

she

gon'

u'm not doin' good
house don' jus split 'n haf
an u'm up tuh my wais' 'n kids 'n grandkids
geah me uh minute o' two
u'm jus tryin' tuh ketch ma bref
hard tuh breathe when death
got his hands on yo shouldas
stealin' from ya de way it do
ah hol hurh hand tight as ah could
she say, "you cain't hol me lak dat"
acking lak it be time fo us tuh quit
twenny nine yeahs ain't made me tied 'a you
we gots tuh raise dees' chillun
plant some tomatoes 'n con' 'n de sprang
ah meant ta fix dat screen doh
but ah don't thank it wouda stop dat wata
angry gulf seasoned wit too much yeast
rizin' King Kong 'n' beatin' itsef
'gainst cars, trees and families
it jus kepa knockin', an'uh knockin'
folla our breath 'n feah up on da roof
stoms gotta a way of invitin'
theyself into yo life
brang buckets of heartache
cain't nobody lif' off'a your chest
but God
naw, ah ain't doin' good
house don' jus split in haf
'n' u'm up tuh my wais' 'n kids 'n grandkids
ah hol hurh han' tight as ah could
she say, "you can't hold me like that"
but u'm as strong as when ah marid you
we dun fawt wurs den dis heah befoh'
you mema wen ah was hit by a train
dey thought ah was gonna die
ah didn't, but now
ev'ry moanin' ah wake
'N wheneva ah lay me down
ah wan' tuh drown futurh sleep
cos' my luv been flooded outa my belly
yea suh, dem waves walk up in heah
foas home open til it d'vide our fam'ly
ah had to rasle death fo' my wif'
b'foh it win, she whisper Mississippi echo
kin' heard on overcrowded rooftops
'n cable news networks
make me swear to rais' da chillun's chillun'
peace stranded me heah wit silence 'n ah cry
prayer ain't nevah paid no nevermind tuh Biloxi
e'en doh we only two dohs down from n'awlins
ah mis' de comfort of skin 'n home 'n um' lost
cain't fin' hurh body...she gone
das all ah had
dat's all I had

Conney Williams

Conney is a Los Angeles based poet, actor and performance artist originally from Shreveport, Louisiana where he worked a radio personality. He has published one volume of poetry "Leaves of Spilled Spirit from an Untamed Poet." His poetry has also been published in various publications and anthologies, *Voices from Leimert Park; America: At the End of the Day; The Drumming Between Us*. He has appeared on stage, television, and most recently in the independent movie, *Fighting Wordz*. He has a passion for writing poetry and has performed his poetry on television, radio, galleries, universities/schools, coffee houses, and stages around Southern California and across the country; including the Black Arts Festival. He is a community activist and has worked with youth for over 25 years. He is formerly an ordained minister and Youth Pastor in the Church of God in Christ. He hosted a weekly bible study cable television and also recorded a gospel rap cd called *L.I.F.E*. He is the Artistic Director at the World Stage in Leimert Park; and also a member of the Anansi Writers Workshop. The workshop at the World Stage has produced some of the most respected African American writers in the country. He is currently collaborating with artist Charles Bibbs on the production of *WordArt*; a monthly event of poetry, jazz, and visual art.

