

Poetry Series

Joyce Rugg
- poems -

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Joyce Rugg(2/21/1996-)

I'm a 16-year old straightedge vegetarian-going-vegan who loves symphonic/black/death metal. (I love the agonist, & I'm a shadow soldier for life!)

I've been writing poetry since I was 13 & stories since i was 10. My dream job would be as lead vocalist of a melodic death metal band.

...And The Winner Is?

Glazed eyes and reeking breath,
Shaking hands raised to slap
A bear, clutched in small hands,
a cross to the vampire
Hope's no match for the poison,
and the clawed hand descends

Soon enough, the high fades,
Time to face what she's done
a cool touch on the bruise,
slurred whispers, 'don't tell'
her remedy's too late,
a seed of hatred's sown

It grows like a tapeworm,
devouring everything
leaving a rage-filled husk
draining all thoughts and dreams,
twisting everything pure,
only revenge remains

Freedom comes at eighteen,
I escaped, I survived
She couldn't make me break,
so I won this game, right?
Only silence answers
as hate-filled eyes glare back

Joyce Rugg

1st World Problems

The spaghetti's undercooked!
(but to most, it's a feast)
Oh my god! I broke a nail!
(no disaster in the least)

Easy to envy others
For their tablets and iPhones
But why can't we stop to think
Of those barely skin and bones?

A life is never perfect
But we need to draw the line
Put it all in perspective;
Why not think before you whine?

Joyce Rugg

A Familiar Stranger

A face reflected in the glass,
but it can't belong to me.
A familiar stranger stares back
as we wait for this trick to end.

I cannot see myself in her;
The small suggestion of a smile
and the confidence are both hers,
So what of her belongs to me?

I've seen glimpses of her before,
but she still brings a chilling thrill.
Older, stronger, wiser than I,
the self I'm not sure I can be

Joyce Rugg

A Muse's Struggle

wake up. hair a tangled Medusa's nest
stumble out of bed, abandoning rest
run to the yellow boat on Styx, the river of gray
that carries heroes to the monsters they slay

a corridor of chimeras, a hallway of harpies
souls filled with darkness blacker than sharpies
tartarus behind every closed door,
watch the clock, five minutes more

a Herculean effort, and im free of the pit
leaving behind all but the memory of it
yet on the horizon lie clouds of rain
i know that i'll be back again

Joyce Rugg

Angel?

This was a normal day
Just like any other
But little did I know,
Lives would change forever

Sitting before a screen,
Blank stare, cartoons play
The glow picks out a pill
Shining white on the floor

Something seems so wrong here,
I knew it didn't belong
Then it's out of my hands
And the adults take charge

My sister's taken away
From the unknown dark world
that, to me, wasn't real
How could she make this choice?

Road to recovery,
Filled with curses and tears
And I was the demon,
Worst sister in the world

She said she hated me
But her gift told the lie
The truth was obvious
In an angel necklace

Joyce Rugg

Aristocratic Antiquity

Internalize insanity,
And blend in with the herd,
Claiming authority by mere age
In your corseted, choking world

Youth's a heinous crime
And so's a working mind
Because we aren't lemmings
To cannonball off a cliff

Archaic thoughts are cutting edge
And nothing else will do.
Can't you see? Something's wrong
When it's offensive to be you

Joyce Rugg

Autotuned Anomaly

Music 'artists' are just creations
Talentless fools, inane aspirations
One direction are the kings of pop
Like bubbles, they float to the top

They make millions for less than nothing
Though they've no spirit, no talent to bring
They're buoyed up, to fly on high
Above the few, true, ones who scrape by

They're forced to sleep in frigid cars,
To perform for drunks in crowded bars
While we worship tools with ashen hearts
And judge talent by what's on the charts

Joyce Rugg

Awake

My eyes are open, but everything's blurred
I hear the screams, but can't believe they're mine
See the blood and bruises, but feel nothing
Everything once familiar now twisted, strange
The faces I've loved now masks of hate
They smile, enjoying the show
To them, all my pain and rage, an act
They expect me to take the abuse
I always have before
Expect me to back down, to bow
To cower, meek and frightened
But I've stopped listening, believing the lies
They haven't changed, but I've seen the light

Joyce Rugg

Blank

silence in the most crowded place
dead mind floating through space

you ask a question i don't hear
so distant, though physically near

i return, though i was never missed
a seizure; even i barely noticed

Joyce Rugg

Bleed Black

It's like a drug, an all-consuming obsession
Not injected but expelled
Numbing, pushing away the depression
As i explode, my demons are felled

It pours from me, not blood but ink
Leaving me alone with the eyes in the mirror,
Draining me of all the dark thoughts I can't help but think
Everything melts away; anger, pain, fear

All of it gone; I'm truly free
For the briefest instant, all is light
The shadows disappear, leaving only me
The pain's still there, but it's lost it's bite

I am untouchable, immune
All of their caustic words now just more sound
But this joy fades all too soon,
And I'm back where I started, somewhere below the ground

Joyce Rugg

Blinding Beauty

Hello, hello, remember me
I'm everything you can't control
My demise you'll never see
Far away from your grasping hold

Your poison powerless against
Why don't you realize?
I'm not who you want me to be
But you'll never make me change

In the dark forever
Now even shadows seem light
Your weight is gone, you'll never
Win: I won't drown with you

Joyce Rugg

Botox Banality

Implants have been planted,
The seed begins to grow,
A passion to waste thousands,
To be the best in show

Alteration is now natural,
We barely bat an eye
Face lifts and tummy tucks,
We never question why

You don't think it's surgery?
Are you prepared for pain?
And while you're still unconscious,
Why not get a new brain?

Joyce Rugg

Branded

Name brand is the norm,
Designer, a safe bet
Cotton threads tangle up,
And you're caught in the net

Wasting money (not yours)
Buying what you don't need,
A slave to the trends
With your idols of greed

Snared by a word, a model's look
Insecure in your clothing hoard,
But pretending to be happy
While paying to be a billboard

Joyce Rugg

Broken Toys

Mountains of plastic pile up
In dust covered rainbow heaps
The next must-have has come out
No one wants these dated things

Cold cement floor, chain-linked cell,
Two sad eyes, that watch you leave,
Whining as you walk away,
a new puppy in your arms

The kid who's too much trouble,
wrists bitten by metal cuffs,
and you just let it happen,
As white walls flash red and blue

When the warranty expires
And they no longer amuse
They're tossed away, just like trash
After all, they're broken toys

Joyce Rugg

Brutality

You'll do anything to win
Without a second thought
Does comfort make it easier
To forget what you've been taught?

Heedless of the warning signs
The beacon in their dying eyes
When they come back to haunt you
Is it really a surprise?

What once was pure necessity
Is now just a cruel sport
How many will you kill
To live a life you can't support?

Rob them of their voices
To hide the truth they sing
Build a stairway of their bodies
To reach your rightful place as king

Every creature must bow
Before your blackened, rotting throne
Stoop to kiss your bloodstained hands
View with awe your crown of bone

This gem you do not value
But trade so carelessly
There'll always be a market
Swapping life for luxury

Joyce Rugg

Call Me Crazy

Psychotic,
Insane,
A lunatic,
Deranged

I answer to all these and more
I look human, but I'm not;
In a straightjacket, rocking on the floor
A twisted human, a dysfunctional robot,

Yet I hide all of this well
Total madness seems like a quirk
It doesn't look fragile, this crystal shell
Near constant struggle, but there's a perk:

I blend in with the clueless herd,
Who carry the true insanity
Who manage to lie without a word,
Conceal the truth from vanity

They think it's clear,
But the line is hazy
A lie; all they hold dear
And yet they call me crazy

Joyce Rugg

Carnage

Suburban houses line the street
But street lights won't let you see in
The lawns are barren, graveyards of gray,
the windows awash in filth and sin

Pick the lock and step inside,
Your feet clearing inches of dust
Peer through the gloom of spiders' webs,
Breathe air of deceit and mistrust

The robots sit in stupor, entranced
Mouths shut with billfold gags
Tv static soils the silence
And the clock stills as time lags

Turn and stumble back through the dark
There's nothing to do but look ahead
You can't save the sheep from slaughter,
You're too late, they're already dead

Joyce Rugg

Closed Doors

The front door opens,
Stumbling footsteps come in
High-pitched giggling laughter
Drifts through these dirty halls
I smell her before I see
Her clothes, hair, skin, awash
With scent that clings like second skin,
Sharp and bitter, disgusting

It makes me want to gag
When she pulls me close,
Yet those moments are so rare
That I don't want to see them end
So I endure,
Hide my face in her foul-smelling locks
Look away so she won't see disgust,
Written so plainly on my face

But her hand grips my arm,
Too late, she's seen
Laughter turns to fury
As eyes blaze through the haze

One slap, then another,
Screaming, angry words
That I know I deserve,
Because I wasn't good enough,
I never am

Suddenly rage evaporates,
Leaving dizziness in its wake
As I try to find my breath
And put my heart back in place

A thunderous tread shakes floorboards,
And the giggling stranger is back
She stands up, teeters, goes to him

He catches her as she stumbles,

And they walk away from me,
Mommy and grandpa disappear,
Like they always do, closing the door
Behind
The vengeful angel leaves,
I, the demon,
Left staring at the face of her that I know best

Joyce Rugg

Conformist Rebels

The world says we're defective
So we change to fit the mold
Locking our true selves away,
Tactics crude, but effective

Bound and gagged, life passes by
We embraced imprisonment;
Once fear of abandonment
Outweighed our hate of the lie

Into our minds, poison delves
As we forget it's an act
And soon we're shells of plastic
Rebelling against our selves

Joyce Rugg

Crucifixion/Crucifiction

A godly gathering, a blessed bunch
(cannibal Christians eat sinners for lunch)
The cross is the truth, the light, the way
(how can two sticks hold such sway?)

A martyr of men, sacrificial slaughter
(biblical brainwashing of sons and daughters)
The Church will fix you, the Son will save
(the Son is dust in an unmarked grave)

Why not accept Him, why do you defy?
(how can you believe? bloody hands show the lie)
I've shown you the Truth, but still you're defiant
(I won't accept gilded chains and the rule of a tyrant)

Joyce Rugg

Cruel

Their eyes are open, but they don't see
They have a heart, but it's of stone
A mouth that never closes
A brain that never thinks
Daggers in their words
Catch in my flesh
Every step
Kills me
More

Joyce Rugg

Demise

The closest of twins
Grown apart just as completely
Bitten by others sins
They whispered, like we couldn't see

Like we couldn't hear
The lies they spoke
With each rumor, the end drew near
Under attack, a part of us broke

The tiny gap
To push us apart
On the map
Of the end, the start

So close, we knew each other's every thought
We finished what the other started
But lost the war we'd so long fought,
And I was left, broken-hearted

I can hardly stand the way I've changed
I believe that you have too
If we met again, best friends estranged
How would I look to you?

The animal pack dragged us under
Always a hit, never a miss
And so I have to wonder,
How would you finish this?

Joyce Rugg

Demons

On the pillow,
Between the sheets,
Under the blankets, lies a waiting demon
Around midnight, the madness begins
Freezing arms around her sending chills
Down her spine
Through her body
Over many hours, the torture continues
Behind her, a demonic mob
Before her betrayal and death
Above her, a constant cloud
Over her, Damacles's sword
Blocking her escape, an army
In her mind, chaos
Ice creeps
Up her body
Through her veins
Into her heart

Nameless and faceless,
Or all too clear
They stalk her every step
From one shadowy beast,
To the nearest monster
From their fangs, burning venom drips
Their voices whisper honeyed lies
Empty promises, impossible dreams
At last, she tears herself away
From the chilling grasp of Nyx
From the grip of one nightmare,
To another,
Reality

Joyce Rugg

Empires Fall

Human weaklings now walk
Where dinosaurs once tread
Now an outline in chalk
Their reign long-since dead

We are the new kings
We've planted the seed
Of paranoid generations
Guarding idols of greed

We don't see our decay,
How are we not the best?
Our decline doesn't matter
If we outlive the rest

We endlessly tout the 'era of man'
We think we're the end of evolution
We are the godly, the supreme
But what creature waits for the next revolution?

Joyce Rugg

Empty Eulogy

Life is a funeral
With a flat-tired hearse
I am just another corpse,
Forced to walk in blistering sun

Stumbling towards a grave,
A service for no one
Yet when dirt falls,
The unholy churchyard is full

They smile, laughing
As they bury the damned
Not even bothering
To close the coffin lid

Above me, the bright sky
Slips farther away
As dirt clouds my eyes
Buried deeper all the time

Joyce Rugg

Enlightened Submission

The world says we're defective
so we change to fit the mold
Locking our true selves away,
tactics crude, but effective

Bound and gagged, life passes by
and we embrace imprisonment
once fear of abandonment
outweighs our hate of the lie

Into our minds, poison delves
as we forget it's an act
Too soon we're shells of plastic,
rebellious against our selves

Joyce Rugg

Eulogy

Black-clad, beady eyed mourners
Flock around my child-sized coffin
Clawed hands tear at paper walls,
Desperate to ressurect what's long dead

Shackling chains to chilled flesh
As if animation breeds life
Futile attempts to play god,
I didn't accept a packaged destiny

Beyond the madness, out of reach
Stands a single form in white
Removing bonds of expectation
And casting them aside

The crows don't turn as they fall,
Intent on their mad mission,
They say nothing as I walk away;
Too busy trying to bring me back

Joyce Rugg

Facade

Nothing slips by them
My mistakes, ammunition
Fully armed, they strike

Brutal, deadly, cruel
Their razor edged words cut me
Their hate thinly veiled

Under seeming care
A convincing show of love
Their cunning deceit

They may fool the world
But I see through the facade
Evil lurks beneath

Joyce Rugg

Flight

</>What will it take,
To make this stop?
I'm sick of this cliff,
Just let me drop

Let me sleep
Kill the light
Let me fall;
It's almost flight

I'll break away
From heartless things.
For only a moment,
I'll have wings

Joyce Rugg

Fragile

They don't see who I really am; they don't even care
If I play along, it's as if I'm not even there
'a straight A student' they brag and boast
Of nothing, a lie, a ghost

If someone doesn't look too closely, there's nothing wrong with me
Yet when I look in the mirror, cracks are all I see
Hairthin yet sharp and endless to my eyes, a
spidery network of sadness and lies

They enjoy destroying the walls I build to contain
All the angry words I can barely restrain
Always trying to get in my head, the only place I'm free to live
Always demanding answers I cannot give

They say it's my fault, that the problem is me
Never accepting that normal is something I'll never be
Trying to break me, make me obedient, weak
They won't see the truth and continue to seek

Determined to fix me, blind to what's real
Stealing from all the things I don't reveal
A relentless search, but they'll never see
They are the blade that's killing me

Joyce Rugg

Framed

Pictures worth a thousand words,
but each one of them are lies
An act we donned for others
All manic smiles, frozen eyes

A moment, trapped in the frame
preserved like a dying rose
Happiness is framed for their view
nothing but the best shows

We're a group of actors first,
People once our roles are through
Play perfection, trapped in glass,
This lie is our gift to you

Joyce Rugg

Freefall

Voices whisper, promising sweet sleep
I look, but see nothing in the deep
Nothing different from where I am now
The only change, it doesn't bow

To the joy that pulls me to the sky
That leaves me giddy, too breathless to ask why
Like someone has a gun to my head
A false cheery voice, "be happy or you're dead"

No choice, though I'd much rather die
They see the surface, believe the lie
When the skeleton shows, they call it an act
Blind to the broken bones, to the impact

Like a star falling to the sea
The end of all I'll ever be
The light that was so clear
Will suddenly disappear

If I don't drown, I hit land
The jagged rocks, not sand
Able only to lie on red-stained stone
A macabre painting, but it's my own

A sign that I had really been there
That I wasn't just someone's nightmare
Everlasting, till swept away by a flood
A marker, a monument in blood

Life, trapped in a sepulcher
Now, a blessed departure
Away from all the judging eyes
In falling, I rise

Joyce Rugg

Friendly Fire

It's been said that love is blind,
An understatement, I've lost my mind
To care for you, after all you've done,
Burning alive, still I reach for the sun

Staring through the bars of a cell,
Begging to enter a familiar hell
More than willing to endure any pain
To be near you, a struggle so vain

Endless days spent by the phone
Only a shadow, no life of my own,
Praying that you'd remember me
For without your love, what would I be?

You never noticed me, never cared
A hint of trouble had you running scared
You left me to die in life's stranglehold
Alone in a razor world of brutal cold

An unwanted burden, an unwitting pawn
Forced to face each bleak dawn
Passed off, someone else's headache,
Losing my self and sanity, flake by flake

They earn my trust, so simple then
Foolishly, I drop my guard, that's when
They plunge the knife through my heart
The crippling pain is only the start

The madmen play the best head games,
Laughing eyes reflect the flames
Left choking on the bitter ashes
My life, a horror movie in flashes

A silhouette in fading dust,
I struggle on, they say I must
They see nothing beyond the mask
Unknowingly killing me with every task

They're blind to all my fears,
say I lie with words and tears
sneering as they see the strain
of the charade I cannot maintain

screams for help don't seem to matter
their ignorance continues, I finally shatter
hear their laughter as I hit the ground
all the pieces disappear. Never to be found

is there any waking from this nightmare?
Lonely, consumed by pain I can't bear
You can't save me, more helpless than a child
Gone is the sacred bond you defiled

Trusting you is a wish upon a star
Something so distant, so far
It's gone dark, gambling everything on nothing
Held over a cliff by a frayed string

Too many times I've been a fool
Is it funny? I think it's cruel
Never again, I'm deaf to your lies
You don't win, I'm not a prize

You say that I'm evil, the demon,
The coward who had to run
You were the one who pushed me away
With your selfish games I won't play

What to break first, my heart or mind?
An impossible choice, neither option was kind
A question not if, but when
Both are gone, what then?

I left, the only thing I learned from you
Do you blame me? I did what you'd do
You left me alone, the best thing you ever did
Tucked me into my coffin, and closed the lid

Generation Gray

They tell us to think for ourselves,
to have a mind of our own
yet all we speak must be censored
By those who think they know better

Gagged till we reach a certain age,
Once we've earned the gift of free speech
to give voice to another's thoughts,
parroting our parents' dogmas

They tell us that we're all different
that we're all special boys and girls,
stamp on our serial numbers
and ship us out into the world

Joyce Rugg

Heavenly Hades

Jaded eyes grown tired of seeing
Battered body weary with being
Bleeding ears sick of the screams
Tortured mind, nothing's what it seems

Searching hands, black with ashes
Nothing left, I grab the matches
Destroy everything to see the light
Pretend it's normal, but nothing's right

Convince myself destruction's the key,
A beginning in ending all I see
Watch as the dust flies away
I'm left alone, it's best that way

Nothing to ruin, nothing to lose
No need to read their cryptic clues
Sick of a constant struggle to do right
I give up on this impossible fight

Watch the paint blister, blacken, peel
A shimmering fantasy, nothing's real
Ever changing, never the same
I've found a home, in the flames

Joyce Rugg

Hidden

You say the truth's what you want to hear,
But experience makes me lie
Survival is keeping my poker face,
It's smiling when I want to cry

The reason I build you up,
When I'd pay to see you fall
Obey your command to run
Without the strength to crawl

Why I reach for a pen
When I want a knife;
Why I put the lighter down,
Not bring flames to life

I've played your game so long,
I've learned how to win:
Blur the line between the mask
And my bloodied skin

Speak with a stranger's words,
The script etched in my mind
Lock away my soul,
The shell's all you'll find

Continue to slave for you
Though nothing's all I give
How much of myself must I kill,
Before you'll let me live?

Joyce Rugg

Immortal Idols

You're chasing immortality,
But it's not in fleeting fame,
Nor in works of art
As we forget the masters' names

You'd love to believe
That you'll live forever
But history forgets you
once your soul is severed

Your intent is foolish
You're ageless, can't you see?
The earth will honor your death
With a new growth of green

Joyce Rugg

Infected Paradise

Temperatures rise as morals fall
We've created a living hell
We pretend our decay's a lie,
It's easy, perfume masks the smell

Global warming is a falsehood
Because ignorance is cheap
We're the enemy of sea-bound strangers,
Our selfishness poisons beasts in their sleep

We're blissfully oblivious
As monuments become dust
A society of shining steel
Blooming sickly flowers of rust

Our civility will crumble
As the world starts to flood
And we'll become feral beasts
Drowning in seas full of blood

Joyce Rugg

Ink-Stained Armor

Armor, sword, and shield in one
Defense against ignorance,
Severing stupidity
To keep the zombies at bay

Paper wings to let me fly
When a leaden heart drags down,
Carry me away from this
petty fighting on the ground

Slipping through the penned letters
To swim in an ink blue sea
Wander through the silent words,
get lost in the blanks between

Release, relief, and comfort
First refuge and last resort

Joyce Rugg

Legacy

What makes us cross the line
between sweetness and sadism?
I've heard abuse cited
as if it's really an excuse
if you know the feeling,
why impose it on others,
innocents who've never wronged?

The poisoned turned poisoner
spreading the hatred,
through osmosis
to souls not yet scarred
sharing their pain
because they don't know
how to let go.

Joyce Rugg

Lullaby

Hush now baby, don't you cry
Even one whine and you'll fry
In the fires of hell, a dark, scary place
But far better than the life you'll face

My child, beware the bite of the knife
Blades in your back will surely end your life
Thorns will litter your way
Evil follows you, demons you must slay

My life lived only to save you
An impossible task, something no one can do
As I lie in my grave, you're free of my stare,
But forever haunted, knowing you put me there

Joyce Rugg

Malice In Wonderland

I've reached the point of no return,
Stop trying to bring me back
I'll fight you the entire way
I don't cut any slack

Don't try to drag me into Oz
It will never work
I'll kill the Munchkins and the witch
I swear I'll go berserk

Cotton candy fires,
Gumdrops sticky red
Sugarplum grenades
On a gummy bear's head

I left Pooh to starve,
I killed Bambi's mother
The villain of all fairytales,
Snow White and every other

I left behind the fiction,
No longer what I need
They'll say they chased me out
With Bambi in the lead

I wonder if they miss me
In Never Never Land
At least I'll be remembered,
The croc who stole Hook's hand

Joyce Rugg

Manuscript Of The Mind

cement your thoughts
inked words from a trembling hand
allow the blood to dry
on a paper soul

Joyce Rugg

Masks

Who I am day to day is never the same
Some days an icy blizzard, others scorching flame
One minute a raging storm, the next a sunny day
Both the angel of the past and the ghoul of today
I am chaos and order; darkness and light
An internal struggle, an eternal fight
A paragon of madness, yet perfectly sane
Cursed, I carry this life, part blessing, part bane

A change of mask, a different play
Another act, new lines I say
I become who I am forced to be
Hardly ever simply me
Sometimes I try to fit their model of perfection
Other times I give up, go in my own direction

Full of anger, hardened by pressure and flame
Weak, despondent; drowning in sorrow and shame
Ravaged by reality; all is harsh and bleak
Filled with fantasy, a small taste of the escape I seek

Black and white, day and night
I embrace the shadows, but long for the light

Joyce Rugg

Midnight

when you're young you believe every fairytale
you view the world through a gently blurring veil
it is paradise, a lovely, peaceful place.
As you get older, you see the horrors you face
shadows form at the edges of your sight
all too soon darkness smothers the light
you long for the days of carefree bliss.
why must you trade princes for this?
you dream of a happily ever after.
instead, you meet only ruin and disaster
the shining illusion goes up in flame;
leaving no joy, only self-hatred and bitter shame
you emerge from the fire, your gown ragged, crumbling, black
and realize your old life is gone, there's no turning back
that innocent child is murdered, long dead
leaving a broken shell to face the terror ahead

Joyce Rugg

Midnight/Dawn

Dawn is a continuation of midnight, which was written almost 3 years ago.

Midnight

when you're young you believe every fairytale
you view the world through a gently blurring veil
it is paradise, a lovely, peaceful place.
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and realize your old life is gone, there's no turning back
that innocent child is murdered, long dead
leaving a broken shell to face the terror ahead

Dawn

Broken shoes now sharp-edged weapons
To keep human monsters away
Issues of trust, a gift and curse
That keep friends and foes at bay

Fists clenching tightly, bloodstained nails
As she tries to outrun the past
But the chilling breath of specters
still follows in an icy blast

But soon the rough edges don't hurt

And numbness claims her for its own
Then in the cold, it starts to grow,
The seed of hatred they had sown

It takes root, pulls her to the ground
Where voices tell her she should stay
Why fight? Just surrender to Death
It's so much easier that way

But no, that isn't who she is,
A puppet dangling from their strings
'I'm a fighter, a warrior,
I'll never give in' her spirit sings

Acceptance crowds out all her doubts
Fear fades as she faces the pain
Now stronger from all her trials
Attempts to break her all in vain

Numb no more, a frozen heart warms,
Tears dry, replaced with bright laughter
Peaceful, though not conventional,
Her own happy ever after

Joyce Rugg

Mirage Of A Mother

A phantom affection, a thing of the past
What you care for, made of glass
Living a pathetic, poisoned, parody,
Your love, a screaming melody

How could you ask for my trust,
Your fading mask flaking rust?
Do you even see me?
Or is a paycheck all I'll ever be?

You battled for me, but really fought
For your drug and the peace it brought
I was less than nothing, just another stain
Another blot in a world where you couldn't remain

For the longest time, I've hated you
For all things you put me through
Given a chance, I'd have chosen any other,
Yet you still dared call yourself a mother

I was ignorant, foolish, only a child
All I knew was tainted, defiled
You disgusted me, the way you lived
Now I understand; that doesn't mean I forgive

Joyce Rugg

Misguided Birds

Scars aren't the mark of a survivor,
And black is just a way to look dead.
Starvation claimed thousands this day
While egos are bursting, overfed

Another stalker listening to us chirp
Is a cause for celebration
And missing out on the new iPhone
Is the meaning of true deprivation

When we can't see our flaws,
We'll never start to mend
And all the things that we ignore
Will consume us In the end

Joyce Rugg

Missed Signals

Ships, passing in the night,
unheard, unseen, drifting
Alike, yet opposite
unknown until they collide

with the wrenching of wood,
They meet, each battering,
giants bent on vengeance
Though broken, neither falls

Finally, the waters calm
and wreckage lines the shore
Rebuild and play again,
a game of hit-and-miss

Joyce Rugg

My Hell

Kill me, you know you want to
You know you'd love to watch me die
You aren't happy til I suffer
So go ahead and make your day

The feel of the flames,
A rain of ashes
This must be your heaven
I know it's my hell

You think you've trapped me
You think I'm broken
I am not lost yet
In this living nightmare

The feel of the flames
A rain of ashes
This must be your heaven
I know it's my hell

You can never win,
I'll never surrender
This too will end
I will be the victor

I am the flame
I leave you the ashes
This isn't my heaven
But I'll make it your hell

Joyce Rugg

Nightly Flight

A heavy head hits the pillow,
Cerebral swans take flight
Perfect pureness, snowy white,
Packed with poison, black as night

A madcap race to claim my mind
A swirling storm, chaos it brings
Darkness, corruption, fear spreading
With the touch of raven hued wings

Friendly flocks not far behind,
A soothing touch, a cooling brush
To a terror wracked frame
Repairing all fear's tried to crush

The prize, dominion for the night
Who will win? Who will lose?
Though I hope light prevails
The victor isn't mine to choose

Joyce Rugg

Only Human

They say life's a journey; they're right
Sometimes a breeze, often a fight
Towering mountains block my way
And friends never seem to stay

Wildfire before and behind
Smoke hiding everything I'll find
People hurt me, the one they've never really known
Jagged knives cutting deeper than bone

I struggle towards a haven I'll never reach
What lesson should all this pain teach?
Trust no one? That truth is dead, all is lies?
That I'm invisible? They can't hear my cries

If this is life, I can't take it much longer
They say what doesn't kill you makes you stronger
One question runs through my head:
Am I invincible? Or am I already dead?

Joyce Rugg

Passing Thoughts

Words to wound,
Words to heal,
A way to show us
What is real?

Messages encoded
Subconscious signs
Secrets hidden
In the lines

Write your release
For things unsaid
To still the chase
Inside your head

Staining the page
It clears the fog
But what happens
When ink runs out?

Joyce Rugg

Peaceful Parting

You can't deny that we have changed,
perhaps more me than you.
Alterations neither good nor bad
shifts in self that simply are

No longer dependents,
each feeding upon the other.
We've finally broken the cycle
of draining and being drained

We're strong enough to stand alone,
sustained within ourselves.
Finding things we'd never know
If we had never slipped

I'm grateful for the things I've learned,
all that you have helped me see.
Though it seems like a bitter end,
this is where we both begin.

Joyce Rugg

R&R (Working Title)

Step away from the noisy cars
See the sky without prison bars,
Revel in embracing quiet
Away from ceaseless babble and riot

Abandon this madness, step into the trees
Troubling thoughts disappear on the breeze
Reality recedes and stress goes along
The clamor of cars fade to birdsong

The perfect escape, peaceful reflection
The painless cure to heal life's infection
Paradise on earth, flawless, serene
A living utopia, swathed in green

Joyce Rugg

R.I.P. Caylee Anthony

the perfect life, no piece out of place
to the world, just another pretty face
i was nowhere in your scheme
a child in the party scene

you weren't made for motherhood
life before me was too good
all you wanted was to escape
sweet freedom secured with tape

my end was a brand new start
my death warrant, signed with a heart
your troubles over, burdened no more
they say you're free, but i will soar

Joyce Rugg

Rain

It whispers to me, my personal Siren's call
The music lures me to where raindrops fall
The earth, alive under my feet
Every shining leaf a wondrous feat

The grass, more alive than I'll ever be
Rain pours faster, a crystalline sea
Lightning flashes, night now brilliant daytime
My mind now cleared of all reason and rhyme

Sheer madness, but of the best kind
A childlike joy that I rarely find
But then it's over, leaving a clear night sky
And wet ground to remember the magic by

Joyce Rugg

Razor Edge

Everyone will know!
How can I hide this?
They'll want to know why
What drove me to this?

How could I do it?
Destroy all my dreams
I can't be perfect
The flawless prom queen

Life lost in each cut,
Straight lines, just one more
And yet I don't feel
As hair hits the floor

Joyce Rugg

Recovery

slice and dice, scalpels and knives
reach inside to fix the mess

hiding the stitches and scars
with mounds of cloth and plaster,
pretty packaged disasters,
serving more form than function

casts made to show off and sign,
wheels to evoke sympathy
but the vehicle crashes,
and you're supposed to walk off

encouraged by idiots
who say it should be easy
one foot in front of the next,
people do it all the time

but they'll never see the truth:
falling and getting back up,
undisguised whispers, 'cripple'
and fighting the lure of pills

the weary hitchhiker's way,
the road to recovery

Joyce Rugg

Ruins

Even on a sunny day I am trapped in a storm
Shrieking wind in my ears; the words meaningless
The sky turns black; all is darkness
Rain and hail batter me, cold and painful
Lightning flashes, it's brilliance filling the sky
Answered by thunder's menacing growl

Then everything stops
As Suddenly and senselessly as it began
I foolishly believe i am safe
But I've only reached the eye of the storm,
And they strike again

More lightning., and fire scorched through my refuge
Destroying almost everything
Fingers of wind tear through the rest,
Defiling all that was once sacred

When the vultures are satisfied
They leave me surrounded by a lifetime of wreckage
Trying to pick up pieces no longer there

Everything is fragile; brittle
Any attempt at salvation makes everything crumble,

Leaving only dust, all that remains of all that was

Joyce Rugg

Sandy Hook Horror

just another day, quite mundane
it seemed like nothing would change
lives were ended casually
just targets once they're in range

who could commit such a crime?
careless murder-suicide
what could make such a monster?
was humanity trapped inside?

slaughter and sorrow reigned there,
quiet heroes passed away
as joy morphed into terror
all faded to red and gray

Joyce Rugg

Savage Gods

Back away on shaking legs
When the leather belt comes off
Cracking through the air, a whip,
To land on red, welted skin

Waking up to face the day,
Dark words branded on a soul
Unfair accusations fly,
Each one has a razor edge

Too young, don't know what's going on,
A protector? but it hurts
While mommy's drunk in slumber
Your daddy comes out to play

Time goes on, the pain retreats
Nothing hurts you anymore
Too late, the damage is clear
In icy, scar-covered veins

Joyce Rugg

Schrodinger's Cat

Headlights slice through the night,
Sightless eyes in cold steel flesh
Blind to the twisted metal
Uncaring of glass shards and slick blood

Amid the wreckage lies a broken body
Bloody, trapped in a cold steel cage
Covered in razor-edged glass jewels,
His watching eyes begin to glaze

9 cars have driven by
1 life is in your hands
1 death is sure to come
Will you? Or won't you?

Joyce Rugg

Self-Bound Slave

They claim their halos
But deny the horns below
Adorned with bats' dark wings
Yet claiming the right of seraphim

They serve 'in His name'
But only in convenience
But even this pales,
Next to the fatal flaw

They hide from the truth:
Their master is a construct,
Merely a theological idol,
Rust-ridden and fragile

They know not their beast;
He's merely a rodent,
empty, noble phrases
Are all that make him king

They tout His forgiveness,
But he'll make them beg,
They cower like dogs,
Bowing to their own imaginations

Joyce Rugg

Senseless Dollars

happiness can't be bought
But everything else is for sale
Oppression, misery, even death
For the right price, it's all yours

American eagle only soars
By pinning others to the ground
We pay for human suffering,
Luxuriate in their pain

It's convenient to murder,
You don't even need a knife
Death is served, steaming hot
For only ninety nine cents

Joyce Rugg

Sentient Slaughter

Hiding in ancient excuses
We justify our fallacy
An undeserved arrogance
That we call supremacy

Indoctrinated, skewed beliefs
And the lure of property rights,
Only humans can suffer,
Creatures can't voice their plights

We exploit all animals,
Denying that we are one.
We are the mass murderers
Who've never touched a gun

Our illusion of cleanliness
Is tearing at the seams
And we shout to be heard
Over slaughterhouse screams

Joyce Rugg

Sevas Tra

I pick up a pen, fingers white on the plastic,
Force myself to write with hands that shake,
Ignore all of the voices that scream for your blood
And focus on the one that whispers 'no'

Hold a brush to the expectant canvas,
Will the pain and bruises away
As the blood-soaked utopia
Once more becomes green

Drain the venom from your bites,
Instead of drugging away the pain
Use the shattered remnants of a life
To rebuild, remold, and create

You say my art is pointless,
But you dont know the truth
My pointless scribbles and useless lines
Are all that's helped keep you alive

Joyce Rugg

Silent Speech

You've closed your mouth,
But the words remain
Hanging on drunken breath
A dark and growing stain

You don't say anything
But you don't need to
Your message shrieks at me
Though silence speaks for you

All the things you shouldn't say
Now spoken for all to hear
You say you love me, but you lie
Unsaid words of hate are all too clear

I cover my ears
But words seep in
Like I'm drowning
Like you'll finally win

But now I see the truth, I realize
You were the one losing your fight
You tried to bury me with you
For company in your eternal night

I saw you going down,
But couldn't stop the leak
You didn't want my help
I know; I heard your silence speak

Joyce Rugg

Silver Silence

they say we're madmen, we're insane
we refuse to continue their charade,
refuse to pretend there's no pain
refuse to join the plastic parade

so easy to say
that'll never be me
beneath the walls falling away
poster children for wrecked society

i've watched people breaking,
Laughed as they fell
never knowing their pain; raw, aching
a feeling i now know too well

how could they succumb to poison?
i couldn't believe the fools
driven away from reason
victims of society's rules

from birth to the moment they're dead
their burden not on their back,
but in veins gray with lead
Frozen, aflame as their sight goes black

some people smile as they die
others refuse to play; they escape
i won't live a lie
blindfolded, screaming through duct tape

Joyce Rugg

Sluggish Society

Plodding along, we go where we're led
Following drones who've earned our respect
Never caring about what's coming
Though our leaders' motives are suspect

We beg them for our shackles and gags
Because freedom means leaving the herd
where they can be promptly torn apart
Giving voice to a dissenting word

Fear cripples, claims more surely than death
Keeping all of the robots in line
As all humanity is bled out
and replaced with acceptable drugs

Lullabies pull them deeper in sleep
Though they were never truly awake
While those who refuse such mind-control
Are gathered up and burned at the stake

Joyce Rugg

Straightjacket Sleep

Bound by the shackles of sleep
As venom crawls through my veins
Drowning in the terrifying deep
Dragged down by night's black chains

I sleep, but there's no rest
Another fight, but now I'm helpless
I fail the most important test
All I see, frightening and senseless

Reality slides through my grasp
The monsters are closing in
Babbling voices a rusted rasp
Bloody claw marks show where they've been

My mind more twisted with each turn
It seems there's no way out
Locked inside, I watch myself burn
To this chaos, a slave devout

Terror-trapped in a bloody rut
The wounds they cause
No simple paper cut
Not easily fixed with gauze

Darkness and horror: madness and strife
A nightmare painting, shadows and gory light
Running through hell to save my life
My only option, a cliff's edge flight

Behind me, I can feel their breath
I know I'll never leave alive
Either way lies certain death
One last breath: I take the dive

Joyce Rugg

Trial By Fire

Spare me your lies
And your transparent tears
You grieve not your crimes,
You've lost track of your sins

You didnt think twice
As the words left your lips
To end my short life,
Send me to the crypts

Your wish was in vain
I refused to give up
And you gave me your love
Though it came with a knife

Death disobeyed you,
Wouldn't heed your call
When you tried to burn me,
Destruction set me free

The flames made me strong,
A reborn child of pain
Don't call yourself a mother!
How dare you make that claim?

Joyce Rugg

Twisted

Trapped, in endless dark
Searching, hoping for a spark
Blackness all around,
It's weight driving me to the ground

Down on my knees, the position of prayer
But why bother? God isn't there
Too much pressure and I bow
To the demons, my shadow now

A thousand lies whispered in my ears
A chilling chorus of my darkest fears
All my life, fighting both darkness and light
My sanity gone, a beast roams the night

Rampant chaos, a whirlpool of thoughts swirling
Before me, dozens of paths unfurling
Ways of darkness appeal most to me
The light too cruel; revealing things I don't wish to see

Relentless, my ghosts follow me
A haunting presence I can't see
Trailing me, making me paranoid
Pushing me closer to the welcoming void

I look back, at the path I've tread so far
Made of broken stones, many sharp enough to scar
Beneath my feet, spots of light
On my way, a break from this constant night

Above me, bent branches form faces
Pairs of eyes peer at me through dark spaces
Some kind; some cold
It's through these faces that my story's told

At times, only one thing stops me from giving in
Not sanity, but selfishness; I won't let them win
They killed me with careless words, a thousand times crueler than their actions
My pride won't let me break, give in to their distractions

Their faces before me, sickeningly smug
Anger fills me, my poison, my drug
When I long to take the dive
Into eternal rest, my enemies keep me alive

Joyce Rugg

Universal Remote

Green's just the color of money,
And stars are set in pavement
The night sky offers no mystery,
But the tv takes care of that

We envy the Earth and its children
For the things that we don't possess,
So we seek to control them all
We are the inferior best

Natural involves silicone
And our own skin still won't suffice
We call the animals vicious
And we're the ones taking lives

Joyce Rugg

Vortex

It sneaks up like a shadow,
trapping me in a dark cage.
It squeezes and twists my mind,
forcing out all but the rage.

Addicted to my anger
though common sense screams in vain.
The beast who killed compassion
now hungers for your sweet pain

No small revenge is petty
as long as it will hurt you.
Holding fire in blistered hands
in hopes that you'll be burned too

Joyce Rugg

Whispers

Pain, a constantly consuming companion
It drives me to act with reckless abandon
Like a feral beast, I claw at my cage
All too quickly, sadness takes the place of rage
It drags me down, bottomless and bleak
And yet I have to ask: is it really happiness I seek?
To me, joy seems a waste of time
A cruel hope, then darkness that lasts a lifetime
I dream of escape, but what am I searching for?
Rest from this madness? The key to every locked door?
I want to be away from the voices, outside and in
Always whispering, screaming. When will blessed silence begin?
Ever quiet, eternal rest
Banish my ghosts from the shadows where they nest
Death, the true final frontier
The last refuge from a life of uncertainty and fear
Some days I wish to fall into the endless, dreamless sleep
Taking with me all the secrets I choose to keep
I know I will eventually find the peace I crave
If nowhere else, six feet under, in my grave

Joyce Rugg