

## I Am Not My Circumstances

I am not my circumstances.

You can't define me by my skin.

You cannot judge me by my income

or the zip code I live in.

If I've had no education or

have many letters after my name,

it does not mean you can deem me ignorant

or guarantee that I'll reach great fame.

Don't assume my husband's my boyfriend

just because you can't commit.

And don't ask 'if the daddy's still in the picture.'

My kids are not illegitimate.

When you brag on your last vacation,

don't apologize like I've never been.

You can't begin to know my travels

or the countries that I've lived in.

You don't see my designer clothing?

I don't need to advertise what I wear.

And if my kids don't have an Xmas,

does that mean that I don't care?

You make presumptions not based on fact.

Your calculations are severely flawed.

You laugh at me for not chasing dollars?

I'm the one who stands appalled!

You can't define me by my circumstances

because you don't know what they are.

You cannot determine by my high school

if I won't succeed or if I'll go far.

You try to say because I'm female

that I am lesser or I don't count.

Don't presume you have me sized up

or try to guess what I'm about.

I've walked through palaces and gardens

of princes, kings and queens well-known.

I've traveled railways back through history

and walked down paths my ancestors roamed.

I've climbed mountains and roved castles

and have seen views from the top of the world

Compared to me you're but a newborn

you know nothing of *this* girl.

I am not my circumstances

Don't pretend you've browsed this book.

I have stories on pages and chapters

that you likely fear to look.

I've been poor and I've had plenty

I've dined with judges of federal court.

I've studied cultures, customs and languages

and given hundreds the full report.

My circumstances don't define me.

Don't pity me when my pocket's not fat.

I've got a glory set before me

that is so much richer than that.

Don't feel sorry when you see me

because my Nissan is not brand new.

This is not even my sixth car.

Truth be told, I've had a few.

But I don't need things, rings or gadgets,

just identify me by name.

I'm well aware of how I'm living

and I for sure know from where I came.

Who you see rising up before you

is doing it on purpose, not leaving life to chance.

Rest assured I'm living life victorious -

without the pomp or circumstance.