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A Decade Rolls

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“Y’all motherfuckers better listen up.”

A pariah’s words are sharp against the ears of the crowd that she would have called family. Words of wrath spilled from her mouth, describing her pain, describing their betrayal. Rich Anglos abandoning another cause when they got everything they wanted, you would have thought queer people would know better. Rivera’s words turned a crowd of spiteful folks into a crowd roaring “gay power” but where was their gay power when a decade passed?

Disease is in their veins now, and once again Rich Anglos are trying to distance themselves, you would have thought queer people would know better. No no no, leave AIDs that to the people of color, the tr*nnies, the white trash. This isn’t a pandemic that needs to affect the entirety of the queer population, isn’t it? There is no pariah to help them scream out gay power this time, no this time they forget to fight at all. This time everyone lets a shadow of hate cloud our futures again.

A decade rolls around, and this time it isn’t disease or infighting that affects us. The 90s are just too cool for things like that, they can get by on old fashioned gay bashing. Turning a word that describes us into the funniest joke that the world has ever heard. Let the world hate the gays, let them push gays of color, the tr*nnies, the white trash into worse and worse conditions. No no no, what’s really important is changing how the WHO classifies us (1991). What is important is letting us kiss on television (1991). What’s really important is lifting travel bans on us, is it really lifting travel bans if half of us are too poor to travel? It took until 1998 for gays of San Francisco to even think about letting transpeople join their groups. Rich Anglos rally against discrimination against queer people, but only discrimination that they have to deal with. You would have thought queer people would know better.

A decade rolls around.

But we know how the story is going to go.

Us queer people that aren’t wealthy are going to be left behind.

They're probably gonna get up in arms about marriage rights rather than rallying against employment discrimination. They're probably gonna get up in arms about letting queer people get into political offices rather than making sure apartment managers can't kick people out of their homes for being gay. They're probably gonna get up in arms around television making too many gay jokes rather than rallying around the trans community.

Rich Anglos get the most say even when they're in a community they're distancing themselves from.

You would have thought queer people would know better.

A decade rolls around.