

# Stranger In This Land

Joy Denalane

I was the daughter  
Of a little known king  
When they came  
And put me in a castle  
My eyes had never seen  
They spoke in tongues  
I've never heard  
They took me to the sea  
At the edge of the earth  
I journed tempest waters  
Reached these distant shores  
My clothes are tattered  
And my soul is worn  
I bore a daughter  
In captivity  
They came late one night  
To take her away from me  
I cried and I cried  
Oh, Lord have mercy on me  
Can't they see  
That little girl  
Is royalty

I held my ground  
And took my stand  
Can't help  
Feeling sometimes  
That I'm a stranger  
In this land  
In this land of mine

My mother used  
To cook and clean  
For the rich folks  
On the hill  
Made sure  
I got an education  
And could hardly  
Pay the bills  
I studied  
Schools of thought  
And philosophies of man  
Started questioning  
The contradictions  
In this land  
I left the classroom  
Joined the rallies  
In the street  
Marching hand in hand  
In the Mississippi heat  
I spent so many years  
Of my life on the move  
That confrontation  
Was the only thing i knew  
Talking unity and how  
We gone push on through  
Can't even say no more

If anything's improved

I held my ground  
And took my stand  
Can't help  
Feeling sometimes  
That I'm a stranger  
In this land  
In this land of mine

I'm a family man  
With a wife  
And two kids to feed  
I dedicated my life  
To seeing we succeed  
The way I sought to make it  
I learned to follow the rules  
So we can make sure  
Our children visit  
The finest schools  
Grandmas on the weekends  
Going on about the good old days  
When decent black folks  
Be trying to make a change  
My parents used to tell me  
To live my life steadfast  
But some may ask me  
What it is that I have

I held my ground  
And took my stand  
Can't help  
Feeling sometimes  
That I'm a stranger  
In this land  
In this land of mine