

Beyond The Pain

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Abstract: Shanely Margarita Garcia is a first-generation undergraduate student at Cal State LA. Her love of the cosmos is what inspires her to be a better person. From a young age, her dream to pursue music gave her the energy to begin to place her mark on the world. Through the study of the performing arts, she wishes to heal and build a community for those who are willing to be open-minded. As she grew into a young adult, she found that chasing one's dreams is difficult yet exhilarating. Using the lessons that life and her instructors have taught her she explores art through poetry to bridge the spoken word of the mind and spirit.

In this universe embroidering potent shades of blue
Life paints itself anew right after embarking on abuse
As trauma becomes the hardest pattern to heal through
Finding hope in the darkness
Is the joy I strive to seek as it plays peek-a-boo

With this dangerous game
Love gives me the power to sustain my aim
Moving forward sheds light on a blooming flame
Just as the sun shines on the moon
Paving the road to the future is possible to proclaim

From babe to adult
Perseverance was the tool to receive the present soon
Living too much in the past
With wanderlust for what is to arrive
Draws a journey to be the first in the family to transcend poverty in the night

Believing in the divine despite trial and error
Had my mind been fearful of negative and petrifying forces
With this notion the picture of a first-generation student was weary
Manifesting into beasts of financial problems, anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, and PTSD
Made an iceberg in my heart dreary
In freezing my consciousness in cold fibers
It was the warmth of music that lit a fire

For this, I thank God that destiny was brought to me
As I prayed to do more than just survive
I had to cast my fears aside
So that the safe space that was made in the school
Gave me the conviction to build a better life for my familial ties

To go above what is forbidden
The mastering of school was necessary

Despite people with prying noses who would gossip
The people who share an appreciation for education spared me from disaster
Going on this path made my soul soar faster

After all that was said and done
Meeting good and bad people had me afraid of the unknown
To overcome this the synergy of passion cast my eyes open to the keystone
Alongside kindness and compassion made me realize there is more than tears that make others
cry

With all walks of life
Finding empathy became important
As fighting flashbacks of bullying, sexual assault, domestic violence, gaslighting, and illness
Had mother nature to teach me to endure the hard times
Even when it was hard to put food on the table
Overcoming these memories made me feel on cloud nine

Seeing my essence
My faith in God had the outstretched hands of hard work, grit, and love
So that the belief of my future lacing itself with inflorescence
Bestows me the strength to go above the grief that would blind my happiness in the moment it
was felt
Following my intuition wove my spirit to be lovingly aligned
This new era is where I build symphonies in my design

Looking upwards to the sky
It was not easy to love the stars
Over time I find that my soul is a strong spark worthy to go far
Ready or not I step up to be confident in the music that plays on the guitar

Now I build a legacy
Hopefully, this story will inspire many
As I overcame the relics of mental and physical taxation
The advice I give to you is to have discernment in limitation
With this, I wish you luck, wisdom, and fortune to those who go beyond the pain of creation

