

"ON THE EVE OF A COLD SOUL"

BY: ROBERTO OLIVAS

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THIS BOOK OF POLITICAL POEMS IS A WORK BY THE
AUTHOR WITH THE INTENTION OF SPARKING
CONSCIOUSNESS OF URBAN REALITIES AND
INSPIRING SOCIAL CHANGE WITHIN THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA

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"SERIOUS IDEAL"

SISTER CHINA

1949

CHAIRMAN MAO CAUGHT HER EYE

IMPERIALISM REIGNS

BUT SOON WILL FAIL

SOCIALISM WILL RISE

AND PREVAIL

HAMMER IN HAND

THE VANGARD WILL SWING

THE CAPITALIST PIG WILL BE NAILED

THE LUMPEN WILL GROW ITS WINGS

BUT STAND AND FIGHT

INSTEAD OF FLIGHT

UNTIL THE PROLETARIAT IS FINALLY FREE

SHE WAS SENT TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY
AT THE ADVENTURESOME AGE OF 13
HE WAS SENT TO THE YOUTH AUTHORITY
AT THE ADVENTURESOME AGE OF 13
A SHORT TIME TO A WOMAN
CAN BE A LONG TIME TO A GIRL
IN A SHORT TIME SHE BECAME A WOMAN
BUT FOR A GIRL 5 YEARS WAS WAY TOO LONG
AT AGE 18 THE WOMAN WAS FINALLY SET FREE
FREE FROM JAIL
FREE TO BE
A SHORT TIME TO A MAN
CAN BE A LONG TIME TO A BOY
IN A SHORT TIME HE BECAME A MAN
BUT FOR A BOY 7 1/2 YEARS WAS WAY TOO LONG
AT AGE 20 THE MAN WAS FINALLY SET FREE
FREE FROM JAIL
FREE TO BE
MAYBE IF THERE WERE NO OPPRESSIVE
PERPETUAL JAIL SYSTEMS
THE MANCHILD AND THE WOMANCHILD
THE TWO WOULD'VE NEVER MET
BUT THEY DID
AND THEIR JUVENILE INCARCERATION
PLAYED THE BIGGEST PART
QUIET AS KEPT
FROM THE SAME CITY AND STATE
BUT FROM DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES
THE ATTRACTION AND BOTH OF THEIR OWN TANGLED PAST
BROUGHT BOTH THEIR WORLDS TOGETHER
TO EQUAL MADE LOVE
BUT AT SUNSET
SHE WENT EAST
AND WENT WEST
BUT THEY MADE A CHILD AND HE GLOWS LIKE A SUN
THEY MARRIED BEFORE HIS BIRTH
SO HE WASNT BORN IN SIN
NOW MOM AND DAD ONLY COMES FROM EAST AND WEST
WHEN ITS TIME TO ECLIPSE AGAIN
BUT POVERTY STRICKEN COMMUNITIES

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JAIL CELLS AND BROKEN DREAMS

IS WHERE THE LOVE STORY OF ROBERT AND BIANCA
ALL BEGINS

IMAGES OF A STATUES OF LENIN
BEING TORN DOWN IN KIEV
WAS CELEBRATED IN THE WESTERN PRESS
BUT WHY?

EXPLAIN SUCH NONSENSE TO US
BUT WHY - YOU ASK?

SO THAT WE CAN SEE WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW
SO THE WORLD CAN BE REMINDED OF WHAT
IT ALREADY KNEW

THAT CAPITALISM TURNED INTO IMPERIALISM
AS OPPRESSION GREW
HATRED

MIXED WITH ECONOMIC COMPETITION
MURDER

MINGLED WITH NATIONAL PREJUDICE
EXPLOITATION

INTERLACED WITH SOCIAL CONTROL
MAKES THE WORLD SO UGLY.

THE VERY ESSENCE OF CHANGE
SO BEAUTIFUL

LIFE IS A CANVAS

WHEN SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS
WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING UGLY
IT'S O.K.

JUST PAINT OVER IT

WHY IS IT
THAT SOME THINGS BE
WHEN OBVIOUSLY
IN A HALF OF CENTURY
AMERIKKAN PRISONS HAVE GONE
FROM WHITE DOMINATED
TO BLACK OVER POPULATED
IN A PERIOD
WHERE THE BLACK POPULATION
HAS ONLY INCREASED IN AMERIKKA
LESS THAN 2%
TO ITS CURRENT LEVEL OF 12%
OPPRESSIVE BULLSHIT
IS OBVIOUSLY HELL BENT
ON MAKING THEIR LIFE
A LIVING HELL
WILL YOU DARE TELL ME
THAT MEN OF AFRIKAN DESCENT
JUST LOVE JAIL?
WHY IS THAT
ALL THESE BLACKS
ARE IMPRISONED AT RATES
10 TIMES MORE THAN
THOSE OF WHITES
FOR DRUG CHARGES
AND THE INCREASE
IN DRUG-RELATED PRISON SENTENCES
FOR BLACKS WAS 77%
COMPARED TO WHITES
WHICH WAS
28%

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SO OBVIOUSLY
IT SEEMS TO BE
THAT THE INCREASE IN SENTENCES
THAT IS BEHIND THE CURRENT PRISON BOOM
IS TARGETING CERTAIN POPULATIONS
YOUR QUESTION SHOULD BE WHY?

WHO WILL LEAD THE WAY?
IS THAT THE REAL QUESTION?
THE ANSWER IS NO
THE REAL QUESTION IS:
ARE WE READY YET?
TAKE A LOOK AT HISTORICAL EVENTS
TAKE A LOOK AT OURSELVES
AT OUR CONSCIOUSNESS
AT OUR ABILITY
AT OUR MENTAL CAPACITY AS A WHOLE
ARE WE UNITED IN OUR UNDERSTANDING?
IF NOT
THEN WE AINT READY
AND IF WE AINT READY
NOW IS THE TIME TO GET READY
ITS TIME TO UNITE IN OUR UNDERSTANDING
ITS TIME TO STOP BICKERING
AND COME TO TERMS WITH WHAT WE HAVE
BUT FIRST
WE UNITE IN THOUGHT
NO MORE SET BACKS PLEASE
THE TIME TO UNITE IS NOW
SO ARISE MY TEACHER
ITS TIME TO TEACH THE CLASS

IN BRIGHTEST DAY
IN BLACKEST NIGHT
THIS IS A TALENT OF EXCEPTIONAL MIGHT
I SING
I WRITE
I RAP
I TATT
I DRAW
I PAINT
I THINK
I'LL PLAY YOU A SONG
BUT I CAN ALSO LOVE
AND I CAN ALSO FEEL
I CAN ALSO HURT
I CAN ALSO LAUGH
BUT I CAN DO NONE OF THE ABOVE BETTER
THAN I CAN REMEMBER
THAN I CAN LISTEN
THAN I CAN INTERPRET
BUT THE BEST THING I'VE EVER DONE IN MY LIFE
IS FIGHT BACK
THE BEST THING I COULD EVER DO
IS RESIST
EVEN WITH A THORN IN MY SIDE
AND CHAINS ON MY WRIST
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS I FINALLY REALIZE
LIKE THE GLARE OF THE SUN
AND THE COLOR OF MY EYES
IN BRIGHTEST DAY
IN BLACKEST NIGHT
THIS IS WITHOUT A DOUBT A TALENT OF EXCEPTIONAL MIGHT

WHEN SHE ASKS
HOW CAN AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP POSSESS POLITICS?
WHEN I ANSWER
I TELL HER THE QUESTION SHOULD NOT BE HOW
IT SHOULD BE WHY.
THE ANSWER TO WHY IS "MONEY."
OR RATHER
"FINANCIAL STABILITY"
EITHER TOO MUCH OR LACK OF
IMAGINE A LOT OF MONEY.
IMAGINE IF SHE BECOMES GREEDY
A PLOT WILL DEVELOPE
AND PLOT LIKE A POLITICIAN
SHE MOST DEFINITELY WILL
YOU WILL SEE A DIFFERENT SIDE OF HER
A SIDE SO DARK
THAT PERHAPS YOU WONT EVER SEE
THE OTHER SIDE AGAIN
DEMANDS
ULTIMATUMS
THREATS
BLACKMAIL PERHAPS
SUCH BETRAYAL IS A DEEP CUT
ONE THAT CAN BRING ABOUT COLOSSAL PAIN
NO OTHER POLITIC
CAN HURT A MAN MORE
IMAGINE NO MONEY
IMAGINE HER FAITH IN YOU SINKING
LIKE A STRAWMAN IN QUICKSAND
A PLOT WILL DEVELOPE
AND PLOT LIKE A POLITICIAN
SHE MOST DEFINITELY WILL

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YOU'LL SEE A DIFFERENT SIDE OF HER
A SIDE SO DARK
THAT PERHAPS YOU WONT EVER SEE
THE OTHER SIDE AGAIN

AS A THREAT
VIEWED
AS THE MOST LIONIZED ENTITY
IN EXISTENCE OF MANKIND
FALLEN FROM GRACE BY DEFAMATION
STRIPPED FROM INTEGRITY
BY CLASSIC SLAVERY
STOLEN FROM WOMEN
DUE TO FEAR OF DOMINATION
OF THE FEMALE DESIRE
CAGED FOR BEHAVIORAL CONTROL
MANIPULATED FOR TREASON AGAINST
THEIR OWN KIND
ROBBED OF THE CREDIT & RECOGNITION
FOR MANKIND'S ACHIEVEMENTS
GRANDFATHERS OF MANKIND
A FACT PAINTED OVER WITH A BARBARIC RACE
AS A STATUS SYMBOL
ACCUSED OF BEING A RACIST
BECAUSE OF STATEMENTS OF RACIAL FACTS
HATED - DESPISED - ADMIRER
ALWAYS FEARED
INTELLIGENT - STRONG - OUTLASTING
THE 1ST. TO FALL
BUT THE FIRST RISE
THE FIRST TO COME
AND THE LAST TO GO

NAH, I DONT NEED ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
I JUST NEED SILENT UNDERSTANDING
I WANNA TAKE CREDIT FOR WHAT?
POINTING OUT FACTS THAT ONE CAN ALREADY SEE?

NAH, I DONT THINK SO
TAKE CREDIT FOR WHAT?

SAYING VULGAR SHIT?

HOW CAN A TRUE STATEMENT OF FACTS
BE VULGAR IN THE FIRST PLACE?

HOW? - I ASK

BY SAYING WORDS LIKE "SHIT?"

BUT ARE'NT CURSE WORDS SO WESTERN?

SO AMERIKKAN?

SO FRENCH?

IN THE U.S.

THE RELATIVELY FREE MARKET ECONOMY

IS THE MATERIAL BASIS

FOR INDIVIDUALISTIC THINKING

SO GO AHEAD

BE AN INDIVIDUAL

JUST DONT VIEW ME IN THE SAME LIGHT

AS YOUR BIASED-PARTIAL-AMBITIOUS PREDECESSORS HAVE

AND ALWAYS WILL

AND STILL

CALL YOURSELF A INDIVIDUAL

BUT EVEN IF YOU DO

WILL IT MEAN MUCH TO ME?

NAH, I DONT THINK SO

ALL MUSIC

ALL CULTURES

ALL RACES

WILL EVENTUALLY BLEND

AND COME BACK HOME

FROM WHERE THEY CAME

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IF I DIED TONIGHT
AND A STAR FELL AND HIT THE EARTH
AND I SAID IT WOULD HAPPEN
BEFORE IT DID
WOULD I WANT THE WRITERS
TO WRITE ABOUT THE WARNING I GAVE?
NAH, NEVER NEEDED ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
I JUST NEED SILENT UNDERSTANDING

NEW RULES

TO ALWAYS BET ON HIMSELF AND CONTINUE TO PROPEL
HIS REACH WHILE MAINTAINING RELEVANCY.

NO MORE CHASING MONEY

NO MORE CHASING LOVE

THINGS CHANGE

IF IT COMES THEN IT COMES

NO MORE SEEKING ACCEPTANCE

NO MORE SEEKING EQUALITY

NO MORE SEEKING SYMPATHY

THINGS CHANGE

NO MORE POLITICAL ARGUMENTS WITH PEOPLE
WHO ARE NOT MY PEOPLE

NO MORE DISRESPECT

NO MORE COMPETITION

NO MORE CHASING THE ILLUSION OF LIFE

NO MORE MATCHING THE DESCRIPTION

I AM INDEFINABLE

THINGS CHANGE

HIS ARTISTIC CAPABILITIES ARE EXCEPTIONAL

HIS ABILITY TO SPOT PREJUDICE AND OPPRESSION

IS UNDENIABLE

HIS VIEWING OF THE WORLD THRU A PROGRESSIVE LENS

IS SUBSTANTIAL

HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS NEGATIVITY IS INDIFFERENT

IS'NT IT AMAZING?

THINGS CHANGE

NO MORE PAIN FROM POLITICAL BIAS

NO MORE RELYING ON OTHERS

BUT

TO ALWAYS BET ON HIMSELF AND CONTINUE TO PROPEL
HIS REACH WHILE MAINTAINING RELEVANCY

IS DEFINITELY THE NEW RULE

YEAH

BECAUSE

THINGS CHANGE

SO QUOTABLE
CRY ME A SONG
SO THAT I CAN FEEL EMOTION
SO THAT I CAN BECOME DISTRACTED
SO THAT I CAN LOSE FOCUS
FROM YOUR ABSOLUTE STUPIDITY
STOOPS!
HUSSIE!
AND THE ENTIRE COUNTRY OF IRAQ
HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE 911 ATTACKS
SO HE INVAD'D IRAQ FOR A REASON
THAT WASN'T EVEN REAL
IN SAN QUENTIN
THEY GAVE TOOKIE THE NEEDLE
FOR KILLING PEOPLE
HE DIDN'T EVEN KILL
YEAH

SO QUOTABLE
SHOOT ME UP WITH DRUGS
SO THAT I CAN FEEL EUPHORIA
SO THAT I CAN BECOME DISTRACTED
SO THAT I CAN LOSE FOCUS
FROM YOUR ABSOLUTE STUPIDITY
STOOPS!
PLACE THE AMERICAN DREAM OVER MY EYES
LIKE A BLIND FOLD
TIE IT ON TIGHT
STAND ME IN A COURTROOM
AND LET TWELVE OF MY PEERS
WHO ARE REALLY NOT MY PEERS
GUN ME DOWN
WITH ALL THE AMMO THAT THE ANGELIC PROSECUTOR
FILLS THEIR RIFLES WITH

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TAKE AIM

GO AHEAD AND FIRE

FIRE THE FUCK AWAY

SO QUOTABLE

HAND ME ANGOLO WRITTEN LITATURE

ANGOLO WRITTEN FILMS

ANGOLO EDUCATION

SO THAT I CAN FEEL ANGOLO EMOTION

SO THAT I CAN BECOME ANGOLO DISTRACTED

SO THAT I CAN LOSE CULTURAL FOCUS

FROM YOUR ABSOLUTE STUPIDITY.

STOOPS!

YES

GO GRAB YOUR BLOOD SUCKING DRACONIAN DOCTORS

WITH THEIR BEAUTIFUL PHD'S

SIT ME DOWN

GO AHEAD

ASK ME ALOT OF DUMB ASS QUESTIONS

AND DIAGNOSE ME WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS

OR A DRUG PROBLEM

SO ANYTHING WE SAY WILL BE DISCREDITED

SO QUOTABLE

THE INFUSION OF THE COLONIAL AND THE COLONIZED
AND ALSO THE INVOLUNTARILY IMPORTED
AND YES OF COURSE THE AMBITIOUS IMMIGRANT
DENOTES A UNIQUE STRAND
A PECULIAR BLEND SO DEPLORABLE
SO BEAUTIFUL
SO UGLY AND AMAZING
A NATIVE FROM ELSEWHERE
LOOKS ON AND MARVELS
BUT DON'T GET ME WRONG
LIKE I SAID;
THE BITCH IS BEAUTIFUL
WORLD SUPERPOWER
ALMIGHTY STATUE
OF A ALMIGHTY LIBERTY
SHE'S SO FAIR AND IMPARTIAL IS'NT SHE?
DONT YOU WISH YOU COULD MARRY HER?
START A FAMILY?
I'LL TELL YOU SECRET. . . .
IF YOU'RE A CITIZEN YOU ALREADY DID
SO WHAT SHE'S INSATIABLE
ALWAYS IN THE ELEMENT OF HER MOJO
ALWAYS FEELING A LITTLE TINGLE
ALWAYS NEEDS STIMULATION
ALWAYS WANTS MORE
SO WHAT SHE HAS A LITTLE PROBLEM?
DONT WE ALL?
WHO ARE WE TO JUDGE - RIGHT?
BLESS HER SOUL
THE BITCH CANT HELP IT
WHY DOES THE EAST CALL HER THE GREAT WHORE?

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SO JUDGEMENTAL ARE'NT THEY?
OUT OF ALL THE MILLIONS IMPRISONED
AS A ACT OF SUPPRESSION
IN RESPONSE TO THEIR RESPONSE
OF PERPETUATED OPPRESSION
I SAID MILLIONS. . . .

DID YOU HEAR ME?
ENOUGH TO FORM A SMALL COUNTRY
DAM. . . .

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CHAIN GANG
LET ME TELL YOU ANOTHER SECRET. . . .

I'VE SPOKEN TO MANY OF THEM
THRU OUR COMMON PAIN AND SUFFERING
MANY MORE HAS SPOKEN BACK

SPOKEN TO US ALL

THRU THEIR MUSIC

THRU THEIR ARTS

THRU THEIR WRITINGS

THRU THEIR HEARTS

THRU THEIR DREAMS OF LIBERTY

NOT THAT STATUE IN NEW YORK

I HEAR VOICES

I HEARD SOME THE OTHER DAY

TODAY I READ SOME OLD CASELAW

I WENT BACK IN TIME AND HEARD OLD VOICES

THEY CONTINUED TO CONFIRM

WHAT I ALREADY KNEW BUT NEEDED TO HEAR AGAIN:

THAT SINCERE EXPRESSION

AND PAIN

HAS A SERIOUS PURPOSE

DAM. . . .

MARVEL AT IT ALL
WHO WOULD THINK YOU COULD EVER FIND
SUCH A JEWEL HERE
BUT JUST LOOK AT HER
I TOLD YOU THIS BITCH IS BEAUTIFUL

"CAPTURED FOREVER"

'WHEN I'AM NO LONGER HERE'
JUST TURN TO THE BACK OF MY MOTHER'S PHOTO ALBUM
AND YOU'LL FIND ME
THERE'S PHOTOGRAPHS OF MY URBANITY WHEN I WAS JUST A KID
THERE'S ALMOST SOMETHING SYMBOLIC ABOUT THE RECORDING
OF MY ASCENDANCY
TO ALPHA MALE WHILE IN THE BELLY OF THE BEAST
IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY,
YOU'LL NOTICE THERE'S USUALLY A WALL IN THE PHOTO'S BACKGROUND
EVEN WHILE AN ADULT IN THE PHOTO I WAS ALWAYS YOUNG
IN ALL THOSE PHOTOS YOU'LL NEVER SEE MY TEETH
BECAUSE I NEVER SMILED.
THE NEXUS IS INCARCERATION
DON'T CRY. MOM
THEY'RE ONLY PICTURES FROM PRISON
STARE AT THE PHOTO AND LOOK INTO MY EYES
TELL ME CAN YOU SEE
PAIN AND PROMISE
WITHOUT A PHOTOGRAPH, YEARS LATER
A STRANGER. COULD NEVER ASCERTAIN
THE SPLENDOR OF YOUR YOUTH IN THAT MOMENT
A GREAT-GREAT GRANDCHILD
WOULD BE LEFT WITH NOTHING BUT IMAGINATION
WITH WISH TO DRAW YOUR PORTRAIT
HOW AMAZING THE MAN WHO INVENTED THE CAMERA
THANKS TO HIM SNIPLETS OF MY PAST LIFE
COULD BE FROZEN
HELD IN PLACE FOR ETERNITY
TIME CAPTURED
LIKE A CAPTURED MAN HELD IN A DOWNSTAIRS DUNGEON

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DEVELOPED GROW OLD

BUT THE VISUAL OF THE MAN IN THE PHOTO NEVER DOES
THE NEXUS IS THE ACTUAL MAN, LIKE TWO DOES AGE
OH HOW HIS LIFE IN A CELL

IS SO SIMILAR TO A PHOTOGRAPH

BECAUSE MEN TOO GROW OLD

BUT THE VISUAL

OF THE MAN'S RESISTANCE TO BEING CAGED WHEN HE
FIRST GOES IN BEFORE THE VISUAL

IS PLACED ON A PRISON I.D.

GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES CAN SEIZE ALMOST ANYTHING
EVEN YOU

BUT DON'T EVER LET THEM TAKE YOUR BEGINNING

MAKE SURE YOU TAKE A PICTURE OF YOURS

SO ITS NEVER FORGOTTEN

BUT BELIEVED FOREVER

"BECAUSE SOME TIMES TRAGEDY COMES DRESSED LIKE A WOMAN IN A DRESS"

ROBERTO OLIVAS

BUT HE HAD TO ALLOW FOR UNFORSEEN SURPRISES
THE LITTLE BOY IN ME
WANTED TO CALL MY MOTHER FOR HELP
BUT THE MAN INSIDE OF THE LITTLE BOY
DIDN'T WANT TO APPEAR WEAK
BUT THE WARRIOR INSIDE THE MAN
WANTED TO LASH OUT
AND FIGHT THE WORLD
BUT THE LOVE INSIDE THE WARRIOR
INFLUENCED HIM TO COME IN SILENT PEACE
BUT THE TRAGIC PAIN THAT WAS WRAPPED AROUND THE LOVE
MADE HIM WANT TO CRY A RIVER
AND DROWN THE WHOLE WORLD
BUT AMAZINGLY A NEW LIFE CAME INTO THE SKY
AND A STAR WAS BORN
THIS CHANGED HIS POLITICAL INHIBITIONS
SO HE TOOK A STEP FORWARD
BY TAKING A STEP BACK
HE BECAME QUIET AGAIN
HE BEGAN TO WRITE
TO PAINT AGAIN
WITH A KNIFE TIED TO HIS LEG
AND A KNIFE IN THE DIRT ON THE YARD
WITH A POLITE SMILE
UTMOST RESPECT
AND POLITE SPEECH
WHEN IT WASN'T TIME TO SPEAK
HE LOOKED BACK DOWN AT THE BOOK IN HIS HAND
HE BECAME QUIET AGAIN
HE HAD TO LISTEN
LISTEN FOR MAIL-CALL

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"BECAUSE SOMETIMES TRAGEDY COMES DRESSED LIKE A WOMAN IN A DRESS
CONT."

ROBERTO OLIVAS

WATCH FOR DANGER

HE KNEW SOON IT WOULD BE TIME TO GO

NO WAY COULD HE LET HIMSELF BECOME OVER-EXCITED

YES, HE WANTED TO

BUT HE HAD TO ALLOW FOR UNFORSEEN SURPRISES