

MEN IN CARS

A Latch key kid
So many years
No protection
For a girl of 6 years

Leave my front door
Key around my neck
Walking to school
With fear in my back

Up against a fence
Or the side of a store
Stand in the rain
Till the feelings are gone

Feeling of being watched
A stalker from afar
That old man coveting
Sitting his car

Walking 10th street
Just 6 years old
Fear I knew
As I walked alone

Sometimes those voices
I'd hear them say
"Hey Little Red"
"Come, let's play"

Once an older boy
Called out on a bike
Slamming on his brakes
Yelled out to "Hike"

"Hike up your skirt
You Dumb Red Little Bitch"
Show Me Your Stuff
Here, Scratch My Itch"

I went screaming
Ran to the apartment
As he followed me there
The gate I slammed

Safe, I made it
Heart in my throat
Never saw him again
Almost peed my coat

PTSD roots
Began to bloom
Nightmare beginning
For what could have been

As I got older
The fear stayed same
Cat calls increased
So tired this mans game

About every day
Starting 'round 7th grade
Some stupid man
Shouting something about rape

Then the ante upped
Around all the time
Flashed by men
Jerking his bike

Men whacking in cars
Pull up alongside
“Hey there honey
Come, Take A Ride”

Why did these things
Always happen to me?
Was my red hair
All they could see?

Now a teen
Now in high school
Drugs and alcohol
Were what I knew

High school boys
Into their clutches
Take you behind buildings
In back of garages

I did about anything
To numb my pain
Steal from moms bar
Access easy to gain

This story will say
My eighteen were rough
But that's my lot
That's no bluff