

Ariel Niccum

Chained

Life dealt me a tough hand
When I was pretty young
It was a lot more than I thought I could handle,
A lot more than I thought I could stand.
There were days I didn't think I'd make it,
Days when hope seemed gone
I felt lost and helpless,
Hopeless,
And chained.

So I tried taking my own life,
Tried temporarily easing the pain
With the bite of a razor,
My tears crimson rain.

You weren't there when I needed you,
Were the cause of my pain
Every day I felt hopeless, helpless, worthless,
And chained.

No one thought I would walk
Across that graduation stage
But I walked with honors,
And beamed when they called my name.

You didn't stay to celebrate,
You left and didn't say goodbye.
You told me you were proud of me
I should have suspected it was a lie.
The only time you'd ever said the words
And when I realized what you'd done
I knew I was still helpless,
And chained.

I went to college
And you tried to ruin it for me
But I fought back,
Retaliated,
Determined to break free.

I won.

I found my own life
And you tried to ruin that too
I think it was then that you realized
I had broken away from you.

I may have lost the battles,
But, Daddy, I'm winning the war
You can take your chains and games,
I'm not who I was before.

I am not hopeless,
Helpless,
Worthless,
Or chained.