

Poetry Series

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- poems -

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After All

Is this it, after all?
Is this my fairytale
Which I've dreamed of for long?
Are you the knight I've searched for
Shining here under the moonlight
Your eyes holding mine in thrall
My hands yearning to hold yours.
Is this the climax of all my hopes?
Are you my treasure?
Hardly daring to breathe or hope
Hardly daring to speak
Lest I shatter the moment
Lest it all dissolve into the night
Are you the one I have been seeking?
Are you the key to all my dreams?
Hold me, whisper the answer
Into my listening ear.
Breathe your reply softly into me
And I will breathe it in,
Whether it is real or not.
Are you a mirage to my thirsty soul?
Or a true oasis in my desert heart?
Does this night hold all the answers
Does this moment meet all desires
Do we have at our fingertips the whole
Of the universe?
Is this it, after all?
Is this it, after all?
Is this it, after all?
Is it you?

Safina Leigh Tamerlaine

Dear, Dear, Dear Ben

Dear, dear, dear boy.
Do you know how dear you are?
I'll tell you, then, and I'll speak plain –
I shan't speak like this again –
So listen close to Tamerlaine:

You are as wildly dear to me
As the wind unto the sea
The sea, who sits eternally
With naught to break monotony
It is the wind which sets it free
And brings it scents of wild lands
The scent of mountain, scent of sand.

You are as wondrous dear to me
As the sun breaking upon the earth,
Who like a mother giving birth,
Looks down upon terrestrial girth
With gleaming joy, glitt'ring mirth
And brings behind that joyous gaze
A thousand golden, sunny days.

You are as sweetly dear to me
As to the butterfly the flower
The former's life is but an hour
But in the bloom – Ambrosia's power!
Ninety years becomes that hour
When from the bloom the creature sips,
And tastes the nectar 'pon his lips.

You are as strangely dear to me
As the storm unto the tree
The one comes unexpectedly
And shakes the other violently
The forest turned into debris
But still the tree stands tall and long,
Taught by the storm to tower strong.

A thousand other metaphors
I would give thee, love, and more,
But now my pen is dry of ink
So these few must suffice, I think,
You dear, dear, dear boy.

Safina Leigh Tamerlaine

Frozen Pebbles

Pebbles frozen in place beneath our feet
A smooth, gleaming pathway leading us away
Away down a cool dark river
Water slides across the earth, the flat stones
Bubbling and sighing away
We walk, and you are alive beside me
I can hear you breathing
And your footsteps tapping firmly on the stone
On the frozen pebbles beneath us
You do not touch me and yet
You are close enough I know you want to

Safina Leigh Tamerlaine

I See Your Eyes

I see your eyes
My soul flutters, flies
Dreams long slumbering arise
Soar into the moonlit skies
Caring not if they're true or wise
But hoping, trusting, loving your eyes.
Sweet intoxication! Filling me
With your glance. You could be
All I've ever dreamed.
All I'll ever need.
Beautiful gaze! Rest awhile
In my eyes; let us share our souls
In this moment between the hours
Let us defy time and gravity
And try our hearts against one another.

Safina Leigh Tamerlaine

I, Like Newland Archer,

I do not dare give voice to my heart.
If it spoke, all my hopes would be tested against the will of the world
And vulnerable, my dreams would lie before you.
My secret loves and girlish fancies, all my imaginings and wishes
Before you laid, at your mercy thrown.
Will you accept this, my heart? Will you see the possibility
Or will you toss it all back to me, with "I'm sorry, but..."
I could not take that.
Oh, I would live. I would make it through, struggle on somehow.
I would put on my omote and rejoin the masses.
But oh, the emptiness, the shame, which would then flood my soul!
Better for me to hide my dreams
So they will not be broken.

Safina Leigh Tamerlaine

Imagines

You don't really know me
You probably never will
But let me tell you just what I think
You and me together
I think we could be happy
With my hand in yours
Your head on my shoulder
Us walking down the street
And everyone knowing we're in love.

Sometimes you say "hey" to me,
I'll always answer back
But if you say no more to me
I won't push for more
You just go your own way
Wherever you want to go
I'll watch you, and like watching,
And never try to bring you back
Because that's not love, and I could love you.

Maybe you and me will never
Be all I imagine we could be
But maybe one day I will meet
A person who will make me think
Of what I'm thinking now
And imagine what I imagine
When I imagine me with you
And then I'll smile at the thought
Of you, and that new someone might
Become what you once were, are now to me.

Safina Leigh Tamerlaine

In Dim Yellow Lights

In dim yellow lights
We stand together
Hands at sides
But thoughts on the other
"Does she? "
"Could he? "
"Will she? "
"Can I? "
"What if? "
"Should I? "
"When will? "
"Do I? "
Yet on our lips
Shadows of our thoughts
Barely tracing our heart patterns
Speaking in circular pleasantries
Saying nothing, thinking all
Too shy, too young, too afraid
Too much, too much in love.

Safina Leigh Tamerlaine

Safina Loves Ben

The dance floor was filled with glimmering bodies
All wound in blue and golden thread.
Through the glass roof shone the moon
And moonlight across the room was shed.
I danced in a gown of white and gold,
My hair spun into a glittering crown.
From one to another, I flitted and twirled,
My face was a smile – my heart was a frown.
I danced as brightly and spryly as any,
With steps shimmering by the glowing moon
I danced with every man, but none were quite
So fair as the one at the very far end of the room.
It was him with whom I longed to dance,
And his hands I longed to hold.
But I only passed by him once, just once,
As the moon rose high and the night grew old.
My lips spoke fairly to those I passed,
But my eyes were always glancing sly.
Oh, how radiant stood he, how tall!
I would dance with him – or die.
Taking up my golden skirts,
I swept across the gleaming floor
Plunged through partners in the waltz
'Neath leaping maidens in mid-soar.
The gentlemen all watched me go
The girls with rolling eyes looked on
And he! He turned and saw me come,
As in the sky the sun now dawned.
I came to a breathless, wordless stop,
He looked at me, in the rising sun,
And what happened next? I know not –
For this my tale has just begun.

Safina Leigh Tamerlaine

That Is Us

Though crowds surround us
Lights and noise and music,
It is all a dim blur
Wheeling around the still, silent point
The center of the universe
That is us.

Though tomorrow the sun will shine
Banishing the magic of this night
We cannot fathom it
Or anticipate its dawning
Its invasion of the secret
That is us.

Though yesterday was drowned in tears
And sorrows shadowed our steps
This moment is sacred
No shame or sadness can penetrate
The brilliant diamond
That is us.

Though we are fallen beings
Whose hearts hide dark sins
For this moment
No failing, no transgression can dim
The blazing light
That is us.

Though death will conquer all
Will finally cover us with sweet grasses
It cannot breathe on us now
It cannot understand
The glowing life
That is us.

Though the world sickens with hate
Jealousy, fear, and selfishness
They cannot infect us here
Cannot corrupt
The perfect love
That is us.

Safina Leigh Tamerlaine

Who Could Have Guessed

Who could have guessed that tonight
You would be here beside me
Staring at the same stars
Breathing the same cool air
Feeling the same soft grass
Knowing the same sweet wonder
Wondering if two such as us
Could have so easily stumbled into heaven
Into each other's eyes.
Who could have guessed that tonight
We would be here together
Thinking the same thoughts.

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