

Poetry Series

**Clara Keiper**  
**- poems -**

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Clara Keiper(02/08/50)

# A Few Loose Coins

With a few loose coins in his pocket  
He wandered up to the booth  
He needed to answer a question  
Have somebody tell him the truth

We used to live in a big house  
My mommy and daddy and me  
He said as he gave her his money  
I don't know where daddy could be

No one will answer my questions  
Mommy just sits there and cries  
Daddy's been gone for a long time  
And I think that maybe he died

She picked up all of the loose coins  
And handed them back to the boy  
She said let me tell you a secret  
We both know that I wouldn't lie

With a few loose coins in his pocket  
And a smile where a tear used be  
Mommy and Daddy are fighting  
But I know that they both love me

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# A Message From Heaven

You can go on living  
until it's time to die  
The caterpillar doesn't know  
about the butterfly

I can't go on like this  
Is something that I said  
Imagine when I woke up here  
and didn't wake up dead.

You asked of me a Question  
And you know I'd never lie.  
A message sent from heaven  
Don't be afraid to die.

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# A Red Baseball Hat

Step into the moonlight  
leave your life behind  
I can feel you tremble  
in the silence of the night

Listen to the music  
That's floating in the air  
Come and dance the dance with me  
A man who isn't there

Come and hold me close  
Let me touch your hair  
Let me hold your body close  
To a man who isn't there

There will come a time  
We won't have to pull away  
Someday you will join me  
Love, I'll be here until that day.

By Clara Sue Keiper

To the ghost in the red baseball hat. I loved you then, I love you now and I will love you, always.

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# As Plain As Day

I can see you as plain as day.  
walking around as if you weren't dead.  
You walk across my yard  
a red baseball cap  
on your head

and when I chase you  
your not where you were at  
least not where I seen you  
Maybe I'll find you at my shoulder

Or you set up in the car  
When i don't expect to see you  
Or come hold me in my bed at night  
and you know I love it when you sing

You know that I've been thinking  
I can probably get a picture  
I think I'll give it a try  
that way i'll always keep you

Clara Keiper

# Before He Goes

The door was always open  
so he wandered in and out  
He never found a reason  
not to go

But her eyes or that look in them  
always brought him back again  
back to something  
he just couldn't live without

Whisper something soft and tender  
wet and warm against his throat  
Put her hands in all the places  
that she loved

Take the time to taste the reasons  
that she takes him back again  
Take as much of him inside her  
as she can before he goes

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# Black Widow

She sat in front of a crystal ball  
the window and the moon  
contemplating the fate of the man  
who lies in the other room

dear destiny brought him  
one night in a storm  
He looked all disheveled  
and his clothes were all torn

She looked into him  
with ebony eyes  
She found a soul that  
was barely alive

Helpless and hopeless  
he bent to her will  
She sucked on his poor soul  
til she had her fill

There he lies in the opposite room  
though his nose courses her favorite perfume  
Will his eyes open or there will he lie  
awaiting the day that he's hoping to die

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# Blessed Be

Lay ye down my child  
Blesses Be, Blessed Be  
Till the night is gone  
Blessed Be

By an old watch tower  
very late at night  
sat 100 soldiers  
waiting for the light

And 100 soldier  
for his mercy prayed  
that 100 soldiers  
would some how be saved

Lay ye down my child  
Blessed Be, Blessed Be  
till the night is gone  
Blessed Be

there were hurt and wounded  
They had fought the fight  
someone would come to save them  
at first morning light

they were all surrounded  
by an angry crowd and  
they thought by day light  
they would all be down

Then 100 women  
dressed in long white gowns  
stood before them and they  
face the crowd

Lay ye down my child  
Blessed be, Blessed Be  
till the night is gone  
Blessed Be

When the night had lift  
and the morning rose  
there were no more women  
in their long white robes

as the rescue party  
came to take them home  
the soldiers told them how the crowd  
was overthrown

They had heard that  
story several times before  
Heard the women just stand there  
and they stop the war

lay ye down my child  
Blessed Be Blessed Be  
when the night is over  
Blessed be

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# Closer

He whispered something soft and warm  
And wet against her throat  
He took her to a place she'd never been  
He even sang a song to her  
With words he never wrote  
She swore she'd always take him back again.

He said she was his sidekick  
She should never go away.  
That where she was was something he must know  
She took the time to taste the reasons  
That she took him back again  
Took as much of him inside her  
As she could before he'd go

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# Come

It wasn't that she loved him less  
No one could love him more  
She had a taste for him  
time couldn't tame

He didn't even say goodbye  
He only told her come  
but this time was the time  
she never came

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# Enchanted

Some people move away from love  
Sometimes it pulls you closer  
But I've a very special love  
I'm Enchanted by my lover

Enchantment bring your voice to me  
Enchantment brings your shoulder  
and when the night seems very long  
It brings your passion over

Enchanted I sit here with tears  
just running down my cheeks  
And those around me wonder why  
I keep laughing so in streaks

I'm not sure how you did this thing  
your love for me's been tender  
I never dreamed I'd be with you  
I'm enchanted by my lover

By Clara Sue Keiper

MAP

I still hear you  
I still touch YOU  
I still love you

Clara Keiper

# Fire And Ice

Baby you torture me  
Hot then cold repeatedly

You are fire  
You are ice  
Your temptation  
then your sacrifice

You send shivers down my spine  
I'm confused most all the time

You are fire  
You are ice  
Hard to handle  
then your really nice

Baby you torture me  
Hot then cold unmercifully

Baby you torture me  
Hot then cold repeatedly

Fire and Ice

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# For Rent

There's not much left here  
any more  
an empty bed  
a shirt you wore

But I listen soft and low  
I'll hear a song I use to know  
and if the sun is shining right  
I'll see your window filled with light

Tho it's for rent  
it don't seem fair  
that anyone should  
trespass there

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# Forever

Can you help me put forever  
inside my hour glass  
Can you tell me just how long  
is forever suppose to last

If I put in in my pocket  
will I lose it when I play  
If I forget to use it  
will forever go away

Do you think that I could see it  
if I stay up late at night.  
Does it run into my closet  
when someone turns on the light

Do you think that you could help me  
cause I don't know what to do  
I really need to know  
cause forever I love you

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# His Golden Reign

His golden reign was passing by him  
and his hair was turning gray  
as he struggles hard to gather up  
the courage not to walk away.

It didn't take her long when  
he walked up to the door  
After all this time  
he hadn't really changed

It had to be a shock  
because she sat down on the floor.  
and had to clear her throat  
as she explained

No you can't live on love and  
you can't see tomorrow  
and you can't put a promise  
in the bank and watch it grow

But darling don't you know  
That love can last forever  
and you still can't buy forever  
with your little pot of gold.

He said sometimes life is hard  
and sometimes love is harder  
and sometimes you get lost  
when your walking down life's road

Right now I am here with you  
and I don't have the answers  
I was only hoping that  
you'd let me come inside

She said my door is always open  
I don't love any others  
So any time you want  
come on inside and we can talk

I'll put on a pot of coffee  
If you want I'll get some covers  
And Darling there's no reason that  
you ever have to go

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# How Do You Kill Love

How do you kill a love  
A love as strong as mine  
A love that's meant to last for years  
Until the end of time.

Death they say will kill it  
I wonder if it will.  
A love so strong not even death  
Is strong enough to kill

How do you kill this love of mine  
If time and dying won't  
How do you kill this love of mine  
The answer is you don't.

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# Illinois

Mama come to Illinois  
Can you come tomorrow  
There's a park not very far  
I run down by the water

I have this little business  
I've been running for a while  
And here's the place  
I think I want to stay

Don't call me again until  
You get here Mama  
Come to Illinois

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# In The End

In The End

There was nothing I could say  
I didn't think  
It'd be you who'd walk away  
I always thought  
I'd be the first to go  
In the end In the end

In the end

The silence never came  
I was scared  
That your soul would drift away  
And leave me here  
But it didn't work that way  
In the end In the end

In the end

When it's my turn to cross the line  
I will know  
That our love will still survive  
Cause your here  
Just like you've always been  
Until the end Until the end

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# Innocent

We've walked too far down this road  
to say we're innocent  
Your married so am I  
So we're not innocent.

By day we're only friends  
but at night we don't pretend  
Swearing till the end  
that we're innocent

The other day my wife  
asked me about you  
I told her were just friends  
I could live without you

I don't want her to cry  
So I really want to try  
I don't want to have to lie  
when I say I'm innocent

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# Laughter

I don't turn my head to hear them whisper  
as I'm walking down the hall.

I don't listen to the words  
that come drifting through the wall

I don't want your friends to tell me  
your in love with someone new  
I don't want to have to face  
what the whole world wants me to.

I still see you as you were  
in the corner of my mind  
and I understand the reason  
that they tell me love is blind

I can handle all the laughter  
I can live with all the pain  
I just hold my head up high  
and pretend their all insane.

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# Love

Through all the years there have been many people I have loved for one reason or another. Some helped me when I needed it. Some were small little kids, the reasons varied. I'd often reach out my hand touch their arm and tell them I loved them. But there is only one man with whom I am 'in love'. Mark Anthony Penque. Now and for ever. Even if he's dead. I am in love with him. And I cry and cry and cry.

Clara Keiper



# Love Is Just An Ache

Layin in a tangle of empty sheets  
Sleepin with a dream that won't start  
Someone keeps replaying everything you said  
Love is just an ache in my heart  
Ain't nothing but an ache in my heart

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# My Threesome

Loneliness will fill my body  
When no one holds me tight  
When no ones sleeping with me  
Loneliness will come all night.

And when no one is coming  
loneliness won't go away  
What no one does to loneliness  
Is something I can't say

And so you see my darling  
You can't leave me alone  
cause I'll be fill with loneliness  
and no ones coming home

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# New Orleans

The dragon left his lofty lair  
and the jesters attended the queen  
when he wander into the market square  
in the city of New Orleans

A voodoo Princess was selling her wares  
on a corner of Bourbon street  
The saxophone cried at the bar next door  
and she swayed to it's haunting beat

With a crook of her finger she called him over  
She said this is not what it seems  
She lead him into an alley bar  
In the city of New Orleans

He took a drink from her tall black glass  
and thought how it tasted too sweet  
When he awoke he had a rope  
tied on his hands and his feet

The Princess had a long black whip  
Her flavor of her love was mean  
She knew how to make things hurt  
in the city of New Orleans

If you ever make it to Bourbon Street  
and the saxophone starts to cry  
steer clear the voodoo Princess  
and you might make it home alive

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# Not Again

I was leaning on a lamppost  
waiting for a train  
When who do I run into but you  
not again

It's the way it always starts  
and ends up with my broken heart  
I can't fall in love with you  
Not again

If it should happen one more time  
maybe this time I'll be fine  
But It never seems to work out in  
the end

I'd lose my heart, I'd miss my train  
Broken hearts still feel the same  
and starting over is getting  
awfully lame

And so I'll tell you what I'll do  
So I don't inconvenience you  
I'll take my bags and I'll  
be on my way

I think I'll just take the bus.

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# Out Of My Closet

I'm out of my closet  
and you're out of your mind  
trying to convince yourself  
that your not my kind

Why don't you just live your life  
and maybe in time  
you'll sleep in your bedroom  
and stay out of mine

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# Pick Up The Phone

Sometimes after night falls  
and I'm lying here alone.  
I hear that little melody  
that sends me searching for my phone.

And even now after all this time  
I'm still hoping that's it you.  
It's my most important phone call  
and I don't know what to do

I can't say yes  
but I won't say no  
shouldn't love you anymore  
but I can't let go

In the end  
your bound to win  
Mama I still love ya  
I just can't give in.

I say Hello  
There's no reply  
Then Who is this?  
and I don't even hear you shy

Come on talk to me  
I can almost hear you breath  
Oh what the heck baby doll  
Will ya marry me?

Marry me will ya huh?

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# Pretty Paper

Wrap me up in pretty paper  
Put a bow right over there  
Write a card that says I'm sorry  
no ones home inside of here

Sign with love when you mean heartbreak  
and then handle it with care  
No it's not the pretty paper  
it's the things inside that tear

Then just sit me in the corner  
just for looking not to touch  
If he ever asks about me  
Say I loved him much to much

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# Shut Me Down Baby

Clever woman aren't you  
You think you know what I do  
Just because I'm out all night  
Doesn't mean that things aren't right

Shut me down Baby shut me down  
Shut me down Baby shut me down  
I have not been running round  
Shut me down Baby shut me down

I know where you think I've been  
out with some old girl friend  
Maybe I've had a drink or two  
doesn't mean I'd cheat on you

Baby turn out the light  
I've had a real hard night  
If things could go wrong they did  
Then I come home to this.

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Then believe it!

Clara Keiper

# Surprise

In the corner of the room  
Sits an empty cardboard box  
I'm suppose to fill it up  
with your sweat shirts  
and your socks.

I can't wait to see your eyes  
when you look inside and see  
everything you left behind  
including me

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# System Shock

Why did she pick up the phone  
I thought that you'd be there alone  
She isn't touching you is she  
I trust your still in love with me.

I think about you and I call  
I stand in love against the wall  
I say I love you as it rings  
Then she picks up the stupid thing

Talk about a system shock  
It really hits me like a rock  
But while she's saying not again  
I get to push the button in.

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# The Empty Spot

The empty spots still empty  
a big hole he left behind  
only tears and heartache  
fill it now

If you go inside you'll find  
his memory guards the door  
it's a long long fall  
and there's no floor

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# The Old Tattered Quilt

on a cold day in the middle of winter  
my grandmother was born  
they wrapped her up  
in a brand new quilt  
hoping to keep her warm

When my mother was born  
grandma passed the quilt down  
as Mom passed it on to me  
by that time it tattered and worn  
but it meant everything to me

all through my childhood I dragged it along  
It was patched and mended and cleaned  
anytime that I was around  
that old quilt could always be seen

I can remember being little  
When they put me down I'd weep  
cause I had to have my blanky  
or I couldn't go to sleep

on a cold day in the middle of winter  
my beautiful child was born  
and we wrapped her up in that  
old tattered quilt  
hoping to keep her warm

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# The Perfect Storm

It's the perfect day for a snowman  
or maybe a snowball fight  
the snow's been falling for hours  
and the weather seems just right

We can't go out while it's snowing  
till we bundle up nice and warm  
but when I get my other boot on  
the fight is on you've been warned

it's a wonderful day for a snow day  
and the city is locked up tight  
All us kids stole the road for playing  
and there isn't a car in sight

There's a hill of snow just waiting  
where the top of the stairs use to be  
and you can bet we'll be sleighing  
on a cardboard sled that's for free

when the day is done there'll be cocoa  
and perhaps a cookie or two  
we'll have a wonderful day just playing  
so much better than going to school

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# The Picture

I saw a picture today  
Of a handsome man  
While an old guitar  
lingered there in his hand

He wore a white hat  
And his spotless white jeans  
a sexy red shirt  
with no collar to see

There was a time  
when I held him close  
I wished I there  
Just me and my ghost.

By Clara Sue Keiper (Susie)

Clara Keiper

# The Singer

When he walked up on the stage  
and the music filled the place  
the whole room came alive  
not a frown on any face

It didn't take him long  
to make the magic fill the air  
the man knew how to work the crowd  
you could feel it everywhere

He's mastered the guitar  
his voice is clear and clean  
and I use to sit for hours  
just to hear him sing.

Now the master's left the room  
and no one can take his place  
There isn't any music now  
there's just an empty space

It's a time that's very special  
to a woman on a stool  
In a world fill with magic  
where the Singer made the rules

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# The Stranger

He just stood and he looked at her  
And her passion'd start to rise  
With no shame and with no judgement  
He just felt her with his eyes.

Made her need and made her want him  
Made her weak and warm and wise  
No he didn't say I want you  
But she could see it in his eyes

Just the way that he looked at her  
Head to toe and toe to head.  
Even though his eyes adored her  
Not one single word was said

In a moment it was over  
With no question where it'd led  
He hadn't even touched her  
he just loved her in his head.

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# The Twisted Tree

Look at the butterfly making his way through  
the branches of that twisted tree  
Just as if nothing had happened today  
and whole world was still as could be

It sits near the very edge of a cliff  
where I planted it nine years ago  
I spent lots of time all of those years  
sitting and watching it grow

The car almost missed it and went over the cliff  
I bet that they'd all lose their lives  
But they so were lucky to hit the old tree  
and all of the family will survived

Now the cars gone and I see the tree  
It's definitely acquired a twist  
with lots of love it could save a few more  
Providing the drivers don't miss

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# Where The Fairies Dance

She lay where the fairies dance  
In circles in a secret place  
The light of day had broke their trance  
But still the lady lay

The night before the fairies came  
In tears he left her all alone  
Now she would never be the same  
And so the fairies came

At dawn the fairies couldn't stay  
Too sad to leave her there alone  
So when they left she went away  
To where the fairies stay.

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# Whiskey And Wine

He was slamming back whiskey  
when she came in the room  
She looked out of place  
in that strange dark saloon

She sat down on a bar stool  
and she ordered some wine  
One or two glasses  
and she'd be just fine

He was smooth as the whiskey  
She was sweet as the wine  
It takes time to conquer  
a women so fine

He was smooth as the whiskey  
taking his time  
he's making small talk  
and pouring her wine

Then out of no where  
comes this other man  
he's making her laugh  
and he's holding her hand

He was slamming back whiskey  
When they left the room  
another cold night  
in a strange dark saloon

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Clara Keiper

# Witchy Woman

Witchy woman  
In that long black dress  
You know all the secrets  
that I can't confess

When we're all alone  
You cast your spell on me  
and we do the things  
that no one else should see

Witchy woman  
take your time with me  
If it takes all night  
that's how it has to be

You are my obsession  
you let my demons play  
You're the only lover  
I can't toss away

Witchy Woman  
There's a spell on me  
When I close my eyes your  
face is all I see

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