


Hidden in the shadows

Shanika, age 12

Lost little girl,
Hidden in the shadows,
Sat in the darkest corner of the room.
Day after day,
Shaking with fear.
Banging on the door,
Shouting in the night,
Tossing and turning
On the cold, dusty floor.
She wishes for the life of the girl
On the front cover of 'OK' magazine.
Who probably doesn't realise how lucky she is.
It's the life the little girl will never have.

So she thinks . . .
The next day a lady awaits her,
In the office at school –
'Oh no' she thinks.
How wrong could she have been.
Veronica was her guardian angel,
She was about to change her life,
For the first time someone had listened.
She didn't like her new 'parents'.
What was she even to call them?
The little girl was lost.
She'd had no childhood.
She'd lock herself in her,
Shut everyone else out.



However,
Nobody gave up on her.
They worked hard.

In time they fought off her demons.
She was happy,
She played,
She laughed and smiled.
The lost little girl
Had come out of the shadows,
Led by the light of her guardian angels.
Her new family.
They'd given her a home,
A life,
A future,
A childhood and
Best of all, a family.
All things she'd never had before.
For that,
She could never thank them enough.
Never give up hope,
The girl once hidden in the shadows,
Has proven to be so much more!

My life story

Callum, age 15

Yeah it all started when me and my fam parted
They said it wasn't my fault
But there was a part of me that knew it was
I didn't have the guts to stand up to the heads
so I kept my head down and at the right time went to bed

But then s*** went dead I started walking away from the rules
they put there
Got kicked out of schools and homes and in time I didn't care
I didn't show no fear
Hood up tunes on walking round the streets either that or on a
BMX
Trying to run and find beef I didn't call my sen a thief
But whenever someone was happy I did my best to crease
ye it was stupid of me cos I tried to take that away
I guess they had what I didn't so it was an emotion in a way

I went to this place i guess my heart was pounding
cos that's the 9th place I've been to I was unsure when they
wasn't shouting
Cos I was used to b***** 24/7 Shouting and arguing I guess this
place was heaven

They took me in fed me bought me clothes talked to me when I
was down
Tried to help me in the way that I needed
and sed 'we will always be around and we are here when you
need us'
I knew at that time I wasn't leaving I started believing
not just in me but the future I could be leading