

LIKE A CAGED BIRD

Caged up under protected lock and key

Like a thriving bird waiting to be set free

Now is the time to finally let me go

To escape from everything I already know

I need to stretch my fragile, sheltered wings

You need to cut your tight apron strings

Learn to soar and fly in the big open sky

Discover on my own how to get by

Worry not, for you have taught me very well

Now is the time to rejoice and not to dwell

Should I stumble from raw sky to cold ground

I need a little space to move so I don't drown

Dust off my feathers, straighten up my feet

This is one little bird that can't be beat.

—*Brittany Violet Long*