

RAIN ENOUGH

By John Neblett

Good afternoon, ladies and gentleman. Thank you for coming. The piece I—the act—the part I played in *Hamlet* was King Claudius, and we did work on the project for many months and when this project was proposed I was at a loss as to what I was going to write about, but when I really got into my part, there was some lines that Claudius had that sparked me. And it inspired me to write about it, about my life, concerning my life before my crime, what led up to my crime, how I feel about my crime now. And I call it *Rain Enough* based on those lines from *Hamlet*.

“.....What if this cursed hand
Were thicker than itself with brother’s blood,
Is there not rain enough in the sweet heavens
To wash it white as snow?”

So here’s my piece, *Rain Enough*.

Rain Enough

The best thing my momma said about me
Before my choices changed our lives
She said, “You are my gold”
When she looked into my eyes.
I didn’t understand – the future would unfold

A world of pain would shape her boy
Into a thief who’d steal the joy
From another who loved her son as much as her
I’d learn to hide my fears and pains
Behind a face just confident
Enough, most people chose to see...nothing.

The ideas I had about being a man
Were based on lies to sell more guns
The market is more important than being human.
The commercial that I starred in
Was my soul’s imagination:
The best beer and a beautiful girl for my own.

This dream became a nightmare
For a family just becoming
My subconscious was too explosive to handle beer.
A volatile mix of alcohol
And fear awakened by a look

Unleashed a beast who thought a gun was all

My anger needed to end this fear,

And Roberto was a sacrifice

His wife and son, his aunt and mom, survivors all would share.

A grief beyond my comprehension

I'd reached the age of twenty-one

And empathy was something I couldn't imagine.

But now I know about fool's gold

And I can't help but wonder if

Momma wished this story never told.

Thank you.