

## HIV

I thought I knew you so I excused you to dismiss the latex during sex because you said we are now officially

ONE

I allow my body to respond to every command your hands made without questions placing my trust into my naked eye exposing my physical temple to a microscopic intruder that had no form

My ignorance was not bliss

His image was deception

My carelessness was perception

I thought that HIV/AIDs had a look, a smell, a feel

My curiosity ran rapid, rushing immature thoughts about a disease that doesn't care about gender, age or race, let's keep this real

And as a young girl, I didn't know what was happening to me at the tender age of 13 when my eye for boys begin to draw long stares towards his southern parts

I should have looked up into the hills which cometh my help

Crying for help because internally something is going on

but every adult was too scared to tell me

That one day my body would mature before my mind did and as a kid all I ever cared about was playing with toys...and now I allow boys to play in my "secret place" indiscreetly

Boldly in the space of bathrooms, bedrooms and even the classrooms

I can't seem to erase the pain of that day when I walked out of that clinic with a "bag of condoms" I never used...or hearing the message in church about the plan for sex in marriage and how hard it will be to recover once my hymen was broken or abused...the gate is now open; my love is unprotected

And now my body is infected

Sick with something more powerful than the flu

Increasing the number in the books of the CDC

Statistically, holding the record steady for the highest number of new HIV cases yearly

I want to decrease the decease

I want to speak life into you and not end this poem in death

Get up, zip up and speak up

Don't put your life in the hands of another man

Who never cared about God's plan for you life

It takes two people to make the decision of sex

But only one person to object

So I spoke up and said

Its not time

yet