

“Heartbeat Of A Single Mother”

SOMETHIN’S GOT TO GIVE. ...BECAUSE DEPRESSION HAS BEEN MY MENTAL STATE WHERE ALL MY PROBLEMS LIVE, AND DON’T BE GETTIN’ ALL SENSITIVE. YOU SEE I KNEW THIS POEM WOULD BE HARD TO PERFORM BUT AS LONG AS THE BLOOD IN MY VEINS IS STILL WARM, THEN I’M GOOD. AND I KNOW YA’LL THINKIN’, “OH NO, NOT RED WRITING HOOD, WE JUST KNEW SHE WOULD, ALWAYS HAVE HER SH*T TOGETHER.”

WELL TRUTH IS, I GOT ABOUT 5 STORMS GOIN’ ON THAT I’M TRYIN’ TO WEATHER AND EVERY DAY, I’M TRYIN TO COPE. YA’LL YA GIRL IS AT THE END OF HER ROPE. AND PEOPLE KEEP THROWIN’ QUOTES LIKE, “WEEPING ENDURES FOR A NIGHT, BUT JOY COMES IN THE MORNIN’” AND “THINGS WILL ALWAYS GET WORSE, BEFORE THEY GET BETTER.” WELL THE FEATHERS IN MY PILLOW ONLY SEEM TO GET WETTER. I’M PUSHED SO FAR THAT I’VE SLEPT IN MY CAR, BUT MY KIDS WERE SAFE. ...DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR TO SNATCH ANY JOB SO THAT WE CAN BE STRAIGHT.

LOOKIN’ BEYOND THE CLEAR SKIES IN HOPES OF CATHIN’ A GLIMPSE OF GOD’S EYE AS CONFIRMATION THAT HE SEES ME. TURN MY GRIND UP ON HIGH, ‘CAUSE MY CHILDREN NEED ME. I WOULD ONLY EAT, ONE TIME A DAY... WHILE THE OTHER 23.5 HOURS I’D PRAY, THAT GOD WOULD SHOW ME THE WAY, MINUS THE DETOURS. DRIVE TO THE SEASHORES TO MAKE SURE I HEAR HIM CLEAR BECAUSE MY FEAR, IS THAT I’LL MISUNDERSTAND HIS DIRECTION AGAIN. ...THAT I DON’T GO LEFT, WHEN I’M SUPPOSED TO GO RIGHT. SEEKIN’ A JOB BY DAY, GOIN’ TO SCHOOL AT NIGHT, HAD TO FIGHT WITH “FINANCIAL AID” TO AID ME WITH THE EXPENSE BUT, ENDED UP GIVIN’ THEM MY ENTIRE CHECK FROM UNEMPLOYMENT. AND OF COURSE, ALL THIS IS THE DEVIL’S ENJOYMENT. SEE HE PLAYS DIRTY GAMES LIKE, “SET HER BACK AGAIN, AND MAYBE THIS TIME, SHE’LL GO INSANE, AND MAYBE EVEN LOOK AT HERSELF AS THE BLAME.”

BUT THE BEST THING ABOUT CLOUDY SKIES AND SCATTERED RAIN IS THAT I ALWAYS HAVE THE SON TO LOOK FORWARD TO. ...’CAUSE HE SHOWS UP EVERY SINGLE TIME THAT I CRY. ...SAYIN “DON’T YOU KNOW THAT YOU ARE STILL THE APPLE OF MY EYE?”

BUT, I’M STILL TRYIN TO FIGURE OUT WHY, SATAN ALWAYS CHOOSES ME, TO PICK A FIGHT? AND GOD SAYS “WELL, THAT’S BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT I’M ABOUT TO ELEVATE YOU TO NEW HEIGHTS, AND I OWN YOUR BIRTH RIGHTS SO, IT’S IMPORTANT THAT YOU KNOW, THAT I, STILL EXIST, THAT I’M STILL IN THE MIDST, AND THAT YOU ARE STILL ON MY LIST, TO GET IN THESE GATES. SO DON’T LET YOUR WORLDLY TROUBLES SHAKE YOUR FAITH.”

I’M TRYIN’ MY BEST TO KEEP MY HEAD ABOVE WATER, WHILE STAYIN LOYAL TO GOD AS HIS FAITHFUL DAUGHTER GOTTA, FEW QUARTERS AT THE BOTTOM OF MY PURSE IF I JUST SHAKE, AND LEAN IT TO THE LEFT. AND SOME WOULD SAY THAT SECRETS LIKE THESE ARE BEST KEPT UNDER WRAPS BUT, I FELT SO STRONGLY ABOUT THIS POEM THAT I TYPED IT IN ALL CAPS, AND I KNOW, I’LL BE FINE. AS LONG AS I DON’T ALLOW THE DEVIL TO TRICK ME OUT MY MIND LIKE, MAKIN’ ME BELIEVE AIN’T NO WAY OUT, AND SOMEWHERE ALONG

THE LINES THAT I DON'T BEGIN TO DOUBT, SO I GO TO MY FATHER'S HOUSE TO PRAY, CRY, AND SHOUT, AND ONLY THE PEOPLE AROUND KNEW WHAT MY PRAISE WAS ABOUT, I'M, STRUGGLIN' AND UNEMPLOYED! AND I GET ANNOYED WHEN PEOPLE ASSUMED I WAS HOME SHOOTIN' THE BREEZE, WHEN I WAS ACTUALLY AT HOME WRITIN' POEMS LIKE THESE, THIS, GOES OUT TO FOLK LIKE ME, WHO DON'T HAVE WHAT THEY WANT, BUT GOT WHAT THEY NEED, I, THANK GOD FOR THE WISDOM OF KNOWING THAT I AM KEPT. ...FOR HIM STAYING CLOSER TO ME, THAN MY NEXT BREATH, AND WHEN THE DAY COMES, THAT I AM FACED WITH DEATH... I WANT MY STORY TOLD, NOT ON HOW I LIVED, BUT HOW I DID EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO CREATE A BETTER LIFE FOR ME AND MY CHILDREN BEFORE I LEFT...