

Poetry Series

April Swanson
- poems -

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April Swanson(May 24,1991)

I am only seventeen and in love with poetry. I have a big loving family {mom, dad, and four sisters}. I am an irish twin-only 10 months apart from the oldest sibling. I'm going to be a Senior at Canastota. Woohoo! Finally. I feel poetry brings out the inner beauty inside us - the part that can be so very difficult to express verbally.

Could This Be Me?

I wish to know the truth,
The truth of life.

How to be perfect,
What's wrong, what's right.

Not to disobey,
To curse or lie.
To cheat, to steal, to hurt, to cry.

To not have emotions that scars the heart.
To not crumble and fall apart.

To fail at a goal I'd wished to succeed.
Because I had believed in me.

To let my pride be broken down.
And let all the pain in, not out.

To let sin lead me on a path.
To hope that love would bring me back.

To know that all these things are true...
Could this be me, could this be you?

April Swanson

Exertion

Life isn't simple
Nor is it a breeze.
Life is a purpose
and was meant to be seized.

Work with the flow,
instead of pushing against the tide.
You may find it well worth it,
to be on your side.

Don't put yourself down,
as that's the last thing
you want to do.

Remember there's a great big world out there,
Just waiting for you.

Learn from your own mistakes,
It's the best way to be taught.
Don't follow behind someone else's path
It's your own to Sought.

But make stride
And you learn that even sunshine
burns if you get too much.

Focus on what you know,
Instead of worrying about what you don't.
Never say you can't,
just say you won't.

Don't back down from your thoughts
Always speak what you want to say.
Never allow your voice to slip away.

After some time you'll realize how special you are
It takes time, but it will come.
You'll discover yourself-
And then some.

April Swanson

Fracture

Drown out, the voice that breaks the silence
And takes the joy out of everything

We made a plan that was subject to change
So whatever was it works out-
we both get the blame

And you took the wind right out of my sails
By sweating me out on all the little details

I want to trace your scars with
my fingertips, want to follow it's
fracturing line

Follow the fracture with my finger,
And watch it connect to mine

Allow me this one weakness
To shatter your thoughts just one more time

Mine have been torn apart enough,
I guess I wasn't as tough

You used to know what I wanted to say,
Now my words,
they only get in the way

April Swanson

Frantically Falling

Words just can't express
how much you mean to me.
Sometimes it's hard for me to show it,
so you may not always see.

I'm afraid that I'm falling for you,
My heart has hit the floor.
I hate to be without you,
It makes me want you more.

I love it when you hold me,
And look into my eyes.
I love to feel your body,
When it's pressed against mine.

Every time I'm with you,
There's a constant smile on my face.
The piece missing from my heart,
You have somehow replaced.

I want to tell you,
How I really feel.
But I find it hard to admit,
That this is all so real.

You know that I care about you,
But you don't know how much.
I find myself falling in love,
With someone I feel I can trust.

I don't want to scare you away,
I just wanted you to know.
The way I feel about you,
As it continues to grow.

Once again I am risking my heart,
In hopes that you feel the same.
But if you don't, let me know,
So I can deal with the pain.

I think of you quite often
more than you'll ever know.
I don't want to hide it,
but I can't always let it show.

Although you might never know this,
everything I say is true.
Although I'll probably never always let it show,
I'm frantically falling in love with you.

April Swanson

Grasping Isolated

Lonely are these days
Followed by these nights,
Lonely am I,
In so many ways

So lonely am I,
That it bring tears
Casting out my inner fear

Crying only a little bit is no use
Happiness hides in the last tear
And I wept it
All that was lost becomes found...
Burning in my eyes

A shadow is floating through the moonlight.
And the night holds its breath
The air is full of emotions to feel,
And I drink in them passionately

Alone am I,
With all these feelings,
I'm Alone to wander
Alone to ponder
What should have been between us

Alone to cry
to smile
And all the while
Alone to discover
A world full of twisted beauty

The fears that I dream
of things that I should not say
But I'm alone with my dreams,
Alone each and every day

Alone in morning
Afternoon and the night

Alone without knowing...
Being alone is not right

I'm not satisfied
Thinking these thoughts like I do
When I know there is someone out there
Who is just as confused

But I'll keep these emotions in check and hidden
This person doesn't need to know how I felt,
And they don't need to be forgiven

But for now...

I will continue alone

And stand alone...

For I'm not ready to have them back by my side

April Swanson

Just You...& Me.

I really love you.
So why can't you just see?
Of all people in this world...
You mean the most to me.

If words were just enough,
You would know that this is real.
But words cannot measure...
How you do make me feel.

I want to tell you the truth,
But I cannot find the time.
I want to open up my heart...
And allow you to be mine.

When you are around me,
My heart is beating so fast.
If only you'd understand...
I know that we could last.

For you my love, I'd die,
Just to prove that I am true.
I'd pick out all of the stars,
And give them out to you.

I could rip out my heart,
And for you take the pain.
For then I wouldn't ache...
When I hear your name.

Every night I dream of you,
Just you and me.
When I wake I smile...
Thinking maybe it could be

April Swanson

Kissed By Death

Sometimes I am in my own world,
Bleak, Isolated from others.
Most the time I can't understand diseases,
Why they take away our sisters and brothers.

They seize what little grasp of life I've just begun.
A dent in my armor,
My shield is being slung.

Doors are closing,
Like wind blowing them as we speak.
My body is shutting down,
It is becoming too weak.

Your hand is slipping from my grasp,
Too far away to grab.
The protection I once felt inside,
Is slipping without my command.

I laugh in the face of evil,
O, the many things I've had to face.
The pains, the laughs, the cries,
Well all that now will be washed away.

I want to know that I have been to the extreme,
That I have searched every corner,
Every little nook and cranny.

That I did not go without a fight,
That my choice was not death,
but of life.

I will rise as I try to fight the tides,
Which are beginning to drag me in,
I'm drowning here,
But the battle will soon happen again.

To others out in the world,

As unlucky as I,
To be stuck with this melancholy,
This fight between it and thy.

Tomorrow will come
it may be my last,
Please make the most of today
Life overtakes lives too fast.

April Swanson

Mirror Mirror On The Wall

I've never been the type
To venture out on my own
Being by myself was normal
I never felt alone

But one day the sky
Didn't look so blue,
Nor the grass so green.
Being by myself wasn't like
It used to be, it seems.

Gradually I made a new friend
Who knew me right away.
It was weird how quickly
She understood all I had to say.

Told her all my innermost secrets
My dreams, my thoughts.
She never disputed me
I liked her a lot.

She never judged me,
She knew just how I felt.
She seemed to just accept me,
And all the problems I'd been dealt.

I felt so close to this person
I needed a closer look.
Puzzled I walked up nearer
And realized that my new best friend
Was nothing but a mirror.

April Swanson

My

My heart
Broken. Shattered.
Crushed.

My spirit.
Squeezed. Stretched.
Cracked.

My soul.
Divided. Confused.
Sacrificed.

Me.
Myself.
I.

Waiting.
For Redemption.

April Swanson

My Way

All that's beautiful drifts abroad
With emptiness left in its' place
Kiss my finger tips and gnaw away
The midst of my joy

Echo my soul in a chamber
Suffocated by hate and violence
What the darkness captures
Is now pale in comparison of light

Face a fallen world
Swallowed by fools
The secrets of my heart
Knotted into thyself

Abounding spirit rise
Lifted from the no of all nothing
Urge disobedience to purity
Give away my courageous faith

Provide me with a state of mind
Heal my desire

April Swanson

Necessity

I'm the host of imperfection□
But you see past all that
I'm not the prettiest by some standards
but in your eyes I'm the best
you see potential in all my flaws
and that's exactly what I need
When I want you the most
You wait on me,
my necessity

April Swanson

On No Account

Don't ever pass me by-
Without a hello.
Without a goodbye.

Never stop stealing glances my way.
By no means forget me and toss me away.
On no account tear my heart in half.
Never take my childhood laughs.

I beg of you - don't forget my smile.
Please remember it, if only for alil' while.
Please keep taking my breath away.
One less word I'll have to say.

I hope I'm always in your dreams.
You're never out of mine it seems.
Open your eyes-
Ill always be by your side

I feel so much better knowing you're there.
It shows me just how much you really care.
Just remember that I am here,
to hold you close and dry your tears.

April Swanson

Perfect

I press a leaf against my cheek,
It crackles like a log smoldering in a fire.

The wind stirs, bringing a rhythm of dancing colors,
swirling with every blow of wind, and I try grasping the rainbow in my hands.

I toss fistfuls in the air, giggling as they float and whirl around me.
Capturing me in blanket of happiness, a carpet of security along the ground.

A red colored leaf brushes my shoulder and glides to the ground,
begging to be touched.
The color blazes an image in my mind, and I reach out to its temptations.
Scuffing my boots on the ground,
I bend down to marvel at its exquisiteness.

My hand reaches out, stroking its curled edges and delicate condition.
The stem has broken off, the leaf is damaged.

Coming across the imperfection,
The effect the leaf gives is hypnotizing.
Looking past its warped rim and fragile state it begs to be picked as special,
distinctive.

Neither spring nor summers' beauty compares to fall's dazzling display.
Fall brings such magnificence that nothing measures up to a pleasant
autumn day.

A smile plays across my lips.
It's perfect.
The fallen leaf is nothing more than a summer waving goodbye.

April Swanson

Proclaiming Faith

I just want to thank the Lord
For your step of faith.
In coming to Him to be baptized
And to go forth in His grace.
Your love for Jesus Christ
Shines through in all you do,
For there are many that will see
The hope of Christ in you.

It takes a lot of courage
To be baptized in His name.
To die to the old self,
And be forever changed.
May God bless your life
For stepping out for Him,
Proclaiming unto others
The faith you have within.

I thank the Lord for you
For bringing you to this place.
I pray you'd have a real sense
Of God's hand upon your life.
As you go through the baptismal waters
And follow after Christ.
I pray that you may go from here
Changed and made brand-new.
Walking hand in hand with God
Into all He's called you to.

April Swanson

Rainbow

It was strange and it was soothing, and you could even say amusing-
The way it came to me.
When I think about love,
I think about when I was little
and I automatically knew what I wanted.
Love should come to you just like that,
like your favorite color comes to you,
or how a smile comes across your face.
I've seen the waters that make your eyes shine
now I'm shining too.
That's exactly what I want love to do.
Look around,
the only thing that I'm focused on is you.
If love was a color-
I'd be my favorite.

April Swanson

Sensations

I am desolate and in the dark, with feelings vacant; unfilled.
I am as numb as my toes in the snow.

The winter nights feels like all the others-
dark, cold, with the touch of depression beckoning me.

Each powerful, and resistant of command.
Each breath I take leaves my lungs caged with icy bitterness, and my skin left
tingling.

Morning is coming. The air begins to warm,
And I am no longer stuck with the emptiness of the night.

The days grow longer, yielding and filled with promise.
Negativity does not pull down as much; it is bending and breaking with each
passing moment.

My shoulders no longer feel weighed down with impossibilities,
And I look towards the horizon as it begins to blossom with colors, changing and
being its' own.

And I look towards the fields, Miles and miles of encouragement,
Painting a picture in my mind.

They day has just begun, a snap-shot only to the naked-eye.
Many wish to see these days in its splendor, but few actually see.

The sun begins to soak up nights' way of doing, and spreads it's' beauty, a job
needed done just right.
Several can paint the picture, but the image in the heart is far more graphic.

So the night gives way, if only for a little while.
It is days' turn now, to sculpt an image fit for perfection.

April Swanson

This Body

Some thoughts are private to oneself
sharing them would feel like a sin.
But by not showing who you are,
how can someone know the person within?

There are people who wear their feelings on their sleeve,
and she just happens to be one of them.
Keeping her feelings bottled up inside,
Would feel like she's not being herself.
Her door would be closed,
No entering to happen.

But with a smile, laugh, or cry
she shows who this person in this body really is.
Who lets anger, beauty and sin,
Enter the gates of her mind, soul, and heart
The feeling choosing the place to live.
Where the beauty of the body starts.

April Swanson

Whirlwind

The emotions inside my heart,
Twist and Twind
Through tunnels,
Looking for a way out.
It seems the key to my heart has gone missing
Have you seen it?

I've searched hard and long
Anxiety kicking in
Yet I've gotten no clue
Nor trace of where it is

But then it hits me
Like a perfect shot on a bulls-eye
I know exactly where the key is,
It's been there this whole time

The key hadn't been thrown away
Misplaced or misused
This whole time
The key's been kept safe in a special place....

With you

April Swanson

Who I Am

What I think,
is my own way
to express myself
and what I say.
What I do,
my actions
either right or wrong
cause consequences.
What I see,
with my two eyes
helps me see the world
and what goes wrong.
What I say,
the words which pass these lips
hope to help communicate
with ones who understand and relate.
What I know,
and what I do
our my own choices to choose.
Who I'm with,
the people I seek out
is who I am.
Accept me or have regrets.

April Swanson

You

You turned out even better
Than I often dreamed you'd be;
You're more than I had hoped for;
You're a sweet reward to me
I couldn't be any prouder
Than I am today of you;
You're my daughter and my friend,
And a wonderful person, too

I hope you love me as much as I love you;
For enriching my life in so many ways,
for giving me a new role to do
I hope I protected your soul, handled it with care,
I know you trusted me to always be there.

You gave me your eyes to help you see
Not only the outside
But also your inside beauty
I hope I opened your eyes
to the blessings around you
Showed you that beauty and
goodness are the truth

I hope I helped you to trust in the future,
not fear it.
Taught you that dreams are the winds of the spirit,

I hope I guided you with wisdom and
gentle persuasion
Told you that you are my pleasure,
and God's creation

I gave you the gift of life
And then in love, I set you free
One day I hope I'm thanked for all my tender care,
For deep warm hugs and being there

I hope with my special love I showed you the way,
To believe in yourself and the decisions you make

Taking on the challenges of life day-to-day

And I hope a part of you will always see
You have my love forever;
I adored you from the start;
It's a privilege to be your mother,
Dear daughter of my heart

April Swanson