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# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Khadijah McCaskill: “Ballad of Baldwin Hills”

Khadijah McCaskill · Saturday, August 8th, 2020

### Ballad of Baldwin Hills

Born on the freeway

Baptized in the kitchen sink

Cradled in a bottom drawer

Swaddled in beaters

Pierced at the swap meet

Knockoff Jordan booties on my feet

Mineral oil gloss my lips

Parabens perfume my walk

Talc keeps my dry

Permanent perm scars

Toothbrushes expertly stiffened

For amateur mall photographs

Roses growing out of concrete paths

Project royalty

Mardi gras Indian princess

Nappy head won't grow

The colors don't match

Chain-linked abandoned patch

Brown grass streetlights

Gold Green necks

Eraser earring backs

Ashy ankles cracked heels tired hands

Church pew naps

Barretta Barrettes clink clack

Wrapped up napkins in metal boxes

Wooly wolves sly foxes

Slang makers code talkers

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Street walkers

Born on the freeway

Baptized in the kitchen sink

Cradled in a bottom drawer

Pawn shop church house

Chinese Arab liquor store

Nothing you haven't heard before

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