

“Untied” by Anara Pearl Kaufmann

based on the book *The Bridge Home* by Padma Venkatraman

Behind your back they'd call you names
You never knew, you never felt the pain
At the time, I'd thought that that was bad
Little did I know, we'd be split in half

We used to roam around these crooked streets
Trying to sell your beads
No one even looked us in the eye
“We were invisible, in plain sight”¹

We did our best, you know we tried
To keep everything tied
You strung your beads one by one
Gave you a chance to be someone

We could have stood a chance
And wove those beads into plans
Dreams of school, faith, and hope
Could've found a life, built a home

But we shouldn't dwell on dreams
'Cause we'd be struck by tragedy
Eventually we'd split apart
Everything would end before its start

We did our best, god knows we tried
To keep everything tied
You strung your beads one by one
Gave us a chance to be someone

But there you lay stiff on that bed
'Cause you will never move again
I'd take the blame for it all
If I could, I'd take the fall

“Now I only have one left
The only one we didn't sell
When I can't sleep, I count the beads
Like my own rosary”²

I did my best, god knows I tried
But our future came untied
You strung your beads one by one
But all that's gone and dead and done

¹ paraphrased from *The Bridge Home*, p. 41

² paraphrased from *The Bridge Home*, p. 128



Scan to hear Anara
sing “Untied”

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E

Behind your back they'd call you names

A

E

You never knew, you never felt the pain.

E

A

At the time, I'd thought that that was bad

B

Little did I know, we'd be split in half.

E

We used to roam around these crooked streets

A

E

Trying to sell your beads

E

A

No one even looked us in the eye

B

“We were invisible, in plain sight”

E

A

We did our best, you know we tried

E

A

To keep everything tied

B

A

You strung your beads one by one

F#m

E

Gave you a chance to be someone

E

We could have stood a chance

A

E

And wove those beads into plans

E

A

Dreams of school, faith and hope

B

Could've found a life, built a home

E

But we shouldn't dwell on dreams

A.

E

Cause we'd be struck by tragedy

E

A

Eventually we'd split apart

B

Everything would end before its start

E **A**
We did our best, God knows we tried

E **A**
To keep everything tied

B **A**
You strung your beads one by one

F#m **E**
Gave us a chance to be someone

C#m **G#m** **A**
But there you lay stiff on that bed

C#m **G#m** **A**
'Cause you will never move again

G#m **A**
I'd take the blame for it all

F#m **B** **(hold)**
If I could, I'd take the fall

E
"Now I only have one left

A **E**
The only one we didn't sell

E **A**
When I can't sleep, I count the beads

B
Like my own rosary"

E **A**
I did my best, god knows I tried

E **A**
But our future came untied

B **A**
You strung your beads one by one

F#m **E**
But all that's gone and dead and done