

D.J.

## Let It Slide By (A Whole Lot Of Struggle)

I come from Providence, Rhode Island.

Running the streets was all I knew.

Lights were cut off  
when my Mama couldn't afford the money.

I started to run the streets even harder than before.

I started to sell my body at 15  
for money.  
And I knew I wanted more.

Hustling with my brother  
was my way of getting money.

I've seen my sister get molested  
when I was five,  
not knowing  
what to do.  
So I just let it slide by..

I used drugs to take away the pain.  
I thought I was going insane.

I am a strong Black woman  
with a whole lot of struggle.  
I let people run over me.  
Because in the past,  
I let people take advantage of me.

But today I am free  
From all the struggles and pain

That got me to be me.

– D.J.