

## If They Had Their Way

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If they had their way  
I would still have permed hair  
and think that my skin was too black to be beautiful  
that my lips were too big to be kissed  
and that my nose was too wide to be honest.  
I would be convinced that Lincoln really did free the slaves  
that Jefferson really did want freedom and justice for all  
and that the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santamaria were solely responsible for America.

If they had their way  
I would believe that the police were really here to serve me  
that the government actually cared about my welfare  
and that the CIA had nothing to do with Medgar, Martin, and Malcolm.  
I would think that my friend was my nigger  
that affirmative action isn't necessary  
and that rock 'n roll started with Elvis Presley.

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If they had it their way  
I'd believe that Negroes had nothing to do with American progression  
that colored only was a privilege  
and that Rosewood never happened.  
I would believe that Africa had nothing to do with the beginning  
that Egypt did not have her hands with Socrates and Plato  
and that aliens constructed the pyramids.

If they had their way  
I'd find it appropriate to call the Native Americans Indians  
to consider voodoo uncivilized  
and to worship a God with blue eyes and blond hair.  
I'd believe that Assata, Ruchell, and Angela were guilty  
that the stock market was sophistication  
and that American education was really enlightening.

If they had their way  
I would have written a poem about nature  
titled it *Ode to the West Wind*  
and published it under a pseudonym.

Kendra Nicole  
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