

Poetry Series

**maggie oke**  
**- poems -**

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**maggie oke(1973)**

# A Modern Day Wizard

A modern day wizard spied I today  
And the look in his eye cried out  
Hooray!  
You've got it figured now go shout it

And life would be so hard without it  
Your soft regard  
Rejoice in my joy  
Your voice and your ear  
to salve the woe  
The mirror to reason  
Reflecting on my chaos

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# Adolescent Fear

Adolescent fear never speaks in its own language  
Always translated into the impure tongue  
Of cocky  
Mock confidence  
Mutating into  
Terrifying others  
But not me  
Each morning resolute to spread a little knowledge  
Inspire a little, fighting another tide  
Which is pulling them  
Each morning they arrive resolute to fit in  
Look cool  
Be popular  
Stay safe  
A handy tool  
Is mock the teacher  
Show no interest  
In the offerings  
Of knowledge  
And inspiration  
Let battle of two tides commence

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# Advice To A Poet

Advice to a poet (or things can't destroy you)

Don't let commerce destroy the tree  
That bears the fruit of verse  
Listen to the messages of your heavenly mentors  
Meet comrades of your own creative ilk  
Weave webs of satin feeling  
Clothed in sentiments of heat and silk  
Avoid the carnal fun fest  
That jests with your sweet soul  
Sing songs with the poets  
let jazz cry your tears  
Surrounded by angels who are keeping you whole

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# Aerial View

You didn't want to swim in the polluted sea  
You only wanted to contemplate the purity  
of the crystal mountain source  
And look heaven wards  
In thanks  
For the nearness  
To the clarity of the sky  
To view in largesse  
Noblesse oblige

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# Around Me

Feeling the need for a healing pod  
A squad of cheer  
Of rooting  
Grow roots from there  
And some loving light  
Belief for my work filled head

Make me soar as in rise  
Not sore as in dead!

Be my agent  
Available dynamo  
To venture

Stem fears from entering  
Then stemming outwards  
Tread soft thread of feeling  
Then, spread the word...

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# Bulimic Love

And loving poetic soul  
Beware those bandits who could devour your every gesture  
Your kindness wretched forcibly from their heart  
By their own hand from where it was sown  
Regurgitated  
Unnatural reversal  
And in putrid channel lying as fetid bile  
Anger hanging in the air  
Awaiting a home

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# Calling

Singing dancing salsa  
Speaking other tongues  
Meeting greeting knowing you  
Now know the name of fun  
It's a rhythm it's a beat  
It's a heat you give when I'm beaten  
Never weaken hear me sing in tunes of crazy pattern

Singing dancing losing blues  
Loving sharing news and views  
My happy place is in your face  
A winning warming smile embrace

Some call it love come from above  
Some call it inspiration  
Some call it genius call it clever  
Call it perspiration

Some call it in the morning  
Call it in the night  
Some call it softly  
Call it loud  
Call out with all their might  
No sense at all to make the call  
If voice has disappeared

But I remember months ago  
The time when I most feared

Like little babe scooped up to dance  
Two arms reached right around me  
Strong creature holding on himself  
Said give this life a chance

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# Centrifuge (Song Lyrics)

You gave me refuge  
From the centrifuge  
From forces spinning out  
From Vortex city  
Winner's title  
To the crazy guy  
Last hanging on  
But doesn't know why  
No prize  
Bruised and battered  
Not beaten  
Not yet high and dry

Gave me refuge from confusion  
From the forces of the game  
From the roll call of illusion  
You spoke true fortune's name

Now there's refuge from the subterfuge  
Stepping stones across the pain  
There's a bridge across the deluge  
You have paved the way again

In search of sunlight  
To bright the dreary  
And weary of the chore  
We long for heroes  
To lead us onwards  
We're frozen to the core  
Can courage melt us all  
Hearts so tired and sore  
No map  
Soaked and tattered  
Not floundered  
Not yet lying at death's door

Flung from plots and promises  
From sick energy we'll flee  
From the bond it now releases

From this day we'll both be free

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# Coffee Culture

Take a risk  
Assess the right and the wrong of it  
The pleasure over happiness  
The rules over responsibility  
What risk to the public  
If they knew  
They could be poor  
And happy too

Alienation what's it all mean?  
Okay to show off your latest machine  
Don't mention your need  
For the love that could feed you  
Such sentiment fool is obscene  
It's okay to talk of the needs  
which it gives you  
To buy

Keep up with the trend  
Keep your end up  
In the virtual eyes of  
A world which doesn't exist  
For when have you ever  
Been invited  
To say what you feel  
By an 'all powerful'  
Ephemeral A- list?

Seen through watery eyes the image distorted  
Urban paradise  
Staking out a place in heaven  
Argue over seats  
Tut at the rudeness

Annoying -like a one-sided mobile phone chat  
An animated face gripping earnestly  
To handset

Coffee long gone in home from home position  
Tut inward and out as little kid shouts  
And the computer with its upward crescendo  
Does musical pap

Alone you may think  
But never so alone as when trapped with others  
Into chain of thought and command

You alone as a body  
But together linked up in your soul with others of Your kind

And others all prey  
To supply and demand

'Dear animals of prey  
To protect the delicacy of our sanity  
We ask you not to hit and run with our souls '

As you look for your fun  
It's the home from home  
where you bring your own mates  
Out of bounds to make new friends  
If no one communicates

The thin girl enjoyed eating what she yacked up  
Before meeting  
The new love  
She's greeting  
With air kisses  
He misses  
the qualities she's barely revealing  
Unlike the umbilical he finds so appealing

Pack your own sandwich.  
Make your own love

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# Day Watch

How do you know when you're having the best day of your life?  
Do you have to miss it and say?  
There it went I wish I'd known it on the way  
On 'best day' watch...  
Do you have to stalk it and be  
Like one of those tourist photographers you see  
That never experience  
Because they're always trying to capture- the experience?  
Suppose today is the best day I'll ever have  
Let me to it a little homage pay  
Thank you for being my best day

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# Do You Know?

I don't think you know

Do you know how much I think of you?

At a penny a second

You would be a billionaire

The energy connected to the national grid would fuel a small country

I love you is corny

It's cheesy and weak

It's a fashion faux pas- which I risk

For you

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# Don'T Descend

Don't descend to that state where beauty can mock you  
For not feeling part of it  
For you not feeling part of people

Not feeling loved  
Don't descend  
To that place  
Where you don't look after yourself

The beauty is there for you as well others  
Seen alone  
Or with another  
Come out of that dark place  
You were not meant to inhabit

You deserve you are high you are loved  
You are okay  
And when all this settles down you will live to tell the tale and those burning  
tears  
They are okay too

But run away from the poison  
Of toxic people and influences  
Relish the isolation

You learned so much about yourself  
Ward off those who would eat you as the new piece of meat

It's okay to feel the pain  
Your mood may sink and rise again  
Text the world  
You want to be their friend  
If they don't send back you gain some time in the end

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## Fast Track

They've discovered the cause of everything  
No more angels no more legend no more myth  
Pray if you like to the gods who have died  
Only science and money will grant you your wish  
The muse is a disconnected line now  
Poor subscription made a costly call  
Moving image final defeat over lyric description  
Who needs the essence when you can swallow it all?

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# Filtered Through The Oyster

Filtered through the oyster  
All the dirt and all the strife  
Filtered through the oyster  
The pearl becomes my life  
Filtered through the oyster  
Blind in pearly glow  
Want to bask in beauty only  
Every hurt has fixed its price

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# For Prayer

Do you ever sit and wonder what they're doing now  
Asking all the questions  
The why the when and how

Going all directions  
Up down back and forth  
Wandering east and west of it  
Going south and north

Looking in my pockets  
For the change to make a call

Wanted to say sorry  
For the madness of it all

The games of mind  
The hurting soul  
Times unwind  
What to gain from all the pain

All the whys beneath the sky

What's left is need for help  
The yelp the prayer  
It's rare that love and lovers  
Are lonely only

Looking in my mind  
for a call to make the change

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# Freeze Frame

In Kensington Gardens  
I lay under a tree  
Looking up  
At the illuminated  
Green leaf mosaic  
And jigsawed against  
The pastel and the lime  
My thoughts  
Are stitched  
To a moment  
In time

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# Harmful Charmer

Romantic cannibals  
Survive but destroy  
Their kind  
In unkind passion  
Lashing out  
Bashing for fashion  
and lashing  
The cash in  
While we starve for our ration

Will the world pray for the day  
You were born  
To the wrong place  
Wrong face  
Wrong race?

While you did nothing to change the pace

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# Hymn D'Amour

I love you and you have to say it back  
You're the second part harmony and don't play your part  
I love you is an echo's command  
I love you  
Cue the music or I'm sacking the band

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# If Not Love

What do we have here?  
What shall we call it

Weekly appointment  
Fixed engagement?

Passionless craze  
A haze for you

As one of many  
You don't have any

A phase for me  
Called lies are true

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# If You Give Me Sympathy Right Now

A balloon of bursting tears cannot float  
But do not provide the action  
Or release the pain too quickly  
You might not be able to heal the form  
To stop the train of deconstruction  
In time to save the shape assigned to this creation

A leaf of trembling fears  
The blossom trying to survive  
Tries to thrive  
On the branch no longer alive

We are the branch  
Don't think that you can make it without us

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# Journey Men

They know one plain that keeps them  
One circuit at a time  
they know one set of journey men  
Who travel the same lines  
They know not where the destination  
But keep the track well worn  
They trudge with courage to each station

Alight all ye who are folorn  
Or lost or weary of the chore  
In search of light to blight the dreary  
Another ship to set to shore

We long for heroes in this hour  
Our lives are passing while we sleep  
Our plans once drafted were sincere  
But pacts with demons Fear and Habit  
Forced us, other oaths to keep

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# Kilos

You can weigh my kilos  
Count my laps  
Stretch my gluteus  
Extend my baps  
I'm a human cyborg attached to the pedal  
Burn the calories  
Bruise the saddle  
But what of the me the essence the soul  
What does it weigh as part of the whole?

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# Launderette In Pimlico

Launderette in Pimlico

A patient ageing

Old flat cap

Man sitting alone in the launderette

He has no washing on

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# Loneliness

Loneliness

Can it addict you?

To a daily call

From

'The One'

Who calls you?

Tick box

But doesn't love you?

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# Members Only

Living in a club called the living  
We didn't choose the members but they're here  
Fate is on the door  
And you're not coming in  
If someone, something, somewhere  
Didn't want you near

So make the most of your entry  
No refund, no regrets and no exchange

If you can  
Try your best  
At least to stick it  
There's people cheating stealing dying  
Doing what they can  
For their hands on your ticket

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# My Kind

I yearn for love  
Not just of  
But to and 'tween my kind  
On my kind  
For love and for my  
Man and woman and child kind  
My kind my race my  
Human face race  
To put the kindness back in  
To the not just manly  
Man kind

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# Noble Lonely

Loneliness is pure and independent  
Original and creative  
Struggle is noble  
And the most corrupt thing in life  
Is a group going the wrong way  
Not the single struggling soul

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## Notes To A Child

And this very ground  
And this very tree  
Has been around  
So much longer than you and me  
And I will be  
This ground  
And  
You will be this tree  
When  
Your children's child has fled its mortal cage  
And once again is flying free

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# Of The Fathers

Those downturned lips didn't need to move to say  
That nothing good had happened  
For a generation or two now  
But those eyes were still monitoring the skies  
For signs of life  
And his eyes betray the lies he's lived  
And the disconcerting smile cannot  
While away, wipe away  
The false notes of his life's time

The song will crash on a harsh chord  
And it's happening soon  
Cymbal crash  
Reeling  
Revealing  
Symbols litter the melody  
with lack of feeling

And expectations  
Would disapprove

In the joint dismal front  
The outlook  
Is grey  
And pray  
But say  
You'll be answered  
In a century  
Or two.?

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# Pleasure In Parallel

Mutual views  
And favorite songs  
There's nothing wrong  
With pleasure in parallel

But our two lines  
Will never meet  
So much I could never share with you  
Like a character from the screens of illusion  
Pleased to have met you

Even though our lives could not.  
Touch.  
No matter how long they travelled  
Along those imperious parallel lines

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## 'Rite' And Proper

We made a flower  
A petal moulded from every gentle touch  
And over every shape and hue  
We said a little prayer

We prayed that no bad wind  
Uttered through clumsy word  
would blow the petals away

I almost dare not speak  
But will my thoughts to reach you  
Through some safer route  
Along breath filtered along the stem  
Of a soft scented rose

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# Self Fulfilling Prophecy

You thought I was but I wasn't  
And because you thought I was  
You were angry  
And because you were  
I really was in the end

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# The Tate Britain

I come here for the lofty peace, the vibration  
It is like a church without religion  
Enabled  
I can gather my thoughts  
There is no sense of hurry rush or need  
Democratic  
The affluence of treasure is shared amongst all those who appreciate it  
Light and airy  
I can think here  
My mind can fly and float

I saw the lady with the name tag pause with her pen  
She then wrote  
'Not too crowded 'against the box  
'Ipsos Mori would like to thank you for completing this survey'  
She said.

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# The Tube

The tube

A carriage full of hearts  
And a truck load of souls  
A track a direction  
It's all that we need  
Fixed speed  
No controls  
Passive cargo  
Manners embargo  
Rush hour frenzy feed  
Strap hangin chain gang  
Don't look  
Bad luck -to read the next page  
of another mans book  
Stand on the right on the right way to survival  
And the next station is  
The next station is  
None of my business sorry  
We're sorry to announce  
All change  
All change any change mate all change  
Mind the gap  
Is in the  
Mind  
The gap  
Is in your  
Mind the gap is in the all change  
Mind the gap is in your head

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# They Were All Just Babies Once

They were all just babies once  
She's all grown up now  
The office bully  
Learned to walk  
twenty nine years ago  
And the evil politician  
learned how to lie for the first time in seventy two  
And those who would hurt you scorn you my love  
Who've no right to make you feel small this way  
they first learned to walk on fat wobbly legs a couple of decades back  
It never made much difference to their poise or posture though

Whilst you my love  
My precious creature  
You were born full and deep with second time round wisdom  
With enough strength  
To set the world the example it aches for  
Just be strong and ride the wave  
For me, for you  
for the world you want to love

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# Tiny Being

She lives on me  
And I cannot fail  
It's the gift of will  
To carry on  
To feed this tiny being at my breast

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# Was It Really So?

The year is 3010

And on a far off planet our descendants are wondering about their ancestors

And was it really true that they got by without cooperating and love

Without respect and care

Was it really true that until the turning point

Nobody cared about any one except themselves?

That the world split into those who let themselves be swayed

Into being slaves of the corporations

And addicts of their products

Whilst those who survived

Had to go right back

To eating raw food,

To love, to everything as nature intended

So as to avoid the dangerous substances

Being added for profit

And toxic behaviours

Encouraged for maximum benefit

Of the ruling elite

And rule they did

For a while after our ancestors had escaped

Until their planet was blown into a gas

By the end results

Of their madness

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# What Are The Chances?

You came through  
And yet no tears  
No cries  
Emerging to wonder why  
You feel so calm and sweet  
And yet you didn't meet  
Head on  
The cataclysm coming your way  
Averted by the smaller catastrophe  
And the euphoria you feel  
Is relief  
That the universe  
Has again protected you

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# Why I Was Off!

Couldn't work Monday the ninth  
But you need to hear out my plea  
About how I was low on good karma  
And had a slight touch of ennui  
And how I woke up on the tenth  
To find things had gotten much worse  
As I got up to find myself victim  
To quite a strong voodoo curse  
Wednesday eleventh much better and I don't mean to pass round the buck  
But fell out of bed on the wrong side and felt quite low on my luck  
On the safe side I stayed off till Thursday the twelfth when I mislaid my keys  
And you wouldn't believe if I told you they fell off my car in the breeze  
And with all this misfortune around me I'm sure you'll see what I mean  
About staying off during Friday  
Unlucky for me the thirteenth  
Yes I'm late but I'm back now much better  
And seeing what there is I can do  
For the hour I have that is left  
Till I have my appointment at two

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