

## **Black Box** Nikki Grimes

In case I forgot to tell you,  
I'm allergic to boxes:  
Black boxes, shoes boxes,  
New boxes, You boxes—  
Even cereal boxes  
Boasting champions,  
(It's all a lie.  
I've peeked inside  
And what I found  
Were flakes.)  
Make no mistake,  
I make no exceptions  
For cracker Jack  
Or Christmas glitter.  
Haven't you noticed?  
I'm made of skeleton,  
Muscle and skin  
My body is the only box  
I belong in.  
But you like your boxes  
So keep them.  
Mark them geek, wimp, bully.  
Mark them with china doll, brainiac,  
Or plain dumb jock.  
Choose whatever  
Box you like, Mike.  
Just don't put me in one, son.  
Believe me,  
I won't fit.