

# Because I'm Thirty-Five and Not Fifteen

*after Sandra Cisneros*

I haven't written  
a suicide poem  
since I was a teenager  
and I'm not gonna  
break my streak

but goddamn.

I'm every day crying  
and the children  
are every day crying  
and my wife  
is every day crying

and it never stops.

The islands where  
I once lived, happy,  
fenced out this plague  
but I'm stranded here  
in this shithole country

and I can't leave.

But I'm not gonna  
write that poem.

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