

When this thread snaps

The revolution won't be led by red flags and the sound of Bella Ciao, it won't be written about by approved academics whose careers we've followed and trusted, it won't elevate the voices of those we long to hear more of...who affirm us and raise our spirits, it won't fill our airwaves or our ears with solidarity and the justice for which we stand. It won't happen between respectable hours and in designated areas, it won't have an allocated tea station, an information board and a "quiet zone." There won't be training and organized occupations, no sign-up speaking platforms, no "burn out" support group, no PA system fuelled by pedal power, no press photos, no high visibility vests, no polite unauthoritative signage.

It will come like a flood in the night, with boundless power and uncatchable form, with inconsistency and unpredictability; it will speak with an invisible voice in a language we won't understand because we never listened before. It will not see us, and it won't obey our rational demands or follow the path we prepared for it. It will swell and burst. It will be appalling, misplaced and reckless. It will prioritize the wrong values, it will dance to the wrong songs and laugh in the wrong places, it will be unreasonable, it will be angry, it will be untamable, it won't understand that we are the good ones who devoted our lives to this time. We will be left with no choice but to join our old enemies in order to put an end to all this....because we have real work to do and a revolution to prepare.

By Rachel Anderson

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Note:

Last year I went to a socialist film festival to see a documentary about the 2011 London riots called *'Wonderland: My Child the Rioter'* (the riots took place in August 2011 across London and in cities across the UK, they began after the police shot and killed 29 year old Mark Dugan in North London. Hundreds of thousands of young people took to the streets and thousands were arrested and given severe prison sentences, 5 people died. Because of the extensive looting that took place during the riots the mainstream voice of the media and public undermines these actions as 'not being political') Different young people who had been involved in these riots and their parents were interviewed, and there was a panel discussion afterward with a working-class family from the North of England. The young boy was politicized, angry and radical; he was a very compelling speaker. I think he was studying politics. The first in his family to go to university, he positioned himself as somewhere between anti-capitalist and Marxist. At one point a woman sitting behind me made a comment during the Q&A that went something like this: "You're a really bright articulate young man and I want to congratulate you, but most of those who joined the riots last year weren't being political."