

**Creed Avenue**

By Stephanie Leigh Batiste

*Excerpt*

baby girl

**Lady**

**Grandma Angel**

i don't get whapped.  
they give me a bucket, cleanser, a sponge, some water.  
the cleanser is green. i know green.  
crispy soft powders that turn foamy and light with bubbles!  
big crayon circles disappear  
they were fun but not pretty. nope. i had tried to make pretty  
and kep' on going!  
didn't know to leave the black  
the black too dark. not a garden. look like the black hole in my dream  
the sponge is a big rectangle. (i know rectangle.)  
puffy cleanser drips down  
onto my spread, the floor.  
it takes long  
but I scrub and scrub and watch magic  
as wild lines disappear gone.

**I'm asleep.**

i'm asleep i  
know and  
falling  
again  
in the black nothing  
sinking feeling  
i'm scared again falling and falling  
and scared of the bottom. like always, scared. crash. break. it  
never  
comes  
i fall

**You are the star inside your own heart.  
Feel the love of your own light. *Feel the love of your own light.***

**Feel the depth of your own darkness and  
endless**

**falling.**

**Don't be afraid. Your star will shine you.  
You already in the sky. The sky will hold you.**

**You.**

**Don't be afraid to be high. Be low. Don't be afraid to be low.**

**You fall./You fall.**

**Don't be afraid to fall, sweet baby. You won't hit the bottom**

**Ain't no bottom. Only sky.**

only sky.

**Ropes of onyx moonstone crystal  
coal shell diamond lapis sandstone  
flung forward  
over shoulder  
downpour swing  
clicked into cylinder curls.**