Poetry Series

Odey Patricks - poems -

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Odey Patricks(09-09-1990)

hi, am Patrick. I was born in lagos but grew up north, Abuja. I luv the color blue, rock and pop music, and i luv poetry a lot. I kid myself always sayin i 'wrote' my first poem when i gave my first baby cry. Writing has always come naturally and easily, i'm not giving it up for anything. If i wasnt writing poems, i'd probably be doin music.

Bella

I liked the way you walked And when you talked You seductively spinned words.

I liked the way you blinked your eyes When you winked, I smiled, And when you pouted I tried not to laugh too loud.

I think of you often
Smile then turn sullen
Sober i ask myself, why am I so crestfallen?

Once i thought we could be
All we wished and dreamed
The sky would stay forever blue
And nothing could change that hue.

I thought I knew it all
When i called us off
Thought it was all for the best
And for us both one uncertainty less.
Thought I knew it all when I called your bluff
Now I know I could not have been more wrong.

I miss you more than I care to admit When I spy you how my heart doth beat! How my palms do sweat And how huge my regrets!

But i can not be your Pride again and you can not be my Bride to claim.

You've had enough of me And me of you, with the intrigues Farewell dear Love For we both must go massage our Hurts.

Do You?

Do you think of me at all?
When the nights grow cold and long
Where you lie idle in thoughts
Do u think of me at all?

When you walk down the street And waiting boys trail you with pleas Do you think of me at all?

When you are down and awfully sad And a terrible day you've had When life's sea is suddenly rough Do u think of me at all?

When i'm gone a thousand miles And we may not see in a while When your days do turn dry Do u think of me at all?

When you think of me, dear Love (If you think of me at all)
Do you-with Happy tears
Or a sigh of deep regrets?

Dying Isnt So Bad

Dying isnt so bad
So you shouldnt be so sad.
You get to sleep and rest
from life's streneous quests.
You get to rest in sleep
and let off some steam.

And when you wake, Muslim? You rise to meet 7 Virgins!

And dear Christians,
thank goodness!
You will rise to the wicked's end!
And if you do not enter Heaven's gate
relax, do not fret just yet
you will not miss Hell's treat
to fireworks and music concerts free
Peformances by the resident music stars!

So you see? Dying isnt so bad!

Guiltless Confession

I never meant to Love
But bring your heart to Love
I ever meant to hurt
Your fragile heart that loved.
I never lied not once
How oft you made my Heart sing
How oft you made my Head reel
From thoughts of the joy you bore.

Twas mean Nature out of hurt
To bring your Heart to love
to paint pictures swift and fair
Make you my heartbreak's Heiress.
For my bitter heart once sore
bruised and badly burned
sweet vengeance solely sought
Till twas caught in the web of your love.

I meant once entrapped in your allure
To stick to this love and not
With vengeful thoughts consort.
I meant my treachery to report
at the office of your Heart
knees down in deep Remorse
to ask forgiveness at your heart's Alter.

I never meant for you to lose your faith in love and Curse For whatever my words are Worth To not Love is to mightily lose!

But Ego ever swift Rescued me from my Guilt and shewn to me the Filth in Love, and Trust even.

Here's To Never Again

So once again I sneaked More than a furtive glance your way, then the mental art Of a Kiss upon your tender lips. Just then I felt the familiar flutterings below my pounding heart, the dewy witness over my blushing palms, and the quick cold rush through my twitching nostrils as my eyes swam, and faint I felt before your dazzling presence yonder.

I caught myself halfway through a smile, frowning, as I watched you smile and laugh at some joke or wit, Then a mental note to flourish my ears with the clips from calls we shared, days sweet but past.

Just then Guilt came calling
Upon the heels of regret,
quick at the wake of wistful thoughts,

So I, steeled again, my egostic will and umpteenth time said to me ' Tis all for the best '.

Turning my head which felt like some rusted wheel,

I pretended my business to mind as I glumly looked away.

Home Still

When I arrived, the reception, cold, was but one of the many surprises. The Lawn was strange, father's name no longer the topiary, and the domestic faces, too, save the handy maid. I found no joy in the new blue sofas much over-did, trying to fit in. And the hanging aesthetic of a surreal blue moon there where, I remember, a family bust should be. The rooms were stringently neat redolent of a sick ward, the scent, some vulgar freshness, like the disappointment of night flowers.

How can I exaggerate when humour withers on the tongue? The act is to not look unimpressed yet spare all the sarcasm of perfunctory compliments but crack a conceding smile.

The case is a family treason, yet no cause for great alarm. No art is a complete waste, no act devoid of reasonable conviction.

I remember the native wit, though, of Musa, and K-Mah, the beautic sprawl of father's name abbreviated on the flowers.

Now I long for the brown couch, with more wool than wood, the simple but refreshing smell of Drummer on the wall in a box.

The act is to not look unimpressed the trick is to smile along, and not adumbrate another's exotic taste,

For it is Home still.

How Do I Poeticize?

I cannot play deaf to trumpeted gossips in the market place, from the very traders I patronise.

I cannot blunt my feelers to cheapen my ingrained anguish, look the other way to the faces made on mates whose smiles are but masks carved on envy.

All devouts cannot be matyrs so I bear these stones with pride!

Yet how do I poeticize
when you strip my words of meaning,
tie and club in open sight,
mock and scorn with religious spite?
How do I share the baked philosophy
from nights of thorough thoughts
when rheum lands on the bread prepared
and phlegm your preferred jam?

You have held to my mouth a gourd of grudge, do I refuse a drink?
Perhaps, a litany of vulgar lambasting the lines your thoughts are spread whose knittings, loose like confused grits, time's test will assuredly fail.

Again, how, in your myopic sight can you see the meaning deep?
For behind the morning fog always is the Sun burning bright!
Such, behind all layered words of mine are meanings wide and great, know beauty is of various sort substance not form is all!

I write in open gasp at the hypocrisy of frien-emies, whose mangled voice fail to forth the keys for my mind's fine songs. I write to vent artfully my brimming spleen on paper thus save myself some pus and alert you to your need of lens.

Know all devouts cannot be matyrs, so I bear these stones with pride!

I Am No Poet.

By all means I am no Poet
Just a fellow in love with words
So i devotedly piece together such
Sometimes nice but most times Poor.
I love to rhyme with words on lines
Critics say they come out fine
I feel thats sweet, and awfully nice!

But by all means i'm still no poet
If i was one i would joke less
Yet i love Punsit is such Fun,
to kiss, tease and fondle you with wordsyou should know i try them on girls
And yes, most times i get results!

By all means if i was One would i need certs or Licensing? To do with words like i Choose, As do i now with word Syntax?

I love Poems but i'm yet a Poet
I do poems from a love thats Old
I get to share my thoughts with you
and that way heal some heart-borne wounds.

I Want To Call You

My phone stares back at me Wonderin within at me, maybe. I could just reach easily for it And dial you up in a blink

Yet i stall, hands thrust half-way With my cell locked in my gaze The clock ticks on mindless Till my fear tucks my effort away

I want to call you, Quickly Yet i can't seem to, Easily.

Beads of sweat spot my anxiety With my intent cooling off quickly At the thought you might not pick Or reject it worse still

For i have wronged you greatly
And must bear Guilt's overwhelming weight.
Yet i want to call you
Wistful wishing you'd want to talk too

I Will Spit Your Name, Bella

I will spit your name, Bella For too long has the taste lingered The bitter after-taste of our krest affair Pitch drools on my subdued tongue.

I will spit your name, Bella Chocolate fairy with the sunny laugh Every second threatining bile Court my smarting inner cheek walls.

I will spit your name, Bella Now the absent belle rainbow In my gloomy and stormy moods Eve with the innocent baby look.

I will spit your name, Bella Hard and far into the sea Every memory sweet and sour Gone the taste with every spittle.

Infidels!

did not join the requiems when the church speakers blasted but picked wreaths of wisdom off the grave of the surprised dead.

I did not supplicate on weak knees nor question the loud silence of Him whose yard is grave to youth, dreams and ambition, now.

The roughhides of progress would not let be but flog freedom feeding on soiled grass, and when they go asalaaming
No victimed brother seeks my hand in reprisal
(fit as it would have been)
but bear as a sheep.

I did not join the brethren's chorus ears tuned to the cold whispers of bullets for when bombs have spoken where is the wisdom in word dialogue?

I lay back and curse my cowardice and their bloodlust quietly in the fortress of my distress for, they have penetrated peace with holied swords and spat in the calabash that offered Eternal water to Many, they've harvested before season and planted rife in their blind vision razed the vegetal pride of the Land marshing souls to feed Hell and now I feel the need to scream, curse till my lungs burst till the rebel in me taste the blood of the saharan infidels

whose faithlessness have spilled, somehow twisted, into my Soul

Remorse Ever Deep

Child,

would you call me father that made a murderess of your mother? Would you listen to my rueful cry, awhile?

Child,

i make no excuse for my crime nor vindication be here my desire. Yet i beg your ears, dear child.

Child,

i'm sorry i threw the chance to cradle your little body and rub your tiny feet. Hear your frantic cries and stare into your cute eyes, cooing to you lullabies.

Images of you flirt with my dreams and on waking that voice haunts me still. I toss and turn divorced of sleep while yet i hear that sorrowful Voice ringin still.

Sent from the womb to the tomb, flushed down the loo.
I ache in loss for a sin so gross and stand rightfully grudged.

Child,

a night of passion fierce with abandon a gift collected but unwelcomed. Denied opportunity, by a fear of responsibility How numbing this crushing guilt! I combed the gutters to where you lie slaughtered, heart in hand before your alter.

Denied of life's romance i dread your virgin vengeance. Self-judged, i stand guilty yet crave your leniency, sweet Child.

Suicide Paradise

Here, where the humming fan is still and the firmament bulbs dimmed flies shall over my limp form buzza befitting funeral with no cost.

None shall find me till my Life's glass empty seeps, hung, feet above the ground, once the noose has come around.

This deed I hurry to do quick no fear nor cowardly rethink and though I may rue this in Hell truth is, I really do not care!

For what is hell to One like me whom pleasures never knew, to all end whom Life saw fit to knuckle black and blue?

And though fiends govern in Hell and the flames quench not in there The pains, surely, must help, Earth's miseries to forget!

So come round, O dear Noose taut but firm in your silent woos, about this neck duely stay and my struggles do restrain.

When I'm found in my circular dangle judge not from your spooked angle nor look up with dutiful pity- a most hypocritical piety.

Know, Life, not death, be the burden this Soul was with laden and though Heaven be far my luck I left with a true man's gut!

The First To Be My Last

Until I find the Spring Spoken of, And of It partake. Until It courses down And fills the Thirst, My Soul roams wild-Shy of Mate.

Sometime soon
(Or so its said)
It should spring upon me yet
And,
Finding thus my Hearts content
My roaming halt
with appalling ease
at the epic feat
of my thirst's defeat!

Till then, mate,
I wander yet.
Off lakes to swim
and rivers, too.
If no sharks meal me
at a turbulent Sea,
I should be here
When Spring burst forth!

They Cry Fowl Over Flesh.

One mind sayswe may take to witchcraft
now that land, sea and aircraft
fails us. Witty.
Another,
beating on the hides of our drum-able conscience,
provoke rhythms of pity, anger and loathing. Cheap.

I say
they cry fowl over flesh
and hit the nail at its tapered end
feeding fat on carcass gorged
out the burning belly
of the metal bird
whose miscarriage
(grave its stillbirths)
they diagnose
with vexing impunity.

Instead in our pool of words
let bob, the souls sickled before time
and the hands that bore the scythe
be trussed and staked.
Lets make no sales on cheap sentiments,
for the songs of the dead
be the lamentations of the living,
not lullabies.

Time Bomb

Tick tock in my Head
Beeps the Timer on and on
Events coming to a Head
The Victims feel they'v had enough.

Blood of 'matyrs' freshly spilled smoked flesh on splinters held Sacred grounds a Graveyard now The Victims feel they've had enough.

Take back those words, Preacher they dialogue with bombs not words These Herders of Death.

Now "turn thou not the other cheek Defend your earth, O ye Meek! Specious advice from the Top. The Victims feel they've had enough.

Tick tock it beats on the Victims feel they've had enough of hate and death and years of Pain Voices heard, "Avenge us Slain".

Atlantic guns, Saharan swords Trade bites at opposite Ends. Look! A riding Cloud misty figures Clash about.

The Rhythm mounts the time ticks on Israelites versus the Phillistines!

Without You

In your absence my life is a lonely song from the lips of a forlorn Lover, searching for joy in wishful songs.

I feel feverish, hollow, with longings quick upon me, stripped of you.

My heart is a garden of your thoughts, evergreen, never fallow ever wet with sprinkles from dreams and your pictures!

Without you, Duchess, my sky is a pale blue as when the Sun goes down and my shadow with it!