word affection,
Nouns, adjectives and verbs
Are like Darwin's natural selection---

Survival of the fittest
Between the raw base and fake news,
Reality shows for a society **BOTCHED**
And then we all lose---

Words become scattered and jumbled
Undecipherable messages extensive beyond compare,
I stand here strong across disciplines, cultures and stereotypes
I am, we are, speakers who dare!

By Dr. Cherie A. Ward
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