

We Didn't See It Coming

We all lose count of the days, closed cafes, our lost pay, what the protocols require, or our misplaced desires, and the graphs and the deaths and the stats and last breaths.

We didn't see it coming

2020 a storm with no name or too many names or memes it seems

We ran out of things to blame

We didn't see it coming - this year

The wake-up call to see tenderly clear

Just what our brown-skinned neighbors fear

Daily, hourly, minutely – years

Being what we call woke - broke - our hearts – cracked open rages

Don't look away we told ourselves – stay - look

At all those kids in cages and their messed up developmental stages

We didn't see it coming

The new year rang in

We did mantras, memes, and mojos

Marinating in mindfulness

Or at least making resolutions to do so

Marking our marvelous management apps

Messaging, Marketing, Me and more Me – Clap! Clap!

Then the virus - it crept and silently leaped in like a flea

In heat or deleted tweet – invisible

We didn't see it coming

Until it struck our loved one's lungs

The government hid its truths just like a black man hung.

Heavy gates closed in and we were told to stay in

The streets - bare and quiet you could hear the drop of a pin.

Job sites, schools locked - kids in shell shock

Not washing hands and touching became the 8th and 9th deadly sins

We didn't see it coming

The dictionary on trial

Speaking justice on a screen sent back words to you – that were VILE

Truth was met on scrolling apps with a bloodbath that was hostile

Oh and then there was that presidential trial

Where he was guilty by a mile

And since then not too many friends have smiled.

Our feet hit the streets
In the heat of summer fury – a police – on his beat
With a black man on concrete – 8 minutes on repeat
His glassy eyes etched into our heartbeats
Thoughts and prayers turned sticky sweet

Science and Justice turned inside out
The Pen versus Sword – both are sharpened – Ouch
We didn't see it coming
Reliance on Science became Science Defiance
Robustness of Justice weakened to
“Hey, you just can't trust us.”

We miss our parties, our trivial pursuit smarties
Cancelled conferences, cancelled shows, cancelled rites of passage,
But just a little hug, mom? – NO!
Those willing to risk infection marched maskless in defection
And some are just angry that the droplets project
So they can't get their hair cut or a botox inject.

That colorful virus unseen
Can enter every border
Be a hoarder in our bloodstream
And create such global disorder

We didn't see it coming
We thought we had great plans
We can't make an emoji funny
That captures this year's timespan.

2020 took our breath away
But not in that line-from-a-love-song way.
Too many of us gasp – Hey! I can't last
This year hurts my lungs I need a new airway.