



SHANTEIRRIA BURNS

My name is Shanteirria Burns. The three best words to describe me are special, sweet, and nice. When I grow up I want to be a doctor and plastic surgeon. My favorite foods are hamburgers and pasta. If I could have any superpower, it would be all of them because I can do multiple things with those powers when I get my own house. I want to live in Jamaica where my mom's from. My favorite books are graphic novels and comic books. One thing that might creep you out is that I can win at a staring contest because I sleep with my eyes open. The question I get all the time is, does it hurt? My answer is no, and no, they don't get dry. I'm 12 years old and a Taurus bull, and my birthstone color is green! Not Shanteria or Shatterria; it's Shanteirria Burns.

WHERE I'M FROM

Where I'm from people die
and get hurt.
I've watched someone die
with my own eyes.
Bleed to death
as I stand there and watch,
because there was nothing for me to do.

I think about what if that was your child
getting shot at
or hurt,
and you killed them?

Where I'm from
my dreams sometimes
haunt me.
Leave me in tears
and distress.

Where I'm from is a little hood
called Bacon Park.
Where you can see people
drinking,
cursing,
selling.

I was told by my grandma,
"People drop like flies
'cause they chose the wrong path."

As I keep watching dead bodies drop to the ground,
people screaming and running,
some dropping to their knees,
praying for a miracle.

Look.
Another soul,
another person,
another future.

Someone's child gone.

Where I'm from,
surrounded by thugs,
grew up around thug life people.

But look at me.
You wouldn't know this.
I chose the right path.

Where I'm from
is something you call me.

Where I'm from
people can pick and choose
wrong or right.