

I PRAYED FOR YOU

Novana Clairisse Venerable

Last night...I dreamt of you
On the corner of Austin and Randolph
You stood...squared, rolled your health
Into lit cigarettes burned into
Your bleeding lungs.
Crack inhaled dreams and
Spat them into your blunt
Like mucus on a black top,
You sucked them into forgotten memories
And let them gas your esophagus before
Exhaling them to hell
Where demons traded pennies for your soul.
You let fire drop from your eyes,
And your insides grilled
Like shish kabobs
On your charcoal rib cage.
I saw you...standing outside my father's apartment
Looking at the melted cement
From when his exhales burned family love
And his inhales sucked children's souls,
I hugged you as tight as
The cherry blunt between your fingertips,

I PRAYED FOR YOU *continued...*

Our hugs were as foreign as your country,
I said, "Ma, ma, please don't be a hypocrite,
You always taught me doing drugs was
Like eating rat poison and washing it down...
With bleach."

I woke up and I prayed for you,
Prayed that you wouldn't be like me.
Let alcohol drink away from my pain,
Concealing it in my Forgotten Life Story,
The same bottle Nicole drank from,
I let weed dry out memories of
Lying stepfather and dead aunt,
But no brain cells have been popped like
Over-filled water balloons to cement tiles
Since December 2004.

Last night...I prayed for you
Prayed that you would stop looking up to me
And start looking up to God,
Cuz even though you don't believe in him...
He believes in you.