

[*trigger warning]

angry Black man is a trigger word in every government building. in the penitentiary, it is the way it has always been. if I write about what has been done to Black folks, by white folks, is a trigger warning to the editors of literary journals to claim solidarity with BIPOC writers, but wish you luck in placing your work elsewhere. trigger is the part of a gun that empowers white folks to decide when Black folks will die. is the trigger word for every negro's double consciousness. hey nigger! is the trigger word for feets don't fail me now. is the trigger to get all Stepin Fetchit saucer-eyed rabbit-in-the-headlights stereotypical. every Black child dead in the street is a trigger for police to act like they ain't the one who did it. Molotov cocktail is the trigger word for niggers only going to burn the wrong side of the tracks, is a trigger word for once the DOJ leaves it will be business as usual. justice under law & due process are trigger words for Black folk who are suffering from delusions of better than it used to be. blind bitch justice is white & racist, & not to be trusted. if I see that bitch caning her way down the street, I'm gonna push her mandatory minimum ass into traffic!! angry Black man is a trigger word on every daytime talk show, in every university classroom, at the Social Security office, is the trigger word for ban critical race theory, like it's something that hasn't been historically proven to have actually happened to us. knowing who we were, who we are, will trigger whom we come to be. trigger word is a warning to guilty cell-soldier racists who know Black folks ain't forgot shit. angry Black man is a trigger word for chickens come home to roost. Black Lives Matter is a trigger word for radical militant outside agitator, for Panthers packing gats in the Statehouse, is the trigger for Ronnie Raygun better pray his feets don't fail him now. are guns in Black hands the trigger word for Black folks have a right to defend themselves? what makes you think you will overcome by lawyering with their laws, praying to their God, non-violent protesting by permit, or waiting for due process to set you free? a trigger warning is July 1919 in Chicago, the Tulsa Massacre, the Rosewood Massacre, Trayvon, the Rev. Dr. MLK, Breonna, Michael, Tamir & every nigger lynched in the Red Summer of strange fruit. is a trigger word for Black folk there's your fucking precedence—is the trigger warning of ballistic perforations. is the **content warning for explicit language & examples of violence.*