OUR VOICES MATTER

A Collection of Journeys
By the Students of the Goodwill Excel Center

Our Voices Matter:
A Collection of Journeys

Authors
Students of The Goodwill Excel Center

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This book is dedicated to my GEC students. Go out there and show the world what you are truly capable of!

-Ms. D

About the Authors

On August 22, 2016, The Goodwill Excel Center opened its doors to 350 students who came to achieve the most crucial component of education, a high school diploma. Little did these students know that they would embark on a journey of self-discovery, self-awareness, and redefinition. The incredible authors of this book have struggled through their own stories of pain, loss, love, and betrayal. They have come together to tell their stories through poetry.

The Goodwill Excel Center Adult Charter High School Model

The Goodwill Excel Center is a unique, tuition-free adult charter high school that awards industry recognized certifications and high school diplomas, not GEDs, to adult learners in the District.

We support the whole student, and respond to the fact that life commitments and circumstances can often stop people from continuing their high school education. With the help of Academic Success Coaches, College and Career Counselors, high quality instructors, flexible scheduling, and day and early evening classes students can take advantage of a flexible, rigorous, and relevant program.

Understanding that many students may come into the program with varying skills having been out of the classroom for some time, our courses are designed to meet students where they are regardless of level. Students will progress and earn credits in eight week terms held year round.

I

AM

LOVE.

You are so Special
By: Michael Watkins

You are so special that when you walk split time in half
gravity doesn't stand a chance
Through my ears when you talk everything stops
Special attention is deserved when you are present
Not less, not enough, but more way more.

You are so beautiful that when it rains or snows
it hit the ground in half the time it usually would
Giving it more time to see something soo stunning behind the scene of God's work
Sometimes I think that you are life and flowers bloom from within your soul
Beauty is soo lucky to have you by its side….a portion of everything nice.
Why do you prefer to keep me in the blind?
I don't mind but I'd rather be with you doing the things you like to do….
Just being away from you is hectic.
You're like a tornado of love spinning toward your destination….your fantasy

You are beautiful, which I know everyone tells you…
Which I know your stunning reflection tells you….
Which I would tell you even on the days I don't see you
'Cause I know your beauty is living so as long as there is life there you will be
…A portion of everything nice
You create a reason for a man to fall to his knees cause you are everything special.
You are the ray on my soul

You are the blue sky that looks down on me.
You are like a labyrinth cursed with different dimensions,
Separate from everything else,
Divided like fine oil that clashes into water but does not combine….
So special

Love Between a Boy and a Girl
By: Leonard Colbert

Love between a boy and a girl can be so wonderful
Holding hands can be such a joy
Walking along has girl and boy
A smile aside with happiness
A kiss filled with tenderness
That love between a girl and a boy

Love
By: Shaheirrizzai Abdelaziz

Love is how I love my daughter
Love is the way I look at her while she's sleeping
Love is how I cry just by thinking about her
Love is never leaving her side
Love is always being there for her
My love for her is a high as a bird in the sky
My daughter is the sun
So bright and beautiful
She is my love

Mind of a Lover

By: Michael Watkins

I want to be held hostage in your heart.
I want to hold your emotional hands and never be torn apart.
I want to be warmed by your thighs and swarmed by your eyes
It's like you know who I be through your land of milk and honey
With those lips yielding sap from the tree
I want what you want if you want a we
Not connected but still controlling the things that we see
Your lips are like…
ummm…
those rose petals kissed with honey dipped in brown sugar and topped with silk
I love you
I want to kiss your cheek when the morning sun rises on it,
Brightening what need no light cause…cause you glow girl
I want to kiss your neck softly as if I had fangs
And as blood rushes through it, I'll be forgetting my name
Asking god can you please send some of this to my brain
Put some pimp in my game
You got me goin' bananas like a chimp in a cage
I'm wanting to bite that ass like a pit in a rage
Or, could I blot it all out like putting bleach on a stain?
But I just need one shot like a syringe in my veins
Give me 1-2-3 strikes cause I ain't switchin' lanes
Can you help me out cause sometimes I feel so afraid
Trust issues that possess got me willing to trade all my passions and guilty pleasures for the prices of fame
The animal that's inside is getting harder to tame
Girl you calm me down, can you call my name?
I'll pay you the most attention and just charge it to the game
Cause if I charge it to my heart, I'll be willing to break
What kind of chances in life will I be willing to take?
What kind of branches of love will I be willing to shake
To let them fall from a tree at an accelerated rate
Put me to the test and push me through the mess
I could see if you love me if I could see through your flesh
Does that lie within your chest?
Do I run far within my steps and overcome all of my debt within my life while I confess?
Damn….Ima mess, but I can't fail my success
You know I can't bail on a test
Come along and help me take a step
Come along, I'll help you take a step
Come along and face what you ain't met
Girl you know I gotta come correct
Yea you know I gotta come legit
Yea, you know I didn't come to spit
I know you know how to fix them grits

Heart Attack
By: Michael Watkins

Girl you give me a heart attack in a good way
You turn my bad news into a good day
My bad news into a good day...damn
You make me feel courageous
There are levels to this shit like different stages
And I'm kinda liking this chapter in my life
Like I'm scared to turn the pages
Cause I don't know what the next chapter holds
Like what all will I be facing...
Damn you amazing
You make me see flaws in all the girls in my past
Wondering why I was with them
Like why did it even last
You listen to my problems and never make it about you...
A J. Cole wish I could fold her clothes cause this bliss just made me some stew
Like goddamnit...
I'll never have nothing better to do if I don't have the likes of you
Punchline sick you make me wanna fight the flu
I ain't gonna bite more than I can chew like Tyson do
Imma Taurus I ain't a bison true
The bullshit ain't the same around here
For the life of me I can't explain the ways that I've been
And why I'm nice to you cause you made me mad yesterday
And I ain't the type to let the author rewrite history through the mystery of this life we grew
Imma buccaneer and a viking too
Been on the bench but my player skillz can advise a few

Life Imitating Art Imitating Life
By: Michael Watkins

Precious pieces of diamonds and gold created by pressure and stories
untold
Let me see your stories unfold
Right before my eyes
Before my vision really old
You just a party ain't you?
Like when you leave the scene you leavin' with the man ain't you?
Yea Picasso so jealous you made his fans paint you
You ain't no knockoff real shit right here ain't you?
Last time I met somebody like you it was third grade
I can't remember what we said I mean like words fade
But, it wasn't the verbal connection it was like a heatwave
Sorta like a box of crayons, butterflies, and your first name
Kinda like the way that dimple shows when you say certain letters
Then you walk off and turn around and call me bird brains
Swear to god you was joking, but it made me feel better
Like I know opposites attract cause I still met her
We were going in different directions and I still treasure
And that's real pleasure cause we took real measures

My Daughter
By: Delonta Howard

My Daughter She saved me
From a lifetime of misery
Before her I had no clue
I could love so true
She opened my eyes
Now I can see the vision that is true
My Daughter is very special,
I will die or do anything in my power
For the special person that God gave me

INSPIRE

ME.

An Ode to Ms. D

By: K.L. Walls

I was sitting in class a few days ago,
And I made a remark that didn't sit well with my instructor,
But instead of attacking me or
using the opportunity to validate the negatively influential
misinformation I had clearly convinced myself of
Without a second thought, she did what she does best,
And quickly sharpened my own intellect and
Loaded her weapons with words that would uplift me and force my opinions into remission
As it was, indeed, spreading like a cancer as I slept
So much so that these words slipped with ease from my lips.
Understand me when I say,
She knew exactly where to aim her spear of love, compassion, and understanding
So that it would pierce through my armor that was forged in the fires of turmoil and abandonment
Much like your own.
But boy did she have news for me
Because she quickly reminded me that I was more than simply bone and tissue
But that of a superior breed that just needed a refresher course
She in that instance was everything to me that I desire to be to my fellow being in need
She was love, she was light,
but more importantly, she reminded me that she, just like me...she was me.
An ode to Ms. D.

EXCEL
By: Jaraxte Butler

Picture clothes in the dryer,
I found myself looking deep into my pool of dreams,
Then one night reality came to me
The must to EXCEL
Be a better me.

My son, he's getting older,
he's a reflection of me
And gradually....
I EXCEL up my mountain high peak
Meeting me with a grind like mine,

That focus, changing gears exceling my drive over time,
In due time, great fortune comes with time
EXCELLING through a field of bright green, purple fresh flowers
Like a maze through homework, midterms, quizzes and finals

Finally, finito EXCEL I earned my degree
Then that new door was just staring back at me
The door slowly creeps open
And the only thing looking back
Was my reflection of a man to be u-turn.

Life's Journey
By: Tracey Ann Hamilton

My heart race like a bullet
As I walked through the airport exit
I move briskly and swiftly
Hoping to get to safety before I'm noticed
Shaking sweating yet excited
Got plans for a better life
But plans got me
Ha Ha you think you know it all
Only to wake up one morning to realize you in prison without bars
You're invisible
Wow I'm doing a life sentence not knowing when I'll be on parole
Feel like a dream. Trying to keep the fate.
Hoping to be free mentally
Develop a way to accept and put up a front acting like its ok
Dam I did a life sentence
If I knew what I know now I would not sell my soul for a life sentence

Light
By: Kiara Walls

Gotta keep the devil off my back
While I pretend I'm not praying in front of those who know me to be purely scientific
So I can't betray their trust by betraying my logic
But my heart calls to the almighty like a child screaming for its mother
As she stands off in the distance watching
Crying in secret as her child struggles to find its way and learn to stand on its own two
What is she to do?
What is my god to do as I'm being attacked
But in order for me to learn my lesson
I must question whether I've been forsaken
Just so my heart can burst with the joy of the lord
Reminding me that no amount of variables or theoretical equations can explain
Why no matter how torn I am on the surface
Deep down I praise and worship
As if my blessings have been poured down on me like a cool spring rain
Drenched in the glory of my creator....I am HUMAN.

Always Strive & Prosper
By: Denzel Williams

I move quick, but stay inside my shell like a turtle
Duckin' and dodgin' negativity, might even just hurdle,
Stay high as the sky, pockets add and multiply
The world always trying to divide us people even though,
We in the same life, Try your hardest to reach your goals,
If you don't you'll regret it,
Your mind is a machine
And it'll break down only if you let it

Free
By: Courtney Austin

As she moves with grace
Head held high
Smile on her face
Building began to fall
Walls began to shatter
Hearts began to heal
Captives are set free
Oh my, that captive, that captive was me
It happened and many are confused
How could she be in bondage for so long
Only wake up THIS DAY
And remember nothing
She's a fool they say
No no no, she's free
That's all...

Never Be Afraid
By: April T

New &
Engaged
Vowel
Except
Role

Believe in
Excellence

Accelerate
Fearlessly in
Rejoicing
Achievement with
Improvement of your
Destiny.

All of My Dreams
By: Michelle Kelly

All of my dreams will come through
Please listen to me as I say this to you
You must first believe, work hard to achieve
Follow all of your dreams
No matter how hard they may seem
With a conscience mind and a heart that is kind
You will see all the hard things you have left behind
Closer and closer dare to believe
I am that person who has followed all of her dream

Never Give Up
By: Ruby Limes

Sometimes things go wrong in our life that we cannot control
But we must face our fears and not put them on hold
The more we hold our anger in the worse we become
So it's best to let go and start over so you won't end back up in square one
Once you have cleared out all the trash and let clean air in
You will feel so much better like you are able to breathe again
Yes life is a challenge but we cannot quit
Our dreams and goals should be the motivation to achieve it
You can call me names and try to make me look bad
But one thing about it you can't make me sad
I will always keep my sanity and my head held high
Cause like an angel with wings I will fly
So anytime I get down on life and think I'm about to give up
Just remember one thing I will always keep my head up

I AM
MORE
THAN
MY SKIN.

Black Man

By: Eugene Lewis

Black man on the train
People looking at me like I'm insane
They think I have no brain
Just because my skin is dark as lead
They want to see me down or dead
Try to throw me in jail or out to the feds
They trying to put me on my knees
They on my back saying "freeze"
Just because I'm black and these are the facts
Black man, god damn

Unsung Heroes
By: Kiara Walls

How dare you impose on my struggle with your white privilege,
masquerading around like a deer in headlights,
meanwhile you're stealing dreams cuz you have none of your own,
stealing culture by the country,
so of course you've lost track of who you're supposed to be impersonating by now,
common place colonizers, hiding behind names like,
"developers", "congressman", " judges",
excuse me "officer", more like "clansman", and "slave master".
You've dedicated your cause,
to making sure I die before I've even equipped myself to fight for mine,
so here I stand as the tabloids in my mind read,
"yet another unarmed hashtag slain in exchange for a blue blood bonus",
it's a hoax,
nah it's a drill,
better yet it's a war game,
and we are the casualty that goes undecorated for our sacrifices,
considering we make so many in the name of "the good life" that we will never be given,
"so let's take it!!!!",
screams the voice in the back of my mind as I open my mouth

I'm Not Racist But...
By: Kiara Walls

I'm not racist but,
I know I wouldn't be able to resist the urge to kill you,
not physically, but spiritually, the way you and your ancestors do,
every time I see one of you crackers I have the urge to raise my fist, not to bludgeon or beat you cause that simply wouldn't do it.
I wanna batter your soul, break off random pieces and see how you deal,
rape your mind and convince you that your mentality is tied to the color of your skin and try to force you to heal.
I'm not racist but I hate the paleness of the sheets you slip over your head to hide your identity, but your father's father didn't even have the decency to put that potatoes sack on my great uncle's head while he lynched him where my father's eyes could see,
I wanna light a fire not in your belly but on the stack of wood resting at your feet while I douse it in lies and self-loathing prosecutions, so I can watch the greatness in you smolder into the screaming cloud of smoke that escapes your body, but don't you dare try to find peace cracker!!!!!
I'm not racist but I wanna trap your essence in a place that you have no relation to and torment it into learning the language that I have used to break you,
and one day when I take the chains off,
you'll stand up straight and begin to oppress your brethren the same way I have oppressed you!

P.S.

I'm not racist cuz I'm not the one doing it anymore, you're now doing the work for me but remember to always start your sentences with "I'm not racist" cuz it makes it ok.....

GENOCIDE
By: Michael Watkins

The eradication of African Americans
The deduction of the world population
Today we live in a world of deception,
A world that makes us think that we truly are protected,
But, we are being put down and have yet to be resurrected

Using different ways to hide the meaning of their method
Hiding in shadows just so they don't get detected
Puppets on the frontline,
They just want to feel perfection
Eradicate the people and say you teaching us a lesson
Then make us think that slavery is a blessin'

Genocide might take some time,
But it falls into different methods
Liquor stores on every corner like we peasants
Spirits in our body to make us think that we are reckless
Just to change our attitude to a reason to get selected

They say he a mad man and he liable to get arrested
They just wanna take away your life and throw you in the pen,
Cause they don't really want to pay you right?
They just wanna slay us right
Abolish slavery then find another way to slave us right?
Give us liberty just to trick us

Make us fight in a war that we have nothing to do with through the darkest night
And the light of day they sparked a war to make us pray
So we can't see them killing
So we don't know the villains
They killing by the millions
Innocent civilians
Turkey with the pilgrims.

Imma have to raise awareness
Raise some eyebrows and make them feel it
Put poison in our water and make us sick
We had to pray for Flint
Pollution in the air might make us trip
Over the rope that they going to hang us with

Act like they curing poison just so they don't leave no trace of it
And fill our neighborhoods with drugs,
But they know they can't erase the bricks where the masons sit

SEE
THROUGH
MY
PAIN.

Survivor

By: Courtney Austin-Marshall

I am a rape survivor
Da same of molestation prior
I am in a situation that's dire
I'm do truth, no liar
I am an unquenchable fire,
feedin' of the embers of my deepest desires
I am from a city of unsung heroes and unknown riders,
So I elect myself the town crier
I am DC born, DC raised
Received scorn, had bad days
Should've been mourned, dead in da grave
But I am still here just to give Jah praise
I am in this place but not of it
Naw, my life is in eternity in a place high above it
I am a jewel, a gem an heir to the Royal Diadem
A living light that will never die or dim
I am a fighter, yes I'm a monster, I'm a beast
But only when faced with adversity or defeat
I am also subdued, I am quieted within my soul
Since I learned all that glitters ain't gold
I am not like da rest I'm different
As far of as da east from da west, or Christians from da wiccans
I am an eagle among chickens, dat my witness
I am a mystery to those who have never spoken to me in depth
To them I am socially inept
I am da out outcast, da misfit, da stranger
A follower if the one born in a manger
I change a-bad situation into one that's more conducive
I am a dream, I am something illusive
I am one whose upbringing was abusive
Almost gave up cause even in adulthood felt useless
So if you would've asked me a year ago who I was
I'da said one who just needs love
Ida said I'm da victim, da loser, da underdog
And without that I don't really know who I am
Let da doctor tell it, I'm a hot bipolar mess
Destined to pop Prozac, Depakote, and Xanax

Secrets
By: Shidana M. Edwards

Everyone have secrets.
Some secrets are bold,
Some are never told.
Some secrets are left quiet,
So they never unfold.
If you trust someone to tell,
Make sure your secrets are kept
Safe very well.
There are secrets that you don't mind others knowing,
There are secrets that's mind blowing.
When it's all said and done,
Keep your secret to number one.

Nothing Personal
By: K.L. Walls

I'm sure I'm expected to open with positively inspirational words
So that's exactly what I'll do:
Dark rooms, broken pencils, spilled tea…
Not what you expected to hear I'm sure,
But these are the things I thought about in my suspended state for the night
Or sleep as you call it.

Cherish the portions of your dreams that you may remember
Because some of us are dreaming out loud and cannot remember our minds greatest works.
My weaknesses are my dreams because
I must build on them to create a false sense of strength
That the world will continue to market as an acceptable form of expression.
My troubles much like yours,
Aren't easily seen
As we've been trained in the ancient art of camouflage
And deception helping to cloak ourselves from one another in the face of adversity
As we are to provide no aid in the nourishing of one another's spirit.

See while you fill your heads with the rhythmic noise
That you so deeply cling to for guidance
As your loved ones have failed to understand you,
I, on the other hand, engulf my thoughts in a sweet symphony of music
That wraps its lyrically intoxicating arms around my mind
And serenades the cares of the world away
In a mere 3 minutes and 56 seconds of euphoria

And suddenly the love or lack thereof means nothing
As my heart creates the down beat to my favorite songs
And soon my very own tones create warm and comfortable spaces
For those who can find no real solace in their minds.
I say all these things to say,
Never be afraid to share the gift of meaningful music,
It may be the soundtrack to someone else's life that you are currently
listening to!

The Storm

By: Laura Baylis-Tribble

Waking up each morning not
knowing what to expect, is like a
mystery that can't be detect,
Life is a blessing to your avenge
not knowing how much you can
manage, through the storm of struggles
and downfalls, you can tear down those
walls, Passionate about yourself through
pain and glory can memorized through
miracles and no worries,
Cry's in your sleep, makes the pain release,
From the mind, body, and soul as your
awaking of your true meaning that
won't be forsaking,
Patients and time is all you have,
to make the best from what you never
had, the will to survive like no other,
is are passion to live forever,
With determination and inspiration,
you will knock down the storm
of devastation

Sometimes I Feel
By: Anita Parker

Sometimes I feel like a bear
Because I just want to attack people
Because they hurt me
Because I am angry

Sometimes I feel like a book
Because nobody listens to me
Because I'm still stuck on one page
Because I went backwards

Sometimes I feel like a cloud
Because I just blow in the wind
Because it's like I'm just here for that moment
Because when I cry it's like rain falling from the sky

Sometimes I feel like I'm all alone
Because I have no one to tale to
Because I have no one to listen to me
Because I'm never understood
Sometimes I feel like a cheetah
'Cause once I get hype I run so fast and lose control
I feel like I can hurt or destroy things,

Be as mean as my friend the cheetah

Sometimes I feel like water
Because sometimes I can wake up and move with the flow,
I feel calm and mellow
And other days,
I feel like my mood is wavy it goes up and down
Back and forth like the water above the sea

Sometimes I feel like a rainy day, and some days I feel sunny
Most days, I just want to lay in my bed in my puddle of tears
Sometimes I wake up and think about my life from the beginning to now
And I'll humble myself other days I feel as bright as the sun in the sky

Sometimes I feel like an angel, and a demon other times
'Cause inside my heart I serve no hate,
But in reality I can't forget the pain
But once my limit is tested I wouldn't be that friend
I'll be your worst nightmare from hell
So you choose which mood you want me to comply for you

Void
By: Courtney Austin-Marshall

Searching hard to fill the void…
But nothing seems to cover it
Sex, drugs, money, and drinks
They all land me in the sea of depression
I talk to her, I thought about asking him
They said we'd be here, but go over there
Ask them.
They push and push me further away.
Oh Lord, the void seems to grow each and every day
Covers, masks, hidden figures,
It feel like the hole in my chest was opened by a pull of a trigger
Boom!
Reality check burst through the flames
After always looking to them for a we
I closed my eyes and realized
I am the only one the can help ME.

Broken Glass
By: Kiara Walls

Broken glass,
That's usually the sound I hear before the screams of neverending frustration floods my mind and sends me in a trip I'm not prepared for not have I given myself permission to attend
How do I make it?
This is an argument that is so repetitive it has become second nature
By this time I'm totally forgotten that I'm completely frozen on the outside.
What to do?
How do I reintroduce myself to the currently busy world without this scream escaping and piercing the ears of those that are awaiting my outcry of defeat?
Can they see the metered animation of frustration and anxiety that is currently ready to explode into a confusing smoke cloud of manic gibberish?
When is it safe to…
I've started to overthink again
Time to focus and assimilate on the outside.
But what expression can I hide behind?
Ok, I got it Smile, they'll never see past that….

Hey You!
By: Torilynn Russell

Hey You ! Yea you , the one that I hate
I wish with all my might I could smack every smile off your face
Hey You ! Yea you , the one I've grown to detest
I hope you croak over and die and your heart explodes in your chest
Hey You! Yea you, the one that snatched my innocence
I hope you speak to God and he doesn't accept your repentance
Hey You! Yea you, the evil man in my dreams
I wish with all my might I tried to fight that night or scream
Hey You! Yea you , your time is coming
I hope you don't have any strength to keep on running
Hey You! Yea you, I heard you're dying soon
I'll gladly feed your last breath on a invisble dead spoon
Hey You! Yea you, you'll never win this war
Because even when you die , I'll be the nightmare waiting at your dreams' door

Father of Mine
By: Eliana Barnes

Father of mine, where are you?
Father of mine, you're supposed to be here
Father of mine, where are you?
Father of mine, are you looking for me?
Father of mine, where are you?
Father of mine, are you ok?
Father of mine, where are you?
Father of mine, didn't you help make me?
Father of mine, where are you?
Father of mine, didn't you want to know your daughter?
Father of mine, where are you?
Father of mine, how will I know how to be treated by a man?
Father of mine, I don't know you...where is this father of mine?

Is this love?

By: Damaris Strait

Is this love?
You pull my hair and punch my face.
Is this love?
I love you.
I hate you.
Is this love?
We make up to break up
Is this love?
Your soft touch
Your aggressive touch
Is this love?
My black eye
My broken ribs
Is this love?
All I want to do it feel
Is this love?
This not the feeling I'm yearning for
Is this love?
God please show me the way
Is this love?
Can't take no more bruises on my face
Is this love?
I'm tired of wiping the tears off my face
Is this love?
This can't be
Is this love?
How could this be?
How could this be?
You don't make me happy
You don't love me
Is this love?
You envy me
Is this love?
Is it because of my pretty face?
Is this love?
You always said I reminded you of someone
Is this love?
This is not love
This is not love!

I Thought You Was the One For Me!!!
By: Jevonnie Dunbar

I thought you was the one for me,
You sold me all dreams I see.
I can't stop thinking of the past,
All the pain you brought me.
I tend to remanence about the past,
Most memories doesn't last.
I thought you was the perfect one for me? How did I end up in the past, so lonely.
Love is blind, that was hard for me to see.
Now I caught your drift, you'll never look the same to me.
I thought you was the perfect one for me,
Now I see you didn't want to see the success in me.
I've falling for your love, which lead me to a dark room of depression, searching for all the
correct answers.
That wasn't healthy for me. All you did was laugh and brought out the worse in me.
I thought you was the one for me,
NO! Not at all I can't have the devil controlling me.

Invisible
By: Joy Williams

Have you ever felt alone
Have you ever felt like you were the only one in one zone
Have you ever felt like what you had to say had no purpose
Have you ever felt like you weren't beneficial
Have you ever felt like your hard work wasn't worth it
Have you ever felt like you were in a room full of people but you were the only one basic
Have you ever overthought
Have you ever
Could you ever
Will you ever ?
Tell me have you ever felt like you're not even there

My Addiction
By: Jorrel Henderson

At the age of sixteen was the first time I felt that needle pierce my skin
It was a sensation like no other
As my eyes rolled back I let this feeling take over me
As I listen to the sweet sounds of Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson
Who knew that such pain could bring me so much pleasure
As I lay here contemplating on my next fix
Not wanting this sensation to end
Hiding my marks and scars to keep my actions a secret
As this adds to my rebellious behavior
I began to feel tougher, bolder, couldn’t nobody tell me shit
My addiction became stronger as my flesh became weaker
Screaming out for more and more
Til this day
I continue to feed this addiction
As this pain still brings me great pleasure and relieves stress every time
the needle penetrates my skin…
My addiction to INK.

I

AM

ME.

Myself

By: Donna Jones

I want to be fit for myself and soul,
I want to be fit for myself to know
I want to be able as days go by,
To always look at myself straight in the eye
To fool myself as I come and go
Think no one else would know the kind of person I am

I want to sit on a closet shelf
With lots of secrets about myself
And to fool myself as I come and go
Thinking no one else would know the kind of person I am

I want to go with myself direct
I want to deserve everyone's respect
This is the type of person I am

"Myself"

OUR VOICES MATTER.

I am love.
Inspire me.
I am more than my skin.
See through my pain.
I am me.

Excel in Learning. Excel in Life.