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Broken Silence

Ciara Laing
Concordia University - Portland

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Broken Silence

Ciara Laing

Three years old
A joyful little girl
Dances in the grass

Four years old
That girl, in the dead of night
Soiled sheets tell of innocence lost

Six years old
Her dreams turn to nightmares
Images of his naked body plague her mind

Nine years old
The girl meets drugs
She finds relief in the vibrant colors and breathing trees

Twelve years old
Mom is low on money
Trades the girl to her ex for milk and a loaf of bread

Teen years
Girl spends time in and out of JDH
Becomes an artist with hair at eighteen

Thirty-three years old
Supple cheeks begin to sink, two-toed crow lands near eyes
She becomes a mother

At age 56 he dies
His drugs laced with mercury
His daughter his drug dealer

Fifty-two years old
Woman reveals her past to her daughter
Vomit floods her daughter's mouth
She will never forget