

MY FEAR NO LONGER HAUNTS ME

BY: CASANDRA PHILLIPS

**"So it is better to speak
remembering we were never
meant to survive"
- Audre Lorde**

**"But come here, fear I am alive
and you are so afraid of dying"
- Joy Harjo**

When I think of my fears, I think of the average fears at first. I think, "I am afraid of elevators, I am afraid of rats, I am afraid of heights, and so on" but it is not until I am asked "no, what are you really afraid of" that I really start to think about my real fears. Silently and nervously I reply with, "well, I am afraid of being me, I am afraid of never being free and I am also afraid of actually being free. I am afraid of being a queer, biracial women, and I am afraid of being educated. I am afraid of always surviving but never living". So often I hold back on doing me because me as a person is not an average individual. I am not what our society wishes for, I am the complete opposite, but that is me.

