

# The Road Whispered, Sang And Told Me Who I Was

*By Karen Nelson Mangold*

## *The Road Whispers*

I've driven miles of highway  
Let my mind fly free  
And the road took me places  
I had never been.

The road, she whispered, and she sang...  
She told me who I was  
And who I wasn't  
I was content. I played it safe, didn't push past fear to dive  
deep where the pearls dwell  
But my mind had a mind of its own and it took me there, pulled  
me under and showed me all that lies beyond the veil  
It showed me  
That little girl, standing at the bedroom window, counting  
stars, feeling small ...feeling fear  
Feeling invisible  
In comparison with that  
Vast sky  
Feeling invisible  
In comparison with a  
Wine bottle  
Feeling like it was her fault  
That wine bottles flowed  
And so did tears  
Never understanding until she cried her own tears in front of  
her children  
That children will listen  
And they will make it  
All about them

When you are sad  
Or hurting  
When you're afraid  
When the person you depend on to get you dressed in the  
morning  
Doesn't dress herself  
Some mornings  
You wonder if you left your toys out too long  
Or made too much noise and we don't make noise when daddy's  
resting, remember, his heart is fragile.

Remember his heart is fragile. Remember he could die.  
You wonder why some days it's like it's your birthday  
And you have your favorite food and you go for ice cream and  
you get a new book, you love books, they are your friends.  
Books tell the truth  
Books take you places, they don't promise and break that  
promise.  
You can leave them for a while  
And they will still be there waiting. They don't leave, not  
saying goodbye.  
They don't forget  
That Thursday is class  
Picture day, and you promised you would braid my hair  
And daddy does instead, and he's gentler, and  
He doesn't pull my hair  
And he smells like limes  
And his eyes are kind.

But mommy's braids are better  
The bangs don't fall  
In my eyes so  
I can't read  
And reading  
Saves me  
You wonder why  
She's sad

When she's beautiful  
And she's adored  
And she makes people happy  
You wonder why she thinks  
That wine stuff is going to  
Love her more  
Than you do. So much that  
She falls asleep holding a  
Glass, instead of your hand.

And yet it was your hand  
She held as  
Cancer took her away  
From you for the last time  
The road told me  
As it whispered under me  
As it vibrated through my body  
It wasn't you  
It wasn't you  
It wasn't you  
It was never you  
I know it wasn't me  
I know it wasn't any of us  
Even if you never told me  
Why you hurt and why you drank  
I know some aches go so deep  
That you'll do anything  
To keep them from seeping  
Out into the light of day  
But un speaking the words  
Makes them poison  
That burns  
And until you let it out  
You won't know freedom  
The road whispers  
My minds words  
I'm listening

And I'm letting them speak.

For more self-study, [The Urban Howl](#) recommends [52 Ways to Live a Kick-Ass Life: BS-Free Wisdom to Ignite Your Inner Badass and Live the Life You Deserve](#) .

Hey Dreamer, sip a little more:

[One Human Family, The New Democracy: Eyes Crying, Hate Dying & Love Unifying](#)

[Be Free To Pray, F\\*ck, Love & Share Your Passion](#)

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