Wide Awake

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They say you don’t know someone’s struggles
Unless you walk a mile in their shoes
But sometimes walking a simple mile
Is really a distorted reality born in your mind
To judge the pain that life has presented me
You need to understand that in life I was sucked into a deadly cycle of anger and violence that stalled my creativity and stifled my passion
I was forced to live a life of consequences before actions
And denial that eventually ripped my family apart
A life preoccupied with revenge and constant glances over my shoulder
My soul bleeds this poetry in order to show you a shattered dream
Filled with nothing but inconsistent changes and devastating setbacks
A life where the smallest decision found its way carelessly through
A complicated and never-accepting world
My childhood stole the sanity from my soul
I constantly walked in a shadow of fear
Scared of the premature loss of self-recovery
No silver spoons or things handed to me
Instead
I lived lonely struggles constantly looked over
While tears of exhaust stain my face
My life hinders me from finding love
From finding life
My life seems to hold itself back
In fear of spontaneous sabotage
And then
Caught in a hopeless wander
I see a clearer path
A new chapter
See, we don’t have to play the cards we’re dealt
We just need to throw them back and demand a good hand
And even though I asked for your help
Only to get no reply
I knew one day I’d grow up and see beyond your street wars and overlooked crimes
It’s time for me to rebuild a community I stole from for many years
And now
Rather than be the rain cloud that steals your smile
I want to be the sunshine that cradles your day
Through confidence and self-expression
I rose up and vowed to fight your endless, and unfair oppression
I encountered road blocks and brick walls my whole life
And now I know how to react with sense
I can choose to use hate to garner your thoughts
But it will never satisfy my desire to create this reality
I speak this poetry to alleviate my selfish feelings of loneliness
To express the pent up emotions of the child I once was
I write to walk you through hell
Without having you live it first
And now
I live my life with eyes open
And feet planted
Choices have become meticulous and well-planned
I chase the dreams they said I’d never achieve
And I will always stretch for stars beyond my reach
When I close my eyes
I re-live the struggles to keep my heart ahead of the moment
And my mind above the ground
Those dreams are given to me as gifts
As pictures to commemorate the real change
So now I walk this clean path
No longer with closed visions
And
Premeditated failure
But instead
I live my life
WIDE AWAKE.