

STATISTIC

“Son, you will not be a statistic, and I don’t want you to be a statistic.”

Statistic.

Mother, I will not, and shall not, be a statistic.

Just because I am black that does not mean I will die before 21.

Just because I am black that does not mean I will live in poverty,

like a monstrous dog turned on its family

destined to die with no story to be told,

nothing completed.

Statistic.

No, I will live, even though I’m labeled a statistic

by society
by the state
by everyone

by the government who won’t even give life a chance.

I will thrive through the books of education and fight on the battlefield
of life through the words of society and it will never stop.

I will not be a statistic.

I will not

Statistic.

Average.

I will become something no one expects a black man to be because average isn’t good enough for me.