

## **The Flobots**

### **"Anne Braden"**

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[Spoken]

What I've realized since is that it's a very painful process but it is not destructive. It's the world deliberation. And what really happened in the sixties was that this country took just the first step toward admitting that it had been wrong on race, and creativity burst out in all directions.

From the color of the faces in Sunday songs  
To the hatred they raised all the youngsters on  
Once upon a time in this country, long ago  
She knew there was something wrong  
Because the song said "yellow, red, black, and white  
Every one precious in the path of Christ"  
But what about the daughter  
Of the woman cleaning their house?  
Wasn't she a child they were singin' about?  
And if Jesus loves us, black and white skin  
Why didn't her white mother invite them in?  
When did it become a room for no blacks to step in?  
How did she already know not to ask the question?  
Left lasting impressions  
At a lesson, comfort's gone  
She never thought things would ever change,  
But she always knew there was something wrong.

She always knew there was somethin' wrong.  
She always knew there was somethin' wrong.

Years later, she found herself  
Mississippi bound to help  
Stop the legalized lynching of Mr. Willy McGee.  
But they couldn't stop it,  
So they thought that they'd talk to the governor about  
what'd happened  
And say, "We're tired of being used as an excuse to kill  
black men."  
But the cops wouldn't let 'em past  
And these women, they struck 'em as uppity  
So they hauled 'em all off to jail  
And they called in protective custody.  
Then from her cell

She heard her jailers  
Grumblin' about "outsiders".  
When she called 'em out  
And said she was from the south, they shouted,  
"Why is a nice, Southern lady makin' trouble  
For the governor?"  
She said, "I guess I'm not your type of lady,  
And I guess I'm not your type of Southerner,  
But before you call me traitor,  
Well it's plain as just to say  
I was a child in Mississippi  
But I'm ashamed of it today."

She always knew there was somethin' wrong.  
She always knew there was somethin' wrong.  
She always knew there was somethin' wrong.  
She always knew there was somethin' wrong.  
([spoken] And, all of a sudden, I realized I was on the  
other side)

Imagine the world that you're standing within  
All of your neighbors, and family-friends.  
How would you cope facing the fact  
The flesh on their hands was tainted with sin?  
She faced this every day.  
People she saw on a regular basis;  
People she loved, in several cases;  
People she knew were incredibly racist.  
It was painful, but she never stopped loving them,  
Never stopped callin' their names  
And she never stopped being a Southern woman  
And she never stopped fighting for change.  
And she saw that her struggle was  
In the tradition of ancestors never aware of her  
It continues today:  
The soul of a Southerner  
Born of the other America.

She always knew there was somethin' wrong.  
She always knew there was somethin' wrong.  
She always knew there was somethin' wrong.  
She always knew there was somethin' wrong.

[Spoken]  
What you win in the immediate battles is little  
compared to the effort you put into it but if you see that  
as a part of this total movement to build a new world,  
you know what could be.  
You do have a choice.  
You don't have to be a part of the world of the lynchers.  
You can join the other America.

There is another America!

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