

# Born & Raised

Joy Denalane

I was the first of three sisters  
My older brothers would treat me like a princess  
Sporting flattops and hightop sneakers  
My feet too small for my brand-new adidas  
7 in the evening when my mama calls  
Were playing dodge ball up against the berlin wall  
That's how I was born and raised  
Now mama, look at where I am today

It's alright  
Even though we had to struggle  
Sometimes  
Even if we stumbled  
It's all good  
Cause I learned how to stay on my feet  
It's alright  
Even though we had to struggle  
Sometimes  
Even if we stumbled  
It's all good  
Cause I learned how to do for me

If my life's like your life, then I want for you to know  
There's not a thing in the world you can't achieve  
If your life's like my life, you got to keep on keeping on  
Cause there's so much more you can be

16 when I first left home  
Already hard headed thinking I was grown  
Berlin girl, half african, half caucasian  
Imagine conflicts I'm facing  
Skipped school, went clubbin with them black GI's  
Arguments on the phone would make my mama cry  
I fell in love with this thug, daddy threw a fit  
Only took one year, that nigga's doing a bid  
This is back when P.E. gave us identity  
A young girl in the streets of west germany  
That's how I was born and raised  
Now mama, look at where I am today

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Hip Hop Soul was the brand new rage  
Became my real love with Mary J.  
I took my first steps on a spot lit stage  
It was clear I was here to stay  
See it wasn't always easy on this path I chose  
When it starts getting sleazy don't know friend from foe  
That's when I learned to discern and stand up for me  
And took control of my own destiny

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