

INNOCENT

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Two years old
Ripped from the arms of my capable caretakers
Taken to a commune
Where my mother
Who admits to nothing
Admits
They were “mean to you there”

Confined to a hospital bed, halfway to the next world
Desperate and dying
3 years old and
Tired
 Of
 Life
Emotional wounds
Not allowed to heal
If she gets sick again
 They warn her
She will die

Tummy aches
Fear. Fear.
Clutching, gripping fear.
He’s beating her up again.
She’s leaving me alone with
Him?
What’s he doing now?

Sing song taunts
In the school yard
At School
Always the new girl
Always the target
Always alone

Taken away to foster care
Moving
Again and
 Again and
 Again

17 times
Shuffled
Unloved
Unwanted
Despised
A burden to the state
A burden to my caretakers

Hospitalized
Organs failing

Unable to cry for mother
Unable to cry for brother
All of my family are gone now
Not allowed to see them
Not allowed to be sad or sick
That is why it is almost too late for me

There is no love directed toward me
There is no appreciation
Nobody believes me when I say I am sick

Runaway
A child desperate for love
A child desperate for family
A child desperate for a home
Forced to survive
Desperately

Alone
In the world of man

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Young woman
Gullible
Taken advantage of
Struggles
Death
Loss
Poverty
Homelessness
Pregnancy
All of the ugliness of the world
Is

laid
at
her
feet

It takes thirty-four years to step over it.

* Originally from Northern Michigan, **RUBY ROBBINS** graduated from South Hadley High School, South Hadley, Mass. She has been living in New Hampshire for over ten years. Nowadays, Ruby is a full-time student at Rivier College and will be graduating in May 2010 with a B.A. Individualized Studies with a concentration in Psychology. She enjoys writing and creative expression.