

*Be a nuisance when it counts. Do your part to inform and stimulate the public to join your action. Be depressed, discouraged, & disappointed at failure & the disheartening effects of ignorance, greed, corruption & bad politics — but never give up.*

—Marjory Stoneman Douglas

shooter man sir

Christine Ernst, 2018

dear sir

dear young man

dear sportsman

dear neighbor

dear cowards of Congress

dear frightened old man    dear criminal young man

disenfranchised man    paranoid man    prepper man    drunken man    desperate man

short man    easy way out man

mostly non-hispanic white conservative married some high school or college man    all angry man

I am the citizen    the human    the friend    the mother    the voter

I am the scary woman they warned you about

who wants to take away your gun

who requires you to explain your bloodlust

who needs you to explain your deep desire for lethality

because there are many ways of not murdering someone if you just want to feel safe

we have the technology but you don't want it mr. six million                      you don't want to feel safe

you want to be lethal

and a non-fatal deterrent    well    that's not as much fun    is it    cowboy

you got the power

you're the man    man

you gonna show me    teach me a lesson                      show me what you're packing

is that a gun in your pocket a flag on your pick-up a chip on your shoulder or are you just happy to see me

your government is not a tyranny any more than it ever was

and your second amendment was written by men who held slaves

and if you actually need to hunt get a cross-bow                      or a camera

you are not safer with your gun

you are 22 times more likely to kill your own kid or yourself than the intruder in your fantasy

there was an armed guard at

Columbine    did you know    and a police force on campus at Virginia Tech    armed bouncers in Orlando

most murderers buy their guns legally    and have never been stopped by the likes of you    comic book shooter

it's harder to purchase sudaferd than a semi-automatic

and you have the cops and feds outgunned by a factor of 79 to 1

332 million people in our country

357 million guns in civilian ownership

did you get that

I know I know I know

guns don't kill people of course    people kill people    guns just make it really really easy for people to kill

people

and when a military-grade assault weapon is your average active shooter's tool of choice    guns make it really

really easy to kill lots and lots of people    so guns don't kill people sir    I understand that sir    you kill people

and when you can't swing a cat in this country sir without  
hitting a gun owner such as yourself and his stockpile of high capacity magazines don't you think that  
access is the problem that the most powerful lobby in the history of this country is the agent and  
bloodlust sir is the conversation we are not having  
now I'm no crisis actor but what up hero you got an answer for me noble second amendment man  
numbers too big maybe do I bore you with meaningless statistics  
don't even get me started on the intersectionality of gun violence and the way in which it weaponizes hate  
deeply rooted in american history and its bedrock of enslavement oppression and persecution  
but go ahead and vet my facts background check me then obfuscate  
cleave to a false narrative of mental illness conflate your perverse argument with patriotism  
make the truth not the truth  
debunk me with junk science insult me with thoughts and prayers buy another senator heck buy a  
president wail about your rights then joke in private or public with your cronies that  
*somebody oughtta shoot her in the head*  
when really sir  
you need to evolve  
because the numbers don't lie  
the 38,658 people shot to death last year can't be all wrong  
check your bloodlust sir  
20 butchered first graders can't be all wrong can they?  
check your bloodlust sir  
and the 12 kids at Columbine 32 people at Virginia Tech 13 at Binghamton 12 at Aurora  
12 Washington Navy Yard 9 Umpqua 14 San Bernadino 49 Orlando 26 Sutherland Springs 58 Las Vegas  
17 Stoneman Douglas 10 Santa Fe the list will not stop  
check your bloodlust sir  
the math of slaughtered thousands is holy and inarguable  
by the time we all go to bed tonight  
96 people including 7 children somewhere in the US will be dead and more than 200 will be injured from  
gunshot wounds  
check your bloodlust sir  
I know sir it is hard to keep track isn't it all these senseless deaths  
but sir do you ever think of that school hallway in Newtown sir  
those terrified tiny children precious babies the desperate teachers trying to protect them  
the way in which they all died  
think on these things sir sleep on them if you can and then please tell me  
just what it is  
that you need to kill