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***I, Tituba, Black Witch of Salem*** [**Playlist**](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnATghdpLTjbGZ287RokgJ-yHgcuETiD8)

**\*\*Adult Language\*\***

1. “Stairway to Heaven” by Led Zeppelin

“There's a lady who's sure

All that glitters is gold

And she's buying a stairway to Heaven

When she gets there she knows

If the stores are all closed

With a word she can get what she came for

Oh oh oh oh and she's buying a stairway to Heaven

There's a sign on the wall

But she wants to be sure

'Cause you know sometimes words have two meanings

In a tree by the brook

There's a songbird who sings

Sometimes all of our thoughts are misgiving

Ooh, it makes me wonder

Ooh, it makes me wonder

There's a feeling I get

When I look to the west

And my spirit is crying for leaving

In my thoughts I have seen

Rings of smoke through the trees

And the voices of those who standing looking

Ooh, it makes me wonder

Ooh, it really makes me wonder

And it's whispered that soon, If we all call the tune

Then the piper will lead us to reason

And a new day will dawn

For those who stand long

And the forests will echo with laughter

If there's a bustle in your hedgerow

Don't be alarmed now

It's just a spring clean for the May queen

Yes, there are two paths you can go by

But in the long run

There's still time to change the road you're on

And it makes me wonder

Your head is humming and it won't go

In case you don't know

The piper's calling you to join him

Dear lady, can you hear the wind blow?

And did you know

Your stairway lies on the whispering wind?

And as we wind on down the road

Our shadows taller than our soul

There walks a lady we all know

Who shines white light and wants to show

How everything still turns to gold

And if you listen very hard

The tune will come to you at last

When all are one and one is all

To be a rock and not to roll

And she's buying a stairway to Heaven”

My interpretation of this song in the context of Tituba’s life refers to the disillusionment of so many of the white people she meets throughout the story. According to the lyrics, “There’s a lady who’s sure/ All that glitters is gold/ And she’s buying a stairway to Heaven”. The woman being referred to is representative of the Puritan church in the novel; they are hypocrites who are more than ready to condemn others eternally while ignoring their own problematic behavior. In my playlist the lyrics, “There’s a feeling I get when I look to the west/ And my spirit is crying for leaving/ In my thoughts I have seen/Rings of smoke through the trees/And the voices of those who stand looking,” refer to the feeling Tituba continually has about leaving Barbados, which she desperately misses. The last couple lines are indicative of the warnings her spirit family give her about her future.

1. “Dreams” by Fleetwood Mac

“Now here you go again

You say you want your freedom

Well, who am I to keep you down

It's only right that you should

Play the way you feel it

But listen carefully

To the sound of your loneliness

Like a heartbeat drives you mad

In the stillness of remembering what you had

And what you lost

And what you had

And what you lost

Thunder only happens when it's rainin'

Players only love you when they're playin'

Say women, they will come and they will go

When the rain washes you clean, you'll know

You'll know

Now here I go again

I see the crystal visions

I keep my visions to myself

It's only me who wants to wrap around your dreams

And have you any dreams you'd like to sell?

Dreams of loneliness

Like a heartbeat drives you mad

In the stillness of remembering what you had

And what you lost

And what you had

Ooh, what you lost

Thunder only happens when it's rainin'

Players only love you when they're playin'

Women, they will come and they will go

When the rain washes you clean, you'll know

Oh, thunder only happens when it's rainin'

Players only love you when they're playin'

Say women, they will come and they will go

When the rain washes you clean, you'll know

You'll know

You will know

Oh, you'll know”

[LyricFind]

Fleetwood Mac is a perfect choice to represent Tituba, as the lead singer Stevie Nicks actually self-identifies as a witch in real life. This song functions really well in relation to Tituba’s tumultuous relationship with John Indian. He continuously would flirt with Tituba as well as other women, regardless of how much it hurt her. John was very quick to abandon Tituba when her situation became dire; when supporting her would have been more work than fun in the end. Therefore, the lyrics, “Players only love you when they’re playin’/Women, they will come and they will go/When the rain washes you clean, you’ll know” refer to the game that John Indian likes to play with people-- acting fun and charming until the first sign of trouble. If he wanted to continually find other people to be with he could, but eventually when they all leave him for the next best thing he will understand what he did to Tituba. This is the rain the lyrics refer to; Tituba is often equated to nature in the novel. The section, “I see the crystal visions/ I keep my visions to myself/It’s only me who wants to wrap around your dreams,” refers to the warnings her spiritual family continually provide her about losing John anyway; Tituba wraps herself around John’s dreams for a family constantly.

1. “Beautiful Disaster” by Kelly Clarkson

“He drowns in his dreams

An exquisite extreme I know

He's as damned as he seems

And more heaven than a heart could hold

And if I try to save him

My whole world could cave in

It just ain't right

It just ain't right

Oh and I don't know

I don't know what he's after

But he's so beautiful

Such a beautiful disaster

And if I could hold on

Through the tears and the laughter

Would it be beautiful

Or just a beautiful disaster

He's magic and myth

As strong as what I believe

A tragedy with

More damage than a soul should see

And do I try to change him

So hard not to blame him

Hold on tight

Hold on tight

Oh and I don't know

I don't know what he's after

But he's so beautiful

Such a beautiful disaster

And if I could hold on

Through the tears and the laughter

Would it be beautiful

Or just a beautiful disaster

I'm longing for love and the logical

But he's only happy hysterical

I'm waiting for some kind of miracle

Waited so long

So long

He's soft to the touch

But frayed at the ends he breaks

He's never enough

And still he's more than I can take

Oh 'cause I don't know

I don't know what he's after

But he's so beautiful

Such a beautiful disaster

And if I could hold on

Through the tears and the laughter

Would it be beautiful

Or just a beautiful disaster

He's beautiful

Such a beautiful disaster

Beautiful (Beautiful disaster)

Beautiful disaster”

[Lyricfind.com]

This song is perfect for the self-contradicting love/hate that Tituba feels for John Indian by the end of the novel. Throughout her story, she has always been caught up in how attractive she finds John. Initially, his exuberant happiness was something she found charming, but in the end she realized it was indicative of his lack of commitment to anything, “I don’t know what he’s after/But he’s so beautiful/Such a beautiful disaster/And if I could hold on/Through the tears and the laughter/Would it be beautiful/ Or just a beautiful disaster”. Despite John’s lack of ability as a strong character, Tituba still desperately wanted things to work out for them. Tituba found a lot of empowerment through her sexuality, which John Indian helped her to embrace. This is represented in the line, “He’s never enough/And still he’s more than I can take”. “He’s magic and myth/As strong as what I believe in...And I do try to change him/So hard not to blame him”, this section reminds me of the treatment Tituba received when she chose to live with John at the Endicotts’. He has no problem getting Susanna to laugh and allow him to do essentially whatever he wants, telling Tituba to just take the hand that she’s dealt regardless of how it feels.

1. “You Are Not Alone” by Michael Jackson

“Another day has gone

I'm still all alone

How could this be

You're not here with me

You never said goodbye

Someone tell me why

Did you have to go

And leave my world so cold

Everyday I sit and ask myself

How did love slip away

Something whispers in my ear and says

That you are not alone

For I am here with you

Though you're far away

I am here to stay

But you are not alone

I am here with you

Though we're far apart

You're always in my heart

You are not alone

Alone, alone

Why, alone

Just the other night

I thought I heard you cry

Asking me to come

And hold you in my arms

I can hear your prayers

Your burdens I will bear

But first I need your hand

Then forever can begin

Everyday I sit and ask myself

How did love slip away

Something whispers in my ear and says

That you are not alone

For I am here with you

Though you're far away

I am here to stay

But you are not alone

And I am here with you

Though we're far apart

You're always in my heart

For you are not alone

Whisper three words and I'll come runnin'

And girl you know that I'll be there

I'll be there

You are not alone

I am here with you

Though you're far away

I am here to stay

For you are not alone

I am here with you

Though we're far apart

You're always in my heart

For you are not alone (you are not alone)

For I am here with you (I am here with you)

Though you're far away (though you're far away)

(You and me) I am here to stay

For you are not alone (you are always in my heart)

For I am here with you though we're far apart

You're always in my heart

For you are not alone not alone, oh”

[LyricFind.com]

Although this song was written about a romantic lover, I think it works very well as a representation of how it feels when Tituba communicates with her spirit family. This relationship is something she worries about a lot throughout the novel, especially once she leaves Barbados and goes across the water. She knows her spirit family is further away than ever, and she always feels as though her power is reliant upon them at least somewhat. I feel like this song is Tituba lamenting how far she has gone from her family, worried that she won’t have contact with them anymore, and then, “Something whispers in my ear and says/You are not alone/I am here with you/Though you’re far away/I am here to stay...Though we’re far apart/You’re always in my heart”. This is also perfectly representative of what it’s like for Tituba when her spirit family pops up to talk to her, because it usually is something very subtle like a whisper in her ear. Another perfect lyric is, “Whisper three words and I’ll come runnin’/And girl you know that I’ll be there”, because to me this could refer to the necessary sacrifices Tituba must perform when she is far away from home in order to make her spirit family appear.

1. “Red” by Taylor Swift

“Loving him is like

Driving a new Maserati down a dead-end street

Faster than the wind

Passionate as sin

Ending so suddenly

Loving him is like

Trying to change your mind once you're already flying through the free fall

Like the colors in autumn, so bright

Just before they lose it all

Losing him was blue like I'd never known

Missing him was dark grey, all alone

Forgetting him was like trying to know somebody you never met

But loving him was red (re-e-e-ed, re-e-e-ed)

(Re-e-e-ed, re-e-e-ed)

Loving him was red (re-e-e-ed, re-e-e-ed)

(Re-e-e-ed, re-e-e-ed)

Touching him was like

Realizing all you ever wanted was right there in front of you

Memorizing him was as

Easy as knowing all the words to your old favorite song

Fighting with him was like

Trying to solve a crossword and realizing there's no right answer

Regretting him was like

Wishing you never found out that love could be that strong

Losing him was blue like I'd never known

Missing him was dark grey, all alone

Forgetting him was like trying to know somebody you never met

But loving him was red (re-e-e-ed, re-e-e-ed)

Oh, red (re-e-e-ed, re-e-e-ed)

Burning red (re-e-e-ed, re-e-e-ed)

(Re-e-e-ed, re-e-e-ed)

Remembering him comes in flashbacks

And echoes

Tell myself it's time now

Gotta let go

But moving on from him is impossible

When I still see it all in my head

In burning red

Burning it was red

Oh, losing him was blue like I'd never known

Missing him was dark grey, all alone

Forgetting him was like trying to know somebody you never met

'Cause loving him was red (re-e-e-ed, re-e-e-ed)

Yeah, yeah, red (re-e-e-ed, re-e-e-ed)

Oh, burning red (re-e-e-ed, re-e-e-ed)

(Re-e-e-ed, re-e-e-ed)

And that's why he's spinning 'round in my head (re-e-e-ed, re-e-e-ed)

Comes back to me, burning red (re-e-e-ed, re-e-e-ed)

Yeah, yeah (re-e-e-ed, re-e-e-ed)

His love was like

Driving a new Maserati down a dead-end street”

[LyricFind.com]

I am going to shift the perspective of this song slightly; it was originally written as a romantic love song. However, I think it serves very well as a lament from Tituba to her unborn children. She experiences very contradictory emotions regarding both of her unborn children, and the situation never allows her to be a mother as she wants to be. Therefore, the lyrics, “Loving him is like/Driving a new Maserati down a dead-end street/Faster than the wind/Passionate as sin/Ending so suddenly” show the intense happiness that Tituba felt about her pregnancies at first, followed quickly by the dreadful set in of reality that she cannot have these children in the world she was currently living in. Throughout the rest of the novel, Tituba is absolutely haunted by her choice to abort her first child, “Remembering him comes in flashbacks/And echoes/Tell myself it’s time now/Gotta let go/But moving on from him is impossible/When I still see it all in my head/In burning red”. These lines are perfect for this context because Tituba does constantly see images of her unborn baby in her mind, and it makes her feel a myriad of emotions; she experiences those thoughts ‘in burning red’ emotion.

1. “Beautiful is Boring” by BONES UK

“You're never gunna save those soul suckers

You're never gunna save those soul suckers

You're never gunna save those soul suckers

You're never gunna save those soul suckers

Beautiful

They said they did not want my face in their magazine

'Cause I'm not beautiful

Am I the most fucking fantastic freak

You've ever seen? Did I make you scream?

Do we make you sick?

Do our imperfections make your blue breath run thick?

Give me scars and stripes

It does not please me to be easy on any of your eyes

Any of your eyes

Beautiful, Beautiful Is Boring

Beautiful, Beautiful Is Boring

Beautiful, Beautiful Is Boring

Beautiful, Beautiful Is Boring

You're never gunna save those soul suckers

You're never gunna save those soul suckers

Fall flawless to the floor

Shady lady gave me 'Ketones' so I might be decor

Just pass me my cigar

Teaching children to be anything

Other than who they are, who they are

Beautiful, Beautiful Is Boring

Beautiful, Beautiful Is Boring

Beautiful, Beautiful Is Boring

Beautiful, Beautiful Is Boring

You're never gunna save those soul suckers

You're never gunna save their souls

You're never gunna save those soul suckers

You're never gunna save those soul suckers

You're never gunna save those soul suckers

You're never gunna save their souls

Beautiful, Beautiful Is Boring

Beautiful, Beautiful Is Boring

Beautiful, Beautiful Is Boring

Beautiful, Beautiful Is Boring”

[Musixmatch]

This song makes me think of when Tituba first meets John Indian and he tells her she could be beautiful if she wanted to, as well as when they go to the Endicotts and Tituba is judged based on her appearance by a bunch of white women. At first she truly feels bad, but when Tituba finally realizes who she is again, she casts off the images that the white women had of her. The truth is, she never cared about beauty. To her, “beautiful is boring” because she is more commonly engaged in the supernatural-- far more fun than the trivialities of mankind. When she becomes herself again, I’d like to think that she embraced the idea of being horrifying to those who oppressed her, “Am I the most fucking fantastic freak/You’ve ever seen?/Did I make you scream?/...Give me scars and stripes/It does not please me to be easy on any of your eyes”. Even though Tituba loves many of the white people around her who hurt her, they prove that no matter how good her intentions are that she will always be vilified. Therefore, I think part of these lyrics are essentially being whispered to Tituba by her spirit family, “You’re never gunna save those soul suckers/You’re never gunna save their souls” because although Tituba knows they are all the same, the whites are on a path of destruction which they cannot be saved from.

1. “One Job” by TeaMarr

“Dry your eyes

The fuck you crying for?

Where's your spine?

You ain't got that no more?

The dick is fire

That's what I signed up for

But after all this time you're so damn insecure

You only had one job

Nigga da fuck

You only had one job

Nigga da fuck

You only had one job

Da fuck

You only you only you only had one

Real niggas a myth

They on a decline

Real niggas extinct

Real niggas a lie

Nigga I thought saw your worth

That shit got declined

I hit low cause you hit lower

Turned into someone

Then lost control

Because my pum tun up

Think I'm cold when I cut you off

You get emotional

Dry your eyes

The fuck you crying for?

Where's your spine?

You ain't got that no more?

The dick is fire

That's what I signed up for

But after all this time you're so damn insecure

You only had one job

Nigga da fuck

You only had one job

Nigga da fuck

You only had one job

Da fuck

You only you only you only had one

Real niggas a myth they're on a decline

Fraud niggas exist 3 outta 5

I show these niggas no love

All of the time

I hit low cause you hit lower

Turned into someone

Then lost control

Because my pum tun up

Think I'm cold when I cut you off

You get emotional

Dry your eyes

The fuck you crying for?

Where's your spine?

You ain't got that no more?

The dick is fire

That's what I signed up for

But after all this time you're so damn insecure

You only had one job

Nigga da fuck

You only had one job

Nigga da fuck

You only had one job

Da fuck

You only you only you only had one

I'm petty when you offend my loyalty

I know you really want me to believe you now

Quit acting like a bitch your in your feelings

No no no no bullshit babe

Dry your eyes

The fuck you crying for?

Where's your spine?

You ain't got that no more?

The dick is fire

That's what I signed up for

But after all this time you're so damn insecure

You only had one job

Nigga da fuck

You only had one job

Nigga da fuck

You only had one job

Da fuck

You only you only you only had one”

[Musixmatch]

This song is representative of all the frustration Tituba felt toward John Indian by the end of the novel. Specifically, the lyrics, “Dry your eyes/The fuck you crying for?/Where’s your spine?/You ain’t got that no more?” refer to when John became one of the little girls crying “witch!” in order to save his skin, so that he would not be suspected for being involved in witchcraft. This is especially horrendous to Tituba, who is forced to realized that John Indian only cares about himself, and has no limits as to how low he will go in order to keep his name clean. Thus, the lyrics, “The dick is fire/That’s what I signed up for/But after all this time you’re so damn insecure/You only had one job/Nigga da fuck/You only had one job/Da fuck”, it’s perfect for how Tituba must have been feeling; knowing that all she wanted was to be able to love each other. The ‘one job’ he had was to love her; be loyal and supportive, rather than telling her to just accept the way she’s being treated, or worse yet, becoming one of the people pointing fingers. I believe the repetition in this section throughout the song is perfectly representative of the confusion and hurt that Tituba feels about the history of events between her and John. The icing on the cake is, “Real niggas a myth/They on a decline/Real niggas extinct/Real niggas a lie/Nigga I thought saw your worth/That shit got declined/I hit low cause you hit lower/Turned into someone/Then lost control”; here Tituba is recognizing that men are just never on the same level as women, and that what she continually saw in John Indian was simply her own hope for their potential.

1. “I Feel Like A God” by DeathbyRomy

“Ooh, ooh

[Welcome to my contradiction](https://genius.com/Deathbyromy-i-feel-like-a-god-lyrics#note-19815456)

[I'm soft, but I like the friction](https://genius.com/Deathbyromy-i-feel-like-a-god-lyrics#note-19815456)

I'm scared, yeah, it's an addiction

[I scream the whispers in my brain](https://genius.com/Deathbyromy-i-feel-like-a-god-lyrics#note-19815487)

[I drain the secrets from my veins](https://genius.com/Deathbyromy-i-feel-like-a-god-lyrics#note-19815487)

They sleep, but I bring the pain

[Why, why is everything wrong right now?](https://genius.com/Deathbyromy-i-feel-like-a-god-lyrics#note-19815515)

[I, I feel so alive right now](https://genius.com/Deathbyromy-i-feel-like-a-god-lyrics#note-19815515)

[Why, why is everything falling down?](https://genius.com/Deathbyromy-i-feel-like-a-god-lyrics#note-19815515)

[I, I feel so alive right now](https://genius.com/Deathbyromy-i-feel-like-a-god-lyrics#note-19815515) (Ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh)

I feel like a god right now

I feel like a god right now

I feel like a god right now

[Nothing you can do about me](https://genius.com/Deathbyromy-i-feel-like-a-god-lyrics#note-19815538)

[So high that you cannot touch me](https://genius.com/Deathbyromy-i-feel-like-a-god-lyrics#note-19815538)

[Untouchable and I'm free](https://genius.com/Deathbyromy-i-feel-like-a-god-lyrics#note-19815538)

[My favorite game's deviation](https://genius.com/Deathbyromy-i-feel-like-a-god-lyrics#note-19815565)

[Steer far from the population](https://genius.com/Deathbyromy-i-feel-like-a-god-lyrics#note-19815565)

[Follow me to your sweet salvation](https://genius.com/Deathbyromy-i-feel-like-a-god-lyrics#note-19815565)

Why, why is everything wrong right now?

I, I feel so alive right now

Why, why is everything falling down?

I, I feel so alive right now (Ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh)

I feel like a god right now

I feel like a god right now

I feel like a god right now

I feel like a god right now

I feel like a god right now

I feel like a god right now

I feel like a god right now

I feel like a god right now

I feel like a god right now

I feel like a god right now

I feel like a god right now

I feel like a god right now”

[genius.com]

For me, this song is mostly about when Tituba essentially becomes a god in her afterlife, and one of the sections is representative of several of the scenes wherein Tituba is experiencing intense sorrow and loss. The lyrics, “Welcome to my contradiction/I’m soft but I like the friction/I’m scared, yeah, it’s an addiction” refer to the love that Tituba has for John Indian because she knows from the beginning that it’s not going to work out for them, yet she loves him and chooses to stay. The next section, “I scream the whispers in my brain/I drain the secrets from my veins”, is representative of several scenes in the novel where Tituba is lamenting over the warnings her spiritual family gave her, and yet she couldn’t do anything to change the outcomes. Her “draining the secrets from her veins” is good imagery for when she is performing her rituals, secrets which she pulls from within her existence and that of her ancestors; their secrets still alive in the blood in her veins. Then once she has moved into the afterlife, Tituba ascends to a point that she is untouchable, “Nothing you can do about me/So high that you cannot touch me/Untouchable and I’m free/My favorite game’s deviation/Steer far from the population/Follow me to your sweet salvation”. This section, to me, is a perfect representation of how Tituba must feel in the afterlife; finally being where none can hurt her, and yet she can send generations of deviants to disturb the “peace” of the white man’s society.

1. “Freedom” by Beyonce feat. Kendrick Lamar

“Tryna rain, tryna rain on the thunder

Tell the storm I'm new

I'm a wall, come and march on the regular

Painting white flags blue

Lord forgive me, I've been running

Running blind in truth

I'ma rain, I'ma rain on this bitter love

Tell the sweet I'm new

I'm telling these tears, go and fall away, fall away

May the last one burn into flames

Freedom

Freedom

I can't move

Freedom, cut me loose

Singin', freedom

Freedom

Where are you?

'Cause I need freedom, too

I break chains all by myself

Won't let my freedom rot in hell

Hey! I'ma keep running

'Cause a winner don't quit on themselves

I'ma wade, I'ma wave through the waters

Tell the tide, "Don't move"

I'ma riot, I'ma riot through your borders

Call me bulletproof

Lord forgive me, I've been runnin'

Runnin' blind in truth

I'ma wade, I'ma wave through your shallow love

Tell the deep I'm new

I'm telling these tears, go and fall away, fall away

May the last one burn into flames

Freedom

Freedom

I can't move

Freedom, cut me loose

Singin', freedom

Freedom

Where are you?

'Cause I need freedom, too

I break chains all by myself

Won't let my freedom rot in hell

Hey! I'ma keep running

'Cause a winner don't quit on themselves

Ten Hail Marys, I meditate for practice

Channel nine news tell me I'm movin' backwards

Eight blocks left, death is around the corner

Seven misleadin' statements 'bout my persona

Six headlights wavin' in my direction

Five-o askin' me what's in my possession

Yeah I keep runnin', jump in the aqueducts

Fire hydrants and hazardous

Smoke alarms on the back of us

But mama don't cry for me, ride for me

Try for me, live for me

Breathe for me, sing for me

Honestly guidin' me

I could be more than I gotta be

Stole from me, lied to me, nation hypocrisy

Code on me, drive on me

Wicked, my spirit inspired me

Like yeah, open correctional gates in higher desert

Yeah, open our mind as we cast away oppression

Yeah, open the streets and watch our beliefs

And when they carve my name inside the concrete

I pray it forever reads

Freedom

Freedom

I can't move

Freedom, cut me loose

Singin', freedom! Freedom! Where are you?

'Cause I need freedom, too

I break chains all by myself

Won't let my freedom rot in hell

Hey! I'ma keep running

'Cause a winner don't quit on themselves

What you want from me?

Is it truth you seek?

Oh, Father, can you hear me?

What you want from me?

Is it truth you seek?

Oh, Father, can you hear me?

Hear me out

"I had my ups and downs

But I always find the inner strength to pull myself up

I was served lemons, but I made lemonade"

[LyricFind]

This song puts me into the moment when Tituba decides for the sake of her unborn baby that she’s still going to fight; not for herself, but for those to come after her. This song is perfect to represent Tituba because of all the nature imagery as well, because Tituba is always equated to nature in the novel. So in lines like, “Tryna rain, tryna rain on the thunder/Tell the storm I’m new...Painting white flags blue”, she’s actually speaking to herself, where she has lived contradictorily in order to find personal freedom in the past, she is putting her pain aside to create a new future for those after her. This is why she’s “painting white flags blue”, she’s not okay with being silent and complicit anymore. Even in death she knows, “I break chains all by myself/Won’t let my freedom rot in hell/Hey! I’m a keep running/A winner don’t quit on themselves”. Tituba knows that the freedom she finds in the afterlife for herself means nothing when her people are still living in oppression, unempowered and subsisting on the white man’s lies about who they are.

1. “Patient Zero” by Chav

“You can call me patient zero

You can call me "freak" and "weirdo"

You can stab me in the heart, and leave me in the dark

But I’m still standing here though

You can run away and hide

But I will always be inside

You can say you got a choice, but I’m that tiny voice

That howls in your mind

'Cause I’m the monster in your head right now

Call first responders 'fore i slay this crowd

Don’t give me dollars, I don’t want that clout

Just give me what your soul allows

Yeah, I’m the monster underneath your bed

I’m a psychedelic crawling in your head

Imma wake you up from the walking dеad

So we can feel alive again

We can bе the next mutation

We can be the new sensation

Can you feel the change of heart? The candle in the dark?

Yeah, it’s a transformation

Damn, this shit’s almost spiritual

Fam, we might be the miracle

When you hear the siren sing its song

It echoes on and on and on and on

'Cause I’m the monster in your head right now

Call first responders 'fore i slay this crowd

Don’t give me dollars, I don’t want that clout

Just give me what your soul allows

Yeah, I’m the monster underneath your bed

I’m a psychedelic crawling in your head

Imma wake you up from the walking dead

So we can feel alive again

Tip toes tap in the hallway

Tit for tat til you scream

Telltale signs of me always

Everywhere, you’ll never see

Tip toes tap in the hallway

Tit for tat til you’re scream (Ahh)

I’ll be there in the small ways

Guiding you til you find relief

'Cause I’m the monster in your head right now

Call first responders 'fore i slay this crowd

Don’t give me dollars, I don’t want that clout

Just give me what your soul allows

Yeah, I’m the monster underneath your bed

I’m a psychedelic crawling in your head

Imma wake you up from the walking dead

So we can feel alive again

Yuh”

[Genius.com]

This song makes me think of the hypocrisy of the whites around Tituba throughout the novel. The “Satanic” or “unholy” behavior they are so quick to find and eradicate actually comes from their own actions in trying to create a villain to blame. The lyrics, “You can run and hide/But I will always be inside/You can say you got a choice, but I’m that tiny voice/That howls in your mind/’Cause I’m the monster in your head right now,” are representative of when Hester told Tituba to embrace the narratives the whites are trying to write her into about being a witch. She wants Tituba to become what they’re afraid of so that she is pardoned, but she also wants Tituba to realize that there is power in fear. This song also has good lyrics for when Tituba has passed and become the world, encouraging the future generations to live and rebel, “Tip toes tap in the hallway/Tit for tat til you scream/Telltale signs of me always/Everywhere, you’ll never see”. In the novel, Tituba never purposely wanted to scare or hurt anyone, but I love the intentionality of this song in the context of becoming everything someone tries to paint you as and taking revenge upon them in that form. The lines, “Imma wake you up from the walking dead/So we can feel alive again” refer to how John Indian would say the slave’s job is to survive; in Tituba’s eyes, those being oppressed have developed learned helplessness. So she takes it upon herself to encourage them to demand for more.

**Artist Statement**

I have grown up making music as well as listening to it, and any song has the potential to evoke very strong emotions from me. This is the same way with literature. Reading *I, Tituba, Black Witch of Salem* was an incredibly emotional journey for me, so I figured there would be no better experience of Tituba’s story than combining Maryse Conde’s literature with the highly potent genre of music. Often while reading certain passages in I, Tituba, I felt absolute despair as I was baptized into a broad depth of emotion which felt unjustified by the amount of words it took to create a heart-wrenching scene. Therefore, I wanted to create this playlist to provide space for people to exist in and experience some of what Tituba felt so as to further spread the lessons her pain continues to teach.

Much of Tituba’s story would not be if it were not for her undying love for John Indian. The myriad situations she got into simply for want of a strong, living love haunt Tituba as they happen to her. She always laments John Indian for not being who she thought he was, and leading her into the oppression she feels she has now chosen for herself. Therefore, many of the songs on this playlist are focused on the spectrum of feelings Tituba harbors for John Indian. Toward the end of the playlist, Tituba has discovered the power she has independently of any man or woman.

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