

## We Are From Oyler

I am from the city  
but I talk like I'm from the country. I am from my old Kentucky home, waking up to the rooster's crow.  
I was born with my great grandma's name.  
My name comes with a lifetime  
of misspelling and mispronunciations.  
I am from parallel parking and lawn chairs and cigarettes  
on the sidewalks in the evening,  
from where family sticks together and loves like no other.  
I am from weekends filled with cookouts  
and family birthday parties.  
I am from hard work and drive,  
from remembered hopes and dreams, and these things are what built me.

From my head to my feet,  
I am from changes, good and bad.  
I am from the hood where most never make it.  
from the ghetto filled with drugs and bullets,  
a concrete place that I hate to call my home.  
I from the quiet nights that turn to yelling,  
from sharp tongues and tears, -  
from a road full of problems,  
a one track mind.  
I am from a family, from ones who hate to love.  
I am from not knowing what I want or what I am.  
I am from a life that went from good to the bottom of the barrel.  
My place is a place no one should  
ever have to even be or follow.  
I am from issues,  
but pretending they aren't there isn't one.

I am from before and afters  
that blend into now.  
I am from a broken down past but having a bright future.  
I am from a family that has been through the struggles.  
I've grown up with a mix of people. from friends who are my family  
and family I don't even know as friends.  
I don't know where I am going because I only know the past,  
but I do know where I'm from  
and have hopes of who I'll become. I am going to do the things nobody said I could.  
I am from Oyler, helping you determine your place in the world,  
no matter the circumstances.  
I am from Oyler, a place I consider home.

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