

## **The Ballad of Sandra Bland**

Lyrics co-written with Eric Maring

Do you remember Sandra Bland?  
The flowers and the feelings and total despair of Sandra Bland  
Told it to us plain and told it to us true  
Nobody needs me and nobody needs you  
Do you remember Sandra Bland?

She grew up in Chicago  
Sister of Sigma Gamma Rho  
Tenth day of July  
On a Prairie View, Texas Drive  
Do you remember Sandra Bland?

The flowers and the feelings and total despair of Sandra Bland  
The smoke she had in front of the man to cool her hand  
The pride and loss that she shared  
Someone, anyone, anywhere  
Do you remember Sandra Bland?

Did she hear the ankle shackles?  
Did she hear the jailer's keys?  
Did she hear the lash of the whip?  
Or the plead of "Dear God, please"  
Did you ever fail to signal?  
Did you ever drive while black?  
Did you ever get fed up?  
Did you ever feel like talking back?

Hold my hand I want to understand Sandra Bland  
A line in the sand can you understand Sandra Bland  
They dragged her soul into our lives  
Cut her up with forks and knives  
Do you remember Sandra Bland?

She took a long drag on a cigarette  
To calm those jumpy nerves  
What did I do sir?  
What do I deserve?  
What did I do sir?  
What do I deserve?  
Do you remember Sandra Bland?

Can a lion and a lamb?  
Can a fox and a hen?  
Can brown and black and white?  
Can woman and man?  
Can a cage do any good  
For a nation's spirit or mind?  
Can we ever solve our history?  
Can justice be blind?

Black woman on the road carrying the load, and it's a heavy load

Take her on down to the pen in town with a heavy load  
Hold her inside and scribble her name  
Such a price, such a price for fame  
Do you remember the name Sandra Bland?

What happened in that cell, Sandra Bland?  
The walls will never tell, Sandra Bland  
It's a solitary boat  
It's our story that she wrote  
Do you remember Sandra Bland?

Did she hear the ankle shackles?  
Did she hear the jailer's keys?  
Did she hear the lash of the whip?  
Or the plead of "Dear God, please"  
Did you ever fail to signal?  
Did you ever drive while black?  
Did you ever get fed up?  
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