

## **Me'shell Ndegeocello "Make Me Wanna Holler"**

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My mother used to whore herself  
And my father  
Would reap the benefits of her labor  
It was almost as if she was absent  
Absent from her own life  
I remember  
She would scrub the floors for the white folks  
Just to come home  
To cook and to clean  
For the man who broke her  
And i love to watch her dance to the tunes on  
The soul stations, yeah  
Just to ease her mind

But my mother  
She was vindictive in her own fashion  
So she passed down to me her traits  
Like that of her brown eyes and her dark hair  
She passed down to me  
Her sadness

Make me wanna holler  
The sadness fills my heart  
Make me wanna holler  
Make me wanna holler  
Make me wanna holler  
Baby  
Make me wanna holler

My child will one day ask me  
What will i be?  
As a child i promised myself  
I'd never be  
Like my mother or my father  
I would ask myself,  
"did he feel so much pain  
That it would make him wanna hurt another?"

But there was no excuse  
There was no excuse to make up for the pain  
That i knew my mother felt

But somewhere my destiny came  
That i too became a slave, to my heart  
Wanting love so badly  
That i'd do anything  
No matter the shame

Make me wanna holler  
I...  
Love me  
Make me wanna holler  
Tell me  
Make me wanna holler  
Mmm, so sorry  
Make me wanna holler  
So sorry

Why?  
I never got the nerve  
To ask my father "why?"  
But my mother  
She would say,  
She stayed for my brother and myself  
But i would have sold my soul  
Just to share in one day  
Of my mother's desired happiness

When night fell  
Sometimes when night fell  
I'd close my eyes  
And i'd hide  
Close your eyes  
When they would yell and scream  
When my father would paint her  
With a dark face  
Of being belittled, disrespected  
And set aside  
His liquor, the salve  
For the unseen wounds

I learned so much from him  
What did i learn?  
How to hurt all of those  
Who try to get too close

Make me wanna holler  
Make me wanna holler  
Sometimes i get so...  
Make me wanna holler  
I just don't understand  
Why?  
Make me wanna holler

Tell me why  
Mmm, so sorry  
So sorry for the pain  
Make me wanna holler  
So sorry

I'm so sorry  
Just play for me  
Play for me

She would close her eyes and cry  
He would close his heart and hide  
She would close her eyes and cry

After all this time  
Nothing's changed

Make me wanna holler  
Make me want to holler  
Yes i do  
Make me wanna holler  
Sell my soul just to see ya happy  
So sorry for the pain  
Make me wanna holler  
So sorry, so sorry, so sorry, yeah  
Make me wanna holler  
So sorry for the pain

I always thought my mother  
Deserved so much more  
But i never knew how to fix that  
I drown myself in guilt  
I just don't know what to do  
No  
Mama i love you.

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