

Poetry Series

**nyna bankard**  
**- poems -**

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**nyna bankard(3/8/1982)**



# A Friend At Rest

God is my savior, God is my king  
Early at dawn when the church bells ring.  
An acquaintance, a friend, has gone far away  
High above the clouds is where his soul will stay.  
Although his spirit still lingers as if he were never gone  
We bow our heads in silence and listen to his song.  
A boy who had so much going in life  
Now that he's gone, his family and friends live in strife.  
So sad to see someone we know so well leave  
But deep in our hearts we have to believe.  
There's a reason why his soul was put to rest.  
And it's because God wanted to prove to us, He only takes the best.

nyna bankard



# Ask & Tell

How is it that we can love but be filled with so much spite?  
How can we be clever, if we don't know wrong from right?  
How is there room to grow, if we don't learn from our mistakes?  
How do we know when to fight with everything it takes?  
How do we keep the faith when life is at its worst?  
How do we find joy when everything seems cursed?

It seems emotions empower reactions of the heart.  
It seems we may have knowledge but aren't necessarily smart.  
It seems that we must fail in order to succeed.  
It seems what don't kill us, keeps us strong in deed.  
It seems that we will stand even though we fall.  
It seems we find the answers, living through it all.

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# Bless Me Lord

God is good  
God is great  
I'm grateful for  
the chance to make  
it through the day  
with will and grace  
in hopes to one day  
see your face  
guide me through  
with a strong heart  
and never let  
us drift apart  
shine your light  
upon my way  
speak to me  
every time I pray  
hold my hand  
never let go  
bless me Lord  
from head to toe.

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# Cat & Mouse

Back & forth bickering  
Who's wrong & who's right?  
Stop with the snickering  
Who's winning this fight?

Such an annoyance with pesky natured ways,  
Creep in the silence & fester for days.  
Leap when you think I've got my guard down,  
But I'm keen to your presense without hearing a sound.

I move with the quickness,  
Respond with a swiftneses,  
Bring out the claws to secure my defenses.

Don't ever bite off more than you can chew,  
Cuz without nine lives your days are few.  
Don't push your limits, think before you act,  
No telling the outcome while under attack.

Learn to be civil, don't pick fights for fun,  
At times you might win, but you will lose some.  
So be on your toes while within the same house,  
Cuz the game never ends between the cat & the mouse.

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# Emotional Stress

Emotional torture and mind games galore.  
Constant heavy stress; never less, always more.  
Try to push forward but always stepping back.  
Can't seem to break free from this rugged, little trap.

I know what I need to believe, to succeed.  
God puts His strength and His faith into me.  
I pray and give thanks and do some good deeds.  
I live and I learn in order to proceed.

I keep looking up but I keep getting stuck.  
I give all of me to the point I can't see  
Through the lies and the games, living in shame.  
Well my name will remain at the top of this game.

You might knock me down but I will prevail!  
The harder you fight, the less I will fail!  
All through my life; monkey see-monkey do.  
I learn real fast, so watch what you do.

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# For My Hood Folks

We come from a place of struggle and pain,  
Morally discouraging but we learn to maintain.  
Always on the grind to stay ahead of the game,  
Socially misjudged but we're one in the same.

We yearn for the chance to be able to succeed.  
We keep our hopes high in order to achieve.  
Under the circumstances, we're still able to believe,  
That we can overcome in this life that we lead.

I speak for us all, because I can relate.  
I'll come with the facts in a statistical debate.  
I've seen it, I've lived it, but it's not my fate.  
It's time for change, we need to conflate.

I'm so tired of us being misunderstood  
And being looked down on like we are no good.  
We're hard working people and do as we should  
Eccentrically compelling, that's what I call HOOD!

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# For Those Who Struggle

Life ain't a game and it sure ain't easy.  
It can be a down-right struggle that makes you ques-y.  
But no need to focus on the negative measures,  
I'ma tell you how to gain whatever your heart treasures.

First off, don't ever trip on what others think.  
Cuz they'd snatch what's yours in just one blink.  
Don't get caught up with what others say,  
Cuz there's a reason why YOU are leading the way.  
Pay no mind to what others do,  
It's your life man, just do what you do.

Hold your head high and stay in control.  
Push away doubt and go with the flow.  
Focus your mind, keep your stress low.  
If it ain't meant to be then just let it go.

Give thanks to the Lord for all you receive.  
Show love to the things in which you believe.  
Break free from all hate so that you can perceive  
The lessons in life that you need to achieve.

Yes, we all struggle and yes, we all hurt  
But it's better to go through it  
So that we don't revert  
Back to the point of no return  
Remember your purpose is to live and to learn.

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# For You No More

My heart can't break any more  
No tears these eyes are looking for.  
Gave all I had and bared my soul  
Changed my life to play a roll  
That neither of us where ready for.  
So I braced myself and closed the door.  
You will no longer control my mind  
My inner voice I have come to find.  
No man is worth the pain they unfold  
No longer will I put my life on hold!

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# Four Letter Word

Had me thinkin you were for real  
-That's just ill-  
Can't think straight, don't know what the deal  
Going in circles like a Chinese Fire Drill  
Got me thinkin bout poppin them pills.

Have the nerve to disrespect me  
-Just let me be-  
Don't know what you want from what I can see  
Took me for granted, got lost in your spree  
Posing like you some kind of Hollywood G.

Now you're all up in the club  
-Lookin for love-  
Take advantage of what you can get a hold of  
Put on an act when push comes to shove  
Got chics thinkin that they're the one.

It's just wrong, you're actin absurd  
-Not going unheard-  
Put you on blast for what has occured  
Think you know love but you're vision is blurred  
When it comes out ya mouth, it's just a four letter word.

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# Gettin Mine

These emotions that run deep are so unpredictable  
You lose your self control and damage with your verbal  
You try to crush my spirit to keep me under your thumb  
You think that I'm naive, you think that I am dumb  
You think that I'll sit back and let you have your way  
Well right here is where it ends cause I'm looking for better days

Keep telling me that I'm nothing  
Keep fronting like you don't care  
Keep talking all your craziness  
Keep testing me, if you dare

I will not back down, my spirit, it transcends  
God is on my side, while the Devil is your friend  
Through these lessons learned, I've come to find myself  
It's my turn to rise above, no more sitting on a shelf  
So get up out my space and move up out my way  
Best believe I'm getting mine no matter what you say

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# Hate Fan Club

Look at me sideways  
Keep talking smack  
Embellish your stories  
Be convinced that I lack  
What it takes to shine  
But the glory is mine  
I'm destined to be  
So much more than you see  
Always living free  
That's why you hatin on me  
I am what I am  
Your approval is not needed  
Had you not been so lazy  
You might have succeeded  
But instead you dispised,  
Discouraged and critisized  
Tried to break me down  
And bring tears to my eyes  
But I'm holding on  
Steady stayin strong  
Always on top  
Cuz that's where I belong  
Yea, I might struggle  
But I learn from my grind  
Always on my hustle  
So I can get mine  
Keep on, keep hatin  
You're just a scrub  
Put ya name on the list fool  
And join my Hate Club.

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# Her Worth

Tossing & turning, she awakes in tears  
Struggling with reality, she embraces her fears.  
She holds onto faith & prays that she'll find  
All that is good & leave the worst behind.  
Keep all her memories close to her heart  
Hoping one day to have a fresh start.  
No longer afraid, no longer she hides  
Opens her wings, she's ready to fly.  
Bless-ed she be by the grace of God's hands  
No longer oppressed by insipid demands.  
Protective bout people she lets inside  
Defensive, thinking folks try to run her life.  
A little depressed, she fakes a smile  
She picks up the pieces with no regret or denial.  
If it's meant to be, the tables will turn  
Meanwhile she lets go & feels the burn.  
No longer a young girl suffering from hurt  
She's now a grown woman who knows her worth.

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# I Am What I Am- Part I

I'm shallow, I'm spiteful  
I'll drag you through the dirt.  
I'll find your weakest point then hit you where it hurts.  
I'll play games with your head and make you a fool.  
I am what I am, don't make me hurt you.

I'm tattered, I'm torn  
Just rough around the edge  
If standing on one leg, I'll kick you from that ledge.  
I'll chew you up and spit you out too,  
I am what I am, don't make me hurt you.

I'm hateful, I'm scandalous  
I'll get the last word  
Test me and you'll see it's true what you heard.  
If it's a war you want, then the Gators you'll see.  
I am what I am, stop messing with me.

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# I Am What I Am- Part II

I'm caring, I'm kind  
With so much love to give  
I'll be by your side as long as you live.  
I'll give you the world and all the stars above  
I am what I am, I can't help but love.

I'm positive, I'm motivating  
I'll help you get by.  
I'll give you a hug if I ever see you cry.  
I'll wipe your tears when life gets rough  
I am what I am, my love can be tough.

I'm loyal, I'm dedicated  
I'll open my heart  
I'll always be there and never drift apart.  
I'll sit and pray while we search for our dreams  
I am what I am, it's as real as it seems.

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# I Was Raised

I was raised with structure  
I was raised with pride  
Though the structure may not have been proper  
I was raised to survive.

I was raised with tough love  
I was raised to earn my keep  
Though tough love may have worked  
I was raised with troubles deep.

I was raised with bad habits  
I was raised through struggle  
Though bad habits can be broken  
The change can be quite subtle.

I was raised with strong beliefs  
I was raised to accept my faults  
Though my beliefs might be distorted  
I was raised by 'His' default.

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# I'M Gone

Your words are few but your actions speak loud  
Don't give me that mess that you're too proud.  
If you got something on your mind, spit it out  
So it won't cause us to scream and shout.  
I can't read your mind, so don't think I'ma try  
Don't get mad when I ask why!

You got my heart, it's obvious you know  
Can't put a price on my love and the way we grow.  
I give so much but receive nothing in return  
It breaks my heart to see there's no concern  
For the patience I have or that fact that I try  
What more do you want? Why you gotta make me cry?  
Well forget you fool, I'm moving on  
You'll realize what you lost once I'm gone.

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# In Case You Didn't Know

When I don't follow in your footsteps, you walk away  
And when I'm my own person, you still don't stay.  
You exclude me from your group cause you say I can't hang  
When in fact it's you who can't maintain.  
You call me a scrub when I don't do what you want.  
To tell you the truth, these are my feelings up front.  
You've sunken to that level to where you're farther than below,  
And I'm moving on without you in case you didn't know.

There use to be a time when all I thought about was you.  
But those thoughts went away when you continued the things you do.  
You drink your booze and smoke your weed.  
How in the hell do you expect to succeed?  
For someone your age in this world today  
It's so early in life to throw it all away.  
But still you do not hear me; you continue to sink down low.  
So I'm not gonna waste my time, in case you didn't know.

You expect to be quiet. Sit back and not say a thing.  
But when you insult my intelligence, I just can't let it swing.  
You think you're big and bad with your hostilistic ways  
But underneath there's a secret that your inner self portrays.  
I've tried many times to help you when you're in your time of need  
But all you do is push me away, thinking you can take the lead.  
And I can see that when we're together, baby we just don't flow.  
And we'll never be what we use to be, in case you didn't know

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# It's About Time

The clouds of doubt have drifted away  
Nothing but smiles, no more rainy days  
Reaping fruition, my hard work can be seen  
Steady making changes & building my team  
At the top of my game is where I stand  
It was a hell of a struggle but part of the plan  
God gave me the courage, the wisdom and strength  
To stand on my own but within His arm's length  
He pushed my faith to the fullest extent  
I almost gave up until I learned His intent  
To mold me into a supreme human being  
To face my fears instead of fleeing  
No more crawling, I've learned how to climb  
Thank ya Baby Jesus, it's about damn time!

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# Keep Working

I work my 9 to 5.  
I work my 10 to 2.  
Lately it seems like working  
Is all I tend to do.  
I'm working for a cause.  
I'm working through the struggle.  
I'm working on my grind.  
It's a bit more than I can handle.

But I'm working hard.  
And things are coming through.  
I'm sorry if you feel  
Like I didn't work as hard for you.  
Life is what we make it  
And for love we can't forsake it.  
So I'ma keep on working  
Until I damn sure make it!

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# Lessons In Life

Acceptance is the key for those who want change  
Take a look at yourself & what you need to arrange.  
Build your strengths stronger, don't focus on weakness  
It's all a process that brings light to your uniqueness.  
We want to succeed but at times we will fail  
Don't ever give up, keep rising to prevail.  
Love yourself first so that you can love back  
Take heed to the heart, you mustn't attack.  
Admit when you're wrong, be modest when you're right  
Be ready & willing to squash any fight.  
If at some point, your voice isn't heard  
Take a break & take note to what has occurred.  
But sometimes we need to walk away from it all  
Swallow the tears & rebuild a guarded wall.  
Never forget, but learn to forgive  
It's just another lesson in this life that we live.  
The struggle never ends, there's still more to come  
Get over yourself & rejoin as one  
Cause one must never turn their back on love  
You gotta give all you've got when push comes to shove.

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# Lord Help Me

Lord, help me find my strength.  
I feel like I'm losing grip.  
Lord, take me by the hand  
Hold tight, don't let it slip.  
Lord, help me find the courage.  
My light is dim and weak  
Lord, open up the door  
To find the answers that I seek.  
Lord, help me find the wisdom  
Deep inside I'm feeling scared.  
Lord, give me back the hope.  
My soul feels undeclared.

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# Love So Pure

Hear Ye, Hear Ye- Friends and Family  
Thanks for your support, I appreciate it gratefully.  
Thanks for the love in which you've given  
If it wasn't for ya'll, I wouldn't be so driven.

As most of you know, I've changed many ways.  
I've let go of the past to see better days.  
We've been through the struggle, now together we maintain  
Cuz we don't need the drama, heartache or pain!

The things I've learned throughout this life I've lived,  
Is to accept all faults, to love and forgive.  
I possess no hate or stagnant inflictions.  
I've ceased to be apart of any poignant friction.

I've turned to God so that I could understand  
What it feels like to have the upper hand.  
I've grown on many levels, yes it shows  
I even give love to my haters and foes.

Peace, Love and Serenity transcends through out me  
And at God's great will, I must spread it generously.  
I can show the way for those who concur  
So we can reach for the stars through a love so pure.

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# Mind, Body & Soul

Eye to Eye

Lips to Lips

One hand through my hair, one hand on my hip

Passion emerges with every last kiss

Fantasy becomes reality, overwhelmed by pure bliss

Eye to Eye

Lips to Lips

Heart to Heart

Soul to Soul

Bodies become one and we become whole

Unending pleasure, we each play a role

A refuge to each other & to each other we console

Heart to Heart

Soul to Soul

Mind & Body

Body & Mind

An inseparable pair when intertwined

Feelings so strong with a powerful bind

Fates sacred treasure for this love forever to be enshrined

Mind & Body

Body & Mind

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# Misunderstood

Struggling to come to terms with what is meant to be  
Always got this cloud of drama hanging over me.  
No matter how far I go or how quick I seem to move  
I always seem to get caught up in this rugged groove.  
I yearn for love & support; I yearn for peace of mind  
It seems I yearn for things that I'll never find.  
I wanna make a difference; I wanna change things for the good  
I'm tired of being this chic who's completely misunderstood.

My life is such a joke, all the things I've been through  
You'd never believe my story, even if I told you.  
Filled with instability and plagued with mass destruction  
Will it ever end? I keep paying for repercussions-  
That I can't control or begin to understand  
Searching for my purpose has become so high in demand.  
I will find the answer, please help me if you would,  
I'm tired of being this chic that's completely misunderstood.

I may not be simplistic; my decisions may not be wise,  
I may learn the hard way in which they all despise.  
I have a sense of direction, I'm coming to realize  
As long as I have that spark, within me the spirit lies.  
I'm holding onto my strength, I'm riding it to the top  
I know I got this power so don't think I'm gonna stop  
Being who I am or doing what I should  
I'm tired of being this chic who's completely misunderstood

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# Now I Know

I don't wanna hear it  
You ain't got the spirit.  
You're tearing me down every time you lie  
You must got me twisted cuz I don't deserve to cry.  
I don't need this stress that you're causing me  
I can't believe your nerve, I'm not the one who's guilty.  
I put my faith in you & now it has run out  
You're gonna to learn real quick what 'hurting' is all about.

Instead I walk away from your evil ways  
With my heart in pieces & nothing left to say.  
But I know I can't give up, My faith is just too strong  
So every day I keep on praying to find where I belong.  
God please give me the strength I need to move on  
For now I know you're the ONLY man who'll love me til I'm gone!

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# Real Talk

Every day I'm struggling  
Day to day I'm wondering  
What's to come from this life I'm juggling?  
Try to maintain these demons in my head.  
Try to keep my cool, but I'm living on edge  
Treading thin water, still going full fledge.  
Not gonna shake me, never gonna break me  
Keep talking ish but you're words don't phase me  
Seen enough to know that I don't need this stress  
Keep looking up & move onto the next.  
Stop trying to be perfect & just do my best.  
Keep living life with no regrets.  
Work real hard to push it real far  
Stick with the people who love who you are.  
Keep your game tight and your swag on ice  
Don't fall victim to what you know ain't right.  
Forget about those who try to hold you back  
Break free from the reins and get yourself on track.  
Fight a little harder, the time is drawing near  
It's my time to shine, it's never been so clear.  
Much love to the people who have been by my side  
To hell with the rest who were just along for the ride.

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# Revelation

To avoid the possibility of complete damnation,  
Seek the way of the Lord without hesitation.  
Become an example of complete elation,  
To evolve into the purpose of your creation.

Be in control, refrain from temptation.  
To have complete focus requires concentration.  
Keep your faith high & release all frustration.  
Challenge your will with determination.

You have to show interest, increase motivation,  
Project the desire from your dedication.  
Accept the outcome in any given situation,  
Prepare yourself for a transformation.

The answers remain within your revelation  
So seek the truth & come to realization.  
That the trails & tribulations are apart of preparation  
For you to follow your dreams & reach your destination.

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# Rising Star

Most of my life has been filled with suspense.  
Detach from it all just to make sense.  
The madness I've seen, the pain I've endured  
All is forgiven but the scars can't be cured.  
Learn from mistakes to progress & to grow  
Learning the meaning of 'you reap what you sow.'  
Take heed to those who pave the way.  
Unending surprises to come what may.

Cease to obsess about things from the past.  
You gotta keep on moving and stop looking back.  
Say what you mean & mean what you say.  
Just get your head right and it'll be ok.  
Never lose focus of your purpose on earth.  
Keep striving to be better & know your worth.  
Give thanks to those who love who you are.  
Believe that you can become a rising star.

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# Speaking From Truth

I'm out the shadows, crept out from the dark  
But finding my light was no walk in the park.  
Traces of residue from my blood, sweat and tears  
Is there to remind me to keep facing my fears.  
I'M A SURVIVOR- of so many things  
Cause God is the coach in the corner of my ring.  
He forces me to fight when I just wanna back down  
He gives me the strength to still go another round.  
I don't ask questions, I follow my heart  
I live at His will, I play it smart.  
Whatever's meant to be will deffinately be,  
Always looking for those who seek the vision I see.  
Diminish all evil, surface the good  
Believe in the Lord, while still keepin it hood.  
Love those who hate when they doubt who you are  
Cause they'll hate even more when you make it real far.  
Build you a team that believes in a dream  
Drop a few tracks to blow off some steam.  
It's time to conflate, put all abilities to the max  
It's hard to argue when you have nothing but facts.  
Actions speak loud when words are so few  
So if the timing is now.....what it do?

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# Stay On Your Grind

We're all on the grind, we're paper chasing.  
Tryin to get ahead, we're out here racing.  
No one really knows what kind of future we're facing  
So it's time to take charge, we need to stop pacing.

Learn the politics to every skill,  
Be ahead of the game, this ain't no drill.  
Pick up a book, gain knowledge until-  
You become BOSS and can sit back & chill.

See the tricks of the trade, it ain't all about money,  
Gotta get through the storm before it gets sunny.  
Mind over matter is what someone had told me,  
It's all about faith in this God-given journey.

So open your eyes & open your mind.  
Whatever you're stressin, leave it behind.  
Have some compassion for all mankind.  
Live & learn, don't walk around blind.  
If you seek then you shall find,  
A greater existance so refined.  
Acknowledge your purpose, don't be confined,  
Just follow your dreams & stay on your grind!

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# Talk To God

The price we pay for the decisions we make  
Sometimes it's hard for us to shake.  
But we learn and grow to reap and sow  
the consequences that life can throw.  
Don't look down baby, keep looking up  
Stand your ground when the going gets tough.  
Don't get caught in that dark path  
Cuz once you're there, it's hard to crack  
the clouds of doubt that surround your head  
Cling to faith and turn to God instead.  
He'll hold you up and push you far  
show you how special you really are.  
You gotta believe that His plan for you  
plays a roll in all that you go thru.  
Don't be afraid, take it head on  
He's giving you courage, don't be withdrawn.  
Trust, I know, I can relate  
I know what it feels like to carry the weight.  
But I brushed it off and kept on praying  
and every day I kept on saying....  
God give me the strength to keep standing tall  
Keep me focused, don't let me stall  
Pick me up if I might fall,  
Help me show love to each & all!  
No more worries, no more doubt  
If all else fails, just write it out.

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# Temptation

He's weighing me down with his soul full of sin  
The Devil himself is beginning to win.  
He distracts me with his evilness to control my mind.  
His power is so strong that it cannot be defined.  
He's eager to hold me back so that I'm unable to succeed.  
I know he won't give up until He completes his deed.  
It's all of this temptation that he flashes before my eyes.  
And if I continue the path I'm going down, to Him my soul will rise

.  
I've been faced with many challenges to continue this life long test.  
And I can say with disappointment that I haven't done my best.  
I've put on many faces to condemn my many lies  
Hurting the ones that love me and breaking our trusting ties.  
I put my life in hands of people claiming to be my friends  
But all they did was use me to support their daily trends.  
I've been dealt with this temptation flashing before my face.  
And this path I seem to choose is leading to the wrong place.

So with supporting help, I was brought to see  
The one to lead my life is no one else but me.  
I have to be in charge for the actions that I take  
Stand up to my faults, in which I often make.  
To make the situation clear, I ask for a second voice.  
With the answers from up above, I've been given another choice.  
Now I know the temptation that is lingering around me  
Is nothing but a test to resume my destiny.

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# Too Tough

I came into this world with nothing but a dream  
As the years go by it gets much harder than it seems.  
The trials & tribulations are just too much, I swear  
To think there's not to be more than I can bare.  
So many obstacles that I have to choose  
I hope this ain't a game, cause I don't wanna lose.  
I'm tired of this struggle that I'm holding down  
I just wanna stand with both feet on the ground.

Sometimes when it rains it just seems to pour  
But I never give up, I keep coming back for more.  
I give'em what I got as I hold my head up high  
I won't let this lifetime fade & pass me by.  
I just pray for the strength that I know I need  
And I'm always thankful for everything I receive.  
So if you try to break me, know that it will be rough  
Been going strong way too long & my skin is just too tough!

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# Unbroke

Arose from the tears  
That held my head low  
Found strength in my fears,  
I learn as I go.

You give what you get  
You live and you learn  
Never live in regret  
Sometimes you let it burn.

I give so much  
Yet receive so little  
Sensitive to the touch  
But hard int he middle.

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# We Love To Live What We Know

Your heart can't hide what it feels  
And love is nothing but what it reveals.  
One must learn to take the blows  
The ups and downs that life can throw.  
We learn to love through full bliss  
With memories to sit & reminisce.  
We laugh & cry & learn to grow  
We love to live what we know.

Broken hearts that make you hurt  
Sadness & pain became your domain.  
What won't kill you will make you strong  
Lose your thoughts in a Mary J Blidge song.  
We live the life to pay the dues  
To fulfill a dream that we hope comes true.  
We see & feel & learn to grow  
We love to live what we know.

Emotions empower decisions of choice  
Actions speak louder than the voice  
To give is to get is to then return  
To the point you lose track of your own concern  
We try so hard to capture a dream  
That isn't a 100% guaranteed.  
We succeed & fail & learn to grow  
We love to live what we know.

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# What Do You Do

What do you do, when you dedicate so much time?  
You go through so many changes, trying to make things right.  
What do you do, when you're up so late at night?  
Wishing that the one you love was there to hold you tight.  
What do you do, when all you can do is cry?  
Hoping that the heartache won't consume you til you die.  
What do you do, when anger sets deep inside?  
Not knowing if it's emotions, not knowing if it's pride.  
What do you do, when you're so lost and confused?

What do you do, while you sit and reminisce?  
Remembering how it felt every time that we kissed.  
What do you do, when your heart is put at risk?  
Do you reach out for love or hold up and resist?  
What do you do, when you're always misunderstood?  
Struggling to turn the hard times into something good.  
What do you do, when you lose your livelihood?  
Not knowing if you've done everything that you could.  
What do you do, when you're so lost and confused?

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# What It Is

Isn't so amazing how life can change the pace?  
Everything's coming at you like a bitch-slap in the face.  
Isn't it such a challenge to sometimes keep your cool?  
Sometimes you play it safe, sometimes you act a fool.  
Isn't it so ridiculous how absurd some people can be?  
Acting like they know it all when they ain't got nothing on me.  
Isn't it just my luck for obstacles to arise?  
It's the story of my life, don't know why I'm so suprised.

That's just how it goes, so guess what? I'm not trippin.  
Test me if ya wanna, but you'll never catch me slippin.  
I can play this game, I know it way to well.  
I'll put ya ass in check, as if you couldn't tell.  
I know all the answers, there's nothing you can hide.  
So if you haven't noticed, just seek and you will find  
INDEPENDENT FEMALE, that's just what I be  
So if ya not beside me, you best fall behind.

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# What Love Is

Express your hurt, express your pain  
So long as you know, I feel the same.  
You made the choice to walk away  
I had no choice, I had no say.  
I cried & pleaded for us to try  
My love runs deep till the day I die.  
I want nothing more than to be by your side  
To be without you, just kills me inside.  
Hoping you come through, I sit & I wait  
But it's only a dream that I can't escape.  
Why did you have to do me this way?  
Can't fight what I feel, despite what friends say.  
I know you thought I'd never shut the door  
You should mean what you say, like I told you before.  
We live & we learn, we rise & we fall  
Acknowledge the mistakes & try to stand tall.  
The definition of love was given to me  
Found the answer on Mary J.'s new CD:

'Love is joy, love is pain  
Love is sunshine, love is rain  
An excuse for dying  
A reason to live  
If you don't know  
that's what love is.'

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# Why Is It?

I feel like I'm in a corner  
With no where left to hide  
The situations that have arisen,  
Long nights that I have cried.  
Is it my indecisiveness  
That brings me to a halt?  
Or is it my emotions  
That get me caught up in my thoughts?  
Why do I try so hard?  
To make other people happy?  
Why is it that I'm the one  
who ends up feeling crappy?  
Why do I take on roles  
that are bigger than I can take?  
Why is it that I'm the one  
who is left with bitter heart-ache?  
Why is it that I'm difficult?  
Why is it that I fight?  
Why do I seem to get lost in love  
when the timing isn't right?

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# You Are

You are the stars upholding my sky.  
You are the wings that help me fly.  
You are the waves that flow through my ocean,  
Surrounding my heart with true devotion.  
You are the sun that never stops blazing.  
You are the tear that keeps my eyes hazing.  
You are the words I can't seem to find.  
Lost deep in love, I'm half blind.

You are the song that never stops playing.  
You are the sweetness that I can't stop craving.  
You are the treasure that no one can steal.  
Deep inside I have your love concealed.  
You are the air for which I breathe.  
You are the life that sets me free.  
You are the sand upon my shore  
And I am yours forever more.

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# You Say

You say that I can't be trusted.  
You say that I'm unstable.  
You say that my morals are rusted.  
You say that I'm unable  
To give you peace of mind.  
You say I'm living blind.

You say that I am selfish.  
You say that I am spiteful.  
You say that I embellish.  
You say I'm not insightful  
Of your consideration.  
You say I lack determination.

I say show me something good.  
I say show me something new.  
I say tell me that I can't  
And I'll show you what I can do.  
I say you're living scared  
And you take it out on me.  
So what you say don't matter,  
Cause now I'm living free.

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# You, Me, We

My mind is back in focus.  
My heart is back in tact.  
My tears have all dried up.  
I'm headed back on track.

I'm learning how to cope.  
I'm learning how to deal.  
I'm learning how to manage  
These emotions that I feel.

You gave me back my strength.  
You gave me your tough love.  
You gave me back my courage  
To rise and stand above.

Together we can stand.  
Together we can fall.  
Together we'll engage  
The realness of it all.

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