

The Rose That Grew From Concrete

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Tupac Shakur's most intimate and honest thoughts were uncovered only after his death with the instant classic *The Rose That Grew from Concrete*.

His talent was unbounded, a raw force that commanded attention and respect. His death was tragic -- a violent homage to the power of his voice. His legacy is indomitable -- remaining vibrant and alive.

Here now, newly discovered, are Tupac's most honest and intimate thoughts conveyed through the pure art of poetry -- a mirror into his enigmatic life and its many contradictions.

Written in his own hand at the age of nineteen, they embrace his spirit, his energy...and his ultimate message of hope.

Tupac Shakur recorded twelve landmark albums -- nine of which went either platinum or gold. A consummate actor, he also appeared in six major motion pictures, including *Poetic Justice*, *Juice*, *GridLock'd*, and *Gang Related*. He was murdered at the age of twenty-five. From Section One: *The Rose That Grew From Concrete*

The Rose That Grew from Concrete

<blockquote>Autobiographical</blockquote>

Did u hear about the rose that grew from a crack

in the concrete

Proving nature's laws wrong it learned 2 walk

without having feet

Funny it seems but by keeping its dreams

it learned 2 breathe fresh air

Long live the rose that grew from concrete

when no one else even cared!

In the Depths of Solitude

<blockquote>Dedicated 2 Me</blockquote>

I exist in the depths of solitude

pondering my true goal

Trying 2 find peace of mind

and still preserve my soul
CONSTANTLY yearning 2 be accepted
and from all receive respect
Never compromising but sometimes risky
and that is my only regret
A young heart with an old soul
how can there be peace
How can I be in the depths of solitude
when there R 2 inside of me
This Duo within me causes
the perfect opportunity
2 learn and live twice as fast
as those who accept simplicity

Sometimes I Cry
Sometimes when I'm alone
I cry because I'm on my own
The tears I cry R bitter and warm
They flow with life but take no form
I cry because my heart is torn
and I find it difficult 2 carry on
If I had an ear 2 confide in
I would cry among my treasured friends
But who do u know that stops that long

to help another carry on
The world moves fast and it would rather pass u by
than 2 stop and c what makes u cry
It's painful and sad and sometimes I cry
and no one cares about why.

Under the Skies Above

<blockquote>After the Miscarriage</blockquote>
My child is out there somewhere

under the skies above
waiting anxiously 4 u and me
2 bless it with our love
A part of me a part of u
and a part of this love we share
will protect my unborn child
who lives dormant out there somewhere
Sometimes in my dreams
I imagine what it would be like
How could I properly guide him
when even I don't know what's right
Whether he is born in wealth or poverty
there will be no deficiency in love
I welcome this gift of life
given from GOD under the skies above

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Other Books

Disciples of the Street, "This is a stunner. Eric Gutierrez opens closed windows of the soul and delivers an utterly challenging, refreshingly original work. Read it." Malcolm Boyd - Author of "Are You Running with me, Jesus?" What would cause a small, 140 year-old, Episcopal Church in the heart of the South Bronx to begin offering hip-hop services? How would the church, both locally and nationally, react? Utilizing scores of interviews and months of research, Disciples of the Street is the story of one Church's engagement with hip-hop religion, the conflicts that ensued, and the resulting birth of something much larger. Following the start of that small hip hop religious movement from its inception in the summer of 2004, through its building of a national profile, in a story that moves from the birthplace of rap to youth detention facilities in Virginia to the New South and all manner of places in between, Gutierrez looks deeply into the questions of what hip-hop has to say to the traditional church and what the church might say to hip-hop culture. Disciples of the Street is a compelling story well told and the definitive look at the issues facing a movement that's growing in popularity and gaining traction around the country.

© © © © © . The first readings were John 1:14 and Tupac's poem, "The Rose that Grew from Concrete": "Did u hear about the rose that grew from a crack in the concrete Proving nature's laws wrong it learned 2 walk without having feet Funny it seems ..."