

When Idriss Was Nine

G D A
They came to the village in the night when Idriss was nine
G D A
The Presidential Guard with their engines off and lights on low
G D A
The sparks from the burning huts mingled with the stars in the clear black sky and the screams from his
G D A
father and his mother and his brother as they burned rang high

G D A
The rebels gave him food and a gun when Idriss was nine
G D A
They told him he would never stand alone and they would help him fight
G D A
The smoke from the burning cars rose above the noise to the clear blue sky with the screams from the
G D A
soldiers and the rebels and the animals as everybody died

G D A
he said: I will have a life, or I will die trying
G D A
I will have a life, or I will die trying

G D A
I met him on the shores of the Med when he was twenty-nine
G D A
His boat went down with everyone on board but Idriss survived
G D A
The diesel and the shit in the water in the boat burned their skin and their faces and their eyes
and they cried as the
G D A
helicopter flew away and left them in the burning sun to die
G D A
I asked him what he figured he would do he said another try
G D A
He said I know I probably won't make it but this is not a life
G D A
The sparks from the burning huts were echoed in the gleam in his flashing dark eyes
G D A
and the screams he carried with him in the silence and they drove him every day of his life

G D A
We'll sink or we'll stand but our lives are our own
G D A
You don't get to say who we are
G D A
We only demand that our lives are our own
G D A
You don't get to say who we are

