

At 14,
She's pregnant.

And there!
Alone in the darkness!
She wakes up everyday,
To take her pills

Yet there is none to clear her bills.
But still, she won't give up.

Hey there!
What are you?
I am what you see!
Not what you are,
Not a girl anymore.

Do you know how hard it is to be a girl again?
Sometimes life can be a mystery,
And all hopes seem to be sunk in a mortuary.
No pads! No pants! No shoes!

I turn around and all I see
Are green snakes in the grass.
Yes I see!

I see boys and men craving to have a taste of me,
For a mere penny in their pockets.
But I refuse to be a dumping site for a mere penny.
For I know that life will continue.

And I won't give up.
We reject all your goodies,
If they come with strings attached to our bodies.
For we know our value
And we refuse to be devalued.

At 10 or 14
13 or 17

We refuse to be confused.
With pads or without,
Clothes or no clothes,
Pants or no pants,

We refuse to be confused.
But why look at me as a sex doll?
Why not treat me as your own?

As your own sister,
Your daughter.
As your own cousin or niece
Why?


Why not be a little kind?
So I can stay in school.
And live a life with some hope.
Tell me!

Why does it feel like heaven to spoil little girls?
Tell me!

When all this is over,
Will you still have the guts to stand next to the ones you have infected?
Will you still have a place among the ones you have shattered and
rejected?

Tell me!
Will you be there as she struggles
With her routines against AIDS? Syphilis? Gonorrhea?
How would you feel
If it were your sister? Your daughter? Your niece?
Would you rather leave her alone in the darkness?





Gwe kano!
Oli mulenzi!
Go work!
You're a man,
A man must be strong!
You get it?
Gw'alya ennyo!
Gw'atayagala ku kola!
Okuze!
Lwaki togenda n'owasa?

Why am I here?
What am I?
Who am I?
Who even sees?
Who cares?
Where am I?

I wish
Oh how I wish
I wish this world was filled with love,
When love it all we have.
So we can give a drop of love,
And receive it back.

Mbon'omeeze amabele!
J'ofune omusadha
Onviire mu maka gange.

Togeza!
Togeza kunina munimiro yange,
Ng'okali mubibadha byo.
Togeza!
Togeza tugemera kumeere yaife!
Togeza!
Togeza kozesa sabuni yaife,
Ng'okali mubibadha byo.
Mbon'okuze,
J'ofumbirwe!
Will you show me a little love?
Wake up one morning,
Touch my hair, and tell me that I look beautiful.
A little love...

Look into my eyes
And let your heart tell me
That one day, I will be successful.
A little love...
Spare some time
And talk to me
And tell me how to shave
How to wear a pad.
How to clean my body.
A little love...
And tell me that you're proud of me.
Of the little good things I do.