

## If I Want to Get Free

By Julissa Contreras

[@jewleesah](#)

How I finna be?  
If I wanna get free?  
No  
How should I be like?  
No  
Y yo?  
Y como me hago?  
Speak English?  
Like America?  
Y Democracia?  
No  
Y tu me vas resolver lo mio?  
No.  
So, then what do you require?  
How is it I gotta be? In order to inquire?  
Gotta have phonetics tied to white genetics. I get it.  
I speak 4 languages, and one is code,  
So I can switch, when you can't handle it.  
Inferiority dressed in Supreme? Or was that supremacy?  
Cool. That's why y'all took control of the school?  
School of thought, from a school of fish, living in a sunken ship.  
Survival, underwater, when the birds of your feathers don't want us to flock together.  
Which is better? Learning to swim, or convincing us that flying is the only way in.  
Reaching for the stars,  
Instead of digging to the core.  
Too much truth and ya'll don't wanna face no more.  
Why democracy gotta have us all fucked up for?  
Don't want me stealing from the rich?  
Stop trying to keep me poor.  
Even though you took what was theirs first, I'm pretty sure.  
Just like you copped my ancestors and brought them to shore.  
Matter fact you owe us, all the blood and sweat from these pores.  
'Cause we open one, but then you close another door.  
What's that for?

Illuminated barriers lit by gas,  
Hold fast to dreams, it's the only thing they can't take.  
Don't let that imposter syndrome get you down, and thinkin' that you fake.  
This is fate, mama said, when God says "yes" it's already too late  
Mama was never one to debate the color of her Jesus' skin,  
But she damn sure knew, no white man was greater than him.  
And God don't play with his children,  
Oshun, Alah, Madhuban,  
Wherever you pray, whatever you worshipping',  
What the universe gave to you, cannot be taken.  
So let's awaken, keep it real,

## If I Want to Get Free

By Julissa Contreras

[@jewleesah](#)

What can I say? How should I feel?  
Why democracy gotta have us all fucked up for, reveal  
What's the pyramid scheme here, and how do I get my end of the deal?  
'Cause I'm asking, grew up watching people masking their reality,  
No mandate, no COVID 19  
Just the certainty that if someone was guaranteed to suffer,  
It's gonna be me,  
In sync but out of touch.  
Hope, don't make it this far out, we shit out of luck.  
But what about what we've been?  
Tenacious, yet malleable, and bent.  
Fighting against a system before we really understood what it meant  
Before we were curious about our descent  
Or when we just felt some shit coming, cause a whole country depends  
On the repetition of our bodies not being innocent.  
Keep us in a cycle so they can profit again,  
Account for what we don't know, so they fool us and win.  
It can't be what it's not, so it is what it is.  
How many times does your poverty breed creativity?  
We show up to work thinkin' 'bout other possibilities.  
Writing business plans out like "Oouu I hope they fire me"  
'Cause extreme circumstances have always lit the fire in me.  
And you, Mr. Orange as fuck, stop lying to me.  
got me mad as all hell.

Ring the bell, it's time to knock the virus out.  
Covid might be here past November, but the White House gotta purge this Cheeto, no  
doubt.  
And about the thing I asked,  
How should I move, dique, rise to the task?  
To bask in the the glory of what we've worked past,  
To move forward and make this black lives matter issue the last.  
In contrast to popular belief,  
Being who we are, is exactly what we're supposed to be  
To make my nation deal with me,  
Regardless of their ideology.  
We are citizens, I am your responsibility.  
Want to take my mailbox? Fine, I'll vote in early.  
'Cause imma do what I have to do,  
If it means democracy.  
If democracy means some of the chains will loosen easily.  
If you could be you, without jeopardizing me.  
How I finna be?  
Can we meet on the other side of free?  
Then we can speak, democracy.