

Let America Be Empathetic Again

By Darra Kelly

Let America be empathetic again
Let it be the place that gives a loving gift like Santa Claus on a toasty Christmas night
The place where we huddle together like a group of meerkats
Seeking a lavish, luxurious, land, of love and living

(America has never felt my pain)

Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed
Let it be the country that forgives
Where people feel for the ones who are hurt like Jonas from *The Giver*,

Like Martin Luther King
Who helped his own people
Because he had a dream

Like Atticus Finch
Striving to make bells of justice ring

Like Angie Thomas
Writing freedom with words

Like the nice high school student
Who stood up for the nerds

(America saw what was hurt, but covered it up like a Band-Aid)

Oh, let my land be land where Generosity is crowned
Where hate is the worst crime
Where being rude is not allowed
(It's never been a place that understands like a therapist)

I am the poor
I am the rich
I am the minority
I am the people
And I am the one finding who is struggling and walking in their shoes

Once we're loving, generous, empathetic, and kind,
Once when we act upon ourselves to fix what we broke and help others,
Once we treat others respectfully, empathize with the ones being hurt by our actions,
And use a blanket of love to warm up the cold hate of the world.

Then, and only then, America will be America again.