Poetry Series

TP Sage - poems -

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TP Sage(March 24,1958)

I write to touch my reader's heart or soul or funny bone or memory or any other part of their corporeal or metaphysical being. At least that is my goal. Please let me know if I was successful.

I am older now than Byron and Burns, Keats and Kilmer, Poe and Plath, and Stevenson and Shelly all were when they died but I am 10 years younger than Emily Dickinson when she wrote, 'Because I could not stop for Death'.

I'm kinda hoping that means I'm only halfway home. I should probably go ahead and write a few masterpieces pretty soon though....just in case.

If you enjoyed something that I wrote, please let me know. If instead you thought my writing to be amateurish or trite or (gasp) mediocre it would waste both of our times for you to tell me. Sadly, it will be impossible for me to accept or validate your vitriol, and I will summarily dismiss your opinion as a symptom of your bitter and unfulfilled life. It's nothing personal. If you are a writer, I would expect nothing but equally strident self preservation.

Exceptional writing never exposes a writer's self important ego but exceptional writing cannot be written unless that self important ego exists.

Thank you for reading

A Lonely Thought

A lonely thought occurred to me borrowed from lost tragedy contained within a shielded heart... destinies dismissed. Early morning melancholy framed by loss, or perhaps just folly grasping onto broken parts healed by mundane lists. It's nothing but soiled reverie juxtaposed on memory kisses ending at the start lost within time's mist. Mesmerizing parity. Nothing grows from apathy. Order from a broken heart Persistence dulls remiss.

A Man

Without a dream to brace his steps or an answer in his heart. With no beginnings to inspire and no endings clear in sight. When the last of all his burdens creates a dozen more and mornings become heavy with the hows and whys of sleepless nights A man tries. A man still tries.

A Memory

It comes to me like a death row priest sad and somber but with quiet faith and practiced acceptance. A memory of a silent night when clarity came suddenly and I could finally see the tarnished self delusion that I'd fashioned into armor to protect me from the truth. Clarity. With surgical precision parred away the thick and toughened layers of flawed or fraudulent rationalization that I had welded to my surface to hide the holes left gaping in my soul. One by one the layers fell away and truth escaped the corporeal prison I'd created. Truth hissed at me then mockingly transformed itself to tears.

A night of clarity.
A birth.
For though I'd sought and found the truth no one was there to be set free.
With all the layered lies removed, the man that I had hidden deep beneath...
was gone just another truth released.

It still comes to me. The memory. And it brings to me the truth

My first memory.

transformed to tears.

Alone, With You

it's not that I'm
afraid
of losing you
there is no reason to explain
unless you're crying,
and I'm alone
still
wouldn't matter
my truth is muted,
deleted from your songs

your sightlines are not shrinking
you just don't see me
unless
it serves you
being alone does not crowd my
thinking
its
being
alone with you

candles burning vanilla flames cinnamon fire slowly heating melting will you see me

alone with you

hearts are burning blood is rising pulses pounding

alone with you

candles melting hearts aflame

pain

searing

blood

rising

rising

pain

not

dying

crying

alone with you.

it's not easy

knowing

nothing

more than

i need

to know

is it clean

or

is it messy

the truth

hidden

the way we like it

can't last forever

you told me

SO

i believed you

wanted to

needed to

don't

need to be

alone, with you

An Honest Mistake

It rained this morning.

I could have sworn

I saw you dancing
in the puddles
water trickling from your hair
like teardrops.

I could have sworn
I heard you laughing
at the thunder
your eyes afire
reflecting the lightning
like mirrors

I thought to join you.
I even looked for our umbrella
but it wasn't where you'd left it
Still, I had to join you.
So I dashed outside
into the rain.

I looked for you beside the puddles but I didn't see you dancing.
I was puzzled for a moment
Till I remembered that you'd left me
And I remembered you don't love me anymore

I felt so silly
thinking that I saw you
An honest mistake
I'm sure,
but I stood there beside the puddles
listening for your laughter in the thunder

water trickling from my hair into my eyes and down my cheeks like teardrops.

Angel Voices

They bring warmth to the coldest of hearts, dreams to the walking, waking dead, song to the lips of the freely mute. They are text book attention deficit, and not a single pill in sight. No concept of the harshness of reality, and thus, no limitations, and no understanding that their limitations will be their own creation. They are bald honest emotion, frayed, exposed nerves just like your very last one that they got on.

Can you hear children singing?
Angel voices
Carrying me.
Lifting me up.
Children's voices?
Flying through the air like a car crash,
but settling into our sensibilities like harp music.
Laughter that sticks to your skin
like warm summer rain,
hugs that are truth...
honesty, sincerity in their most pure expression.

And yet,
It terrifies me to look upon them,
for what would I ever do
if they were not there.
Living, breathing, laughing mirrors.
Showing you an incomplete reflection
of what you have been showing them.
Talking to you in your voice.
Reacting to their world from your skin.
They are becoming who you are....

How to get them to become who you wanted to be?

I hear angels singing.

Beneath Your Passion

You danced for me.

A hundred silken scarves you wore.

A hundred colors for me to see
as you twirled about the floor.

I watched you swing and shimmer the colors ablaze as your body spun. Your dance began with a hundred scarves that now fall away one by one.

A blue fell on my shoulder a red landed at my feet, and still you danced before me. I reached to touch, but you retreat.

Now the colors fly off freely.

My breath is harsh, my touch, I swear, is not.

You skin is flushed and shining.

My blood is raised and hot.

The scarfs have now all fallen. You stand naked to my passion now. But as I reach to hold you, you back away somehow.

Ahh... the dance is just begun.
Because beneath your passion you already know, if I touch you once my lovely,
I'll never let you go.

Burns

It does not take much to take me back.
But the memories do not seem real.
They are almost dreamlike except for the emotions.
Puffs of smoke, unseen but still stinging my eyes.

......I can see her sitting there, alone
For an instant she is who she was,
but her eyes twitch for a second,
then roll involuntarily upwards
till all I see are the white.......

I did the best I could.
Stayed right beside her
when no one else would,
much longer than anyone wanted me to.

......Her eyes are closing.

A cigarette dangles loosely from her lips,
fire red lipsticked lips.......

She took everything I had to give, wasted it all, and wanted more, then blamed her sickness on me, and I believed her.

......The cigarette falls slowly from her mouth, a slow motion movie sequence...closeup on the cigarette

as it

falls.....

Somehow, I didn't have what was needed I know now that no one did.
Nothing, short of leaving, would have helped her.
Leaving was the only thing I didn't try.

......The cigarette settles softly like a butterfly on her pale skin, unmoving,

the dull glow of the cherry illuminates a tiny patch of ivory flesh......

That past does not exist for her.

For me it is still a second skin.

I've grown tired of hoping she will see truth

My anger has finally outrun my patience.

......A lazy snake of smoke, an almost imperceptible increase to the glow of the cherry tip, and the cigarette slowly begins to burn her smooth skin. She doesn't move,

doesn't even flinch.

She is gone.
I can't save her.
Never could......

It does not take much to take me back.

I feel the burns as if they were my own skin.

I wear the scars

If not on my skin, surely on my soul.

Her scars.

The only thing left that we still share.

......The soft white skin beneath the butterfly has turned pink. An angry crimson spot has formed and slowly grows.

A burn.

One of many......

By The Window

Near the sea, on a mountain in a cabin Lives an old man, with a beard on his chin. With his life and his loves and his passions blown away like ashes in the wind

He sits near the fire, on a chair, by the window and he watches the birds and the waves. Though his life, to some, may seem empty, there is still love in his heart that he saves.

As the sun sinks behind the clouds in the distance the darkness of night is held in check by the moon. The old man smiles to himself, in his chair, in the cabin, because he knows the time will come soon.

Near the sea, in a valley by the mountain walks a little girl with flowers in her hair. Her laughter is youth and beauty and innocence. And like a butterfly, floats freely through the air.

She walks up a path that ends at the cabin and opens the door, since the old man is too weak. Then she jumps to his lap, in his chair by the window, and the little girl kisses the old man on the cheek.

The old man, with no hopes and no dreams and no future, tells her stories of heroes, maidens and kings.

And she watches his face and listens intently never knowing the love that she brings.

Finally she hugs the old man and tells him goodbye then she runs down the path on the mountain by the sea and the old man smiles as he sits in his chair by the window because in his heart, he is with her running free.

California Storm

just a summer shower rain nothing special till I saw you in the courtyard, hands on the back of your head face lifted to the sky alone and only. something spiritual in the way the rain danced on your pale skin, beading and skating off as if you were a marble sculpture. just as I realized I wasn't breathing you took a deep, soul cleansing breath and lowered your head. when you opened your eyes you were looking at me a tiny smile at the corners of your lips you shrugged your shoulders your lips parted into a breath taking smile well, it took my breath but I managed to smile back I fell in love with you as you strolled away a wildflower swaying happily in the wind of a summer storm.

Now, I cannot tell if you were ever real.

I can see your face, your ivory skin the dark earth brown of your eyes I can even smell the rain but I can't tell you where I was or when you were of if.

did you happen when I was young and unaware?

Are you a dream just surfaced?

Only an ideal in a poet's heart?

doesn't really matter I suppose.

a wildflower swaying happily in the wind of a summer storm

I remember you.

Cinnamon Moon

Beneath a cinnamon moon I wait for thee Patiently And silence like a shadow sits with me Endlessly Till darkness covers all I see All I see A cinnamon moon still shining blindly I close my eyes so tightly making lightning flash in front of me and like an afterimage you're all I see All I see Endlessly

Save me cinnamon moon

Don'T Wait For Me

Don't give your best or worst to me.

It's wasted.

I no longer wear the words you say.

I felt naked within them anyway.

I lost myself along the way

but now I'm finally found.

Don't wait for me.

I have to leave.

Don't plant your tears on me.

I've grown plenty of my own.

You took my heart and mind away from me.

Even my insanity didn't set me free.

It's not the only way to be.

At least that's what I've been told.

So please don't wait for me.

I'm leaving.

It's not love that kept me here

I had no clue, and still don't.

It felt like there was nothing I could do.

I thought that love had blocked my view.

I must have been as sick as you

to watch you melt my soul.

Don't wait for me.

I'm gone.

And please don't ask me why I stayed.

Echoes

I heard your voice in the wind today.
I paused a moment, but it just went away.
It's was just a memory, a memory, just a lost, soul-less memory...
to me.

I hear distant sounds
from a black hole cave.
It's hard to remember
if they're sounds I should save.
I'm barely listening,
listening,
I'm not even
listening
for you.

I can't hear the music when I see your face.
Just meaningless murmurs from a long forgotten place.
I'm only listening to echoes...
echoes...
echoes...

You're just a memory, but I can't stop listening to echoes.

Enough

I am not the rain that makes your flowers grow or the wind that blows the dust into your eyes.
I am not the shadows where your evil hides or the light that makes the shadows seem to fade.
I am not even what you're thinking or what you wish for when you cry.
But everything that I am is enough to say goodbye.

Fire Beneath My Skin

You smiled at me

and I lived a thousand years

in an instant.

The earth itself stopped turning

long enough for you to see

through my soul

and deep into my heart.

Just that look,

a soft, enveloping gaze,

set loose the bindings

that held still my heart.

Effortlessly you freed it

from it's impenetrable prison vault.

And now....

It belongs to only you.

Only you make my colors sing.

Only you give immortality to my dreams.

Your lightest touch

creates

fire beneath my skin.

Igniting my blood to flame.

I am an uncapped well of burning oil.

All sounds are gone

save the roaring flames

and the pounding base beat of my heart.

Am I dying? Or for the first time,

fully alive?

Either way, the sounds are consuming me.

Somehow you understand this

and the sounds are quieted

by three

simple

whispered

words

that float

like snowflakes

from your lips.

I love you.

The universe is no longer a mystery.

The ponderings of poets and kings are but child rhyme.
Everything is as it should be, and will be, forever.
You love me.

Heart In Cheek

If your loves are disasters time after and after; each time even faster then the last love that quit. It could be your lovers have need to discover that in and out of the covers you are love incarnate. But the answer that's clearer is the one that is nearer. Just look in the mirror. Nahhh.....that couldn't be it.

I Am With You

i am the dreams that paint your sleeping canvas, the gentle, warm confusion when you open your eyes to a new day. you are unaware. i am with you.

my voice calls to you within the distant sounds of the quiet night. don't wait for me in the dark you won't find me. i am with you.

can you see me in the moonlight that brightens your path? do you feel my touch when the morning air caresses your cheek? would you sense the difference if i were gone? you don't need to understand. i am with you.

it is me you taste
in the bitter sweetness of your wine
me you hear
in the harmony of the choir voices.
the sunlight through the glass
is my reflection
you barely notice
but I don't need your comprehension
i am with you.

I Am Your Friend

If nothing for you falls into place or line
If your heart is hurting
and your dreams no longer feel defined
If your soul feels empty
and your tangle just won't unbind
If you need someone just to hold your hand
I'm here
where I've always been
I am your friend.

If you cannot find a quiet place to rest
If the rushing minutes
have taken all your best
If the rules have changed
and you just can't pass the test
If you just need someone to hold your hand
I'm here
where I've always been
I am your friend.

If I cannot see through the blizzard's snow
If I'm once again the very last to know.
If I'm fighting against an invisible foe
If I need to just hold your hand
You're there
where you've always been
You are my friend.

I Confess

I am trapped and sinking thinking nothing is there for me nothing is clear My heart is not broken Not anymore. Just impatient... bored waiting to be past the believing that you were the last I can see the light it's not blinding reminding Things won't always feel this way I won't always have to keep the memories at bay I am exactly what you see nothing more, nothing less but I confess I am not the man I was before. No. I am so much more.

I Don'T Believe

I don't believe
I ever really knew
what you meant to me,
what I meant to you.
I don't believe
I ever understood
that you could leave, or
that you would.

And the memories are singing in my mind.

Arias and Iullabies.
Songs of hope.
Songs of lies.
I lost you
in a sad song
without tears.

I don't believe in dreams come true, but I hold on, because I believe in you.

And the memories are singing in my mind.

I Dreamt Of You

I dreamt of you walking a dark path, trees whispering to the night, all in shadows you in light. I heard no footsteps, your feet were bare. Chiffon? Silk? Utter whiteness, contrasted with your obsidian hair. A silver chain, a choker sparkling in a muted moonlight. The same sparkle on your cheeks. Tears? To my heart, tears in moonlight speaks. I dreamt of you. You were alone.

It was always my intention to reach you in the night. So quietly I tread. Barefooted innocence dusting your stream of dreams. Precious orb of light I cup within my glowing hands this treasure. Every thought of you I've been keeping lit like a candle

to haunt you

with my
heart;
my song to you like a
messenger dove cooing
in the back of your deepest
sleep.

You saw me alone, because I was waiting for

You.

I Love You Because...

I love you because

You laugh at the things that make you mad You cry when you're sad but you let me think I'm helping to make it better You're not afraid to be vulnerable You feel safe when you are with me.

I love you because

You are beautiful because you know you are beautiful

You wear old sweat pants, a ratty t-shirt and a baseball cap to the store, but still touch up your makeup first

You aren't afraid to try something new, and you get my lazy ass up to try it to You know how to tell me NO, and make me think it's my idea.

I love you because

You dream big dreams, but they always include me You know that I need you more than you need me, and you never take advantage of that

You hurt when I hurt

You let me be angry when you've been wronged but you don't let me act upon it till I've settled down.

I love you because

You make me feel like I am the only man you've ever loved.
You understand that I don't understand my emotions like you do yours
You always let me open the new jar of pickles
You know that I need time alone and it has nothing to do with how much I love you

I love you because

You don't tell me everything, but you never lie to me You don't play games....unless it's in the bedroom You let me say I'm sorry even when you know I have no idea what I'm apologizing for.

You understand that my love for you would consume me if you let it

I love you because... I just do.

I Remain

I don't want to need you. Leave me alone...

I'm leaking.
A slow steady drip
Soundless, yet there
escaping.
Yet I remain.
I don't need to want you.
Leave me alone...

I'm breaking.
A dull fading light.
Dim, yet still illuminating,
leaking shadows
revealing me.
I don't want or need you.
Leave me alone...

I'm sleeping.
A surreal yet colorless nightmare.
Unreal, but my reality.
Consuming my dreams....one at a time till I can wake.
I want you.
I need you.

Leave me alone.

I Wait

You left

Now in the misting light

I wait.

Shadowed thoughts

hide open doors.

My fate.

You left.

The fading memories debate

no more.

It's not you

I'm waiting for.

I Walk Alone

I walked alone
while you waited.
I watched the sunset.
you anticipated.
I spoke of a love
my actions negated.
you asked for commitment.
I said it's overrated.

because
I thought you were forever.
I thought you were the sky
or the stars,
or the oceans.
but

I left my footprints deep in the sand And swore to you one day
I would retrace them
But when I turned around
I found
The tide had erased them.
Now I'll never replace them.

you were the sand. I walk alone.

I Want To...

I want to open my eyes to music and close them just the same.

I want to laugh at all my troubles and never shed a tear in shame.

I want to dance while I am working and sing when I'm alone.

I want to kiss you in the moonlight and give you piggy back rides home.

I want to dream impossible dreams and then make a few come true. I want to whisper when it's quiet and shout...wherever...I LOVE YOU. I want to hold the hands that need holding and help the helpless find a way. I want to kiss you in the moonlight after every single day.

I Woke Up Dying

One summer morning without any warning I woke up dying. Had I not been insane I might have taken steps to save myself.

But I did not see it for what it was.
I saw instead a changed perception.
Blue sky turned grey, a love poem turned blue smiles not as easily given away.
But since I was losing her
I believed that something deep inside me now rebelled against her necessary loss.

I was blinded by my own perceptions.

My eyes were open
yet I could not see
the impending end of my mortality.

Not come upon me by mortal blow
not disease
not age
not accident or incident or luck
instead
a passive suicide.

For I am surely being crushed.

A massive weight placed on top of me.

Yet I did not perceive the heinous crime.

Because the weight

has been imperceptibly placed upon me one tiny innocuous pebble at a time.

If Hope Is True

If my simple words convey All that I mean to say Love's light will shine for you. And when love reveals All I really feel I'll open my soul to you. Our love will be the only light we need to embrace life's dark design If hope is true Then I'll be with you until the end of time. But for now, the light will show what our hearts already know with love.... dreams do come true.

If I Could Write A Love Poem

The morning sun would dim with shame and all the dreamers waken.

The grasses would shed their dewy tears if I could write a love poem.

The stars would twinkle their last shine

The fires of hell would freeze.

Time eternal would stop to stare

if I could write a love poem.

For that would mean I'd found my love

The one whose eyes I see

when mine are closed.

Whose fears I free

just by being near.

I put to paper my endless love

my everlasting devotion.

I wrote the words

that touched her soul.

I wrote my heart,

my life

I wrote for her

my dreams untold.

I would show

my love's depth

and strength

I know

Her eyes would sparkle with happy tears

Her smile outshine the heavens.

It would all be so clear

If I'd said so in a love poem.

If I Told You That I Loved You

If I promised that the music
would never go away

If I showed you smiles and laughter
when tears got in your way

If I bottled up the moonlight
to change your darkest nights to day

If I told you that I loved you.....

would you stay?

If I danced with you till morning
even when the music didn't play
If I wrapped you in my arms
to keep the cold at bay
If I gave you... forever
every single day
If I told you that I loved you....

would you stay?

If Only

If Only

Let me disappear in courage
My deepest fears remaining masked
Let my anger become focus
Forgive the harshness of my task
Let the minutes flow unbroken
End this endless time
Nothingness brings no comfort
If only I could cry

Let me rest within soft shadows
My nightmare finally released
Let my silence hide in silence
Forgive my selfish peace
Let the darkness grant me slumber
Hide the music of my mind
Nothingness can almost comfort
If only I could cry

I'M Afraid To Love You

Everything is perfect, and nothing makes sense. One half-silly smile, a split second knowing glance and you've lifted me from the ground, freed me from the laws of man and earth.

And just because of that, I'm afraid to love you.

It's not your fault.

Don't blame yourself.

It's me.

I'm afraid for you, and I'm afraid for me,
but I still feel my pulse racing
the instant you appear,
a tingling that starts in my fingertips,
then shoots up my body, .. a pulsating lightning bolt
that splashes into my mind
and explodes into.. hot.. blinding white light.
A buzzing, stomping insistence that I recognize
the affect you have on me.

I'm left short of breath, eyes wide, dizzy
and suddenly, longing for your gentle touch.

Chaos inside
I am everywhere
and nowhere.
I am limitless yet tethered
I am willingly losing control
but the fear balances on my edge...
I cannot lose control, again,
and the confusion makes me afraid.
Afraid to love you.

I know
if I let myself
I would be with you forever
which is much longer than a lifetime.

I would take all my choices, my dreams, my fear and set them at your feet my.. gifts of sacrifice for the only one for who I would give my life

I would confess to you my joy
and hide in you my pain
for I know that you would view
each with a critical but loving eye,
You understand that I'm not the perfect man
that I pretend to be
you're ok that sometimes
I'm not even up
to being me.
You accept me as I am.
You're the only one.
It feels so right,
which is exactly why
I'm afraid to love you.

Still, I see it in you. I'm not that blind. I can see what I'm afraid to see. You're eyes shine when I talk to you of simple things. You're breath catches in your throat when you've made me smile I make you laugh... You make me laugh. At little things and when we're angry. When I am near you I feel as though I should sing. I wish for nothing except our songs entwined. I feel you tremble at my lightest touch. You are a dove unfearful of my captive embrace. I belong to you, and you to me.

Oh God, help me because that's exactly why I'm afraid to love you.....

.....but I do....

Intermission

I am body without soul.

I am dreams without vision.

Action without goal.

Choice without decision.

Half of one, leaving none.

I am without you.

Rose petals floating in a fledgling stream.

Washed away by a sudden rain.

No one's to blame.

Everything is only make believe.

Harlot shadows dance

to distract the sun.

Dreams seem shattered,

porcelain pieces

strewn across a darkening sky.

But it's only the clouds....

They've come undone.

Why?

No one laughs.

No one cries.

It's just the wind and the rain.

Where are you?

What are you thinking?

Are you smiling or sleeping?

Do you have tears on your cheeks?

I wish I knew.

Invisible

Once I was the last smile you saw at night and you were mine
Once Ours was the first and last dance and everything in between
Once you found me always even in the darkest of nights

Now I am invisible

I have vanished from your sight Left no trace that leads you back Simply faded like an ending night Just invisible

To you.

Once I picked up your pieces and held them tight My embrace was your glue I thought I had the puzzle end in sight Then I became invisible.

Lost to you
Misplaced and unremembered
A set of keys that no longer open any doors
Just invisible

To you

I see you dancing off the edge of the stage Falling where I can't catch you You'll be looking for me to save you, now But I'll be invisible

To you

Kingdoms Lost Or Conquered

Show me everything you've hidden Lay it out for me to see Include what you have not forgiven Jaded memory from your past Secrets you have covered Evil you've discovered Kingdoms that you've lost or conquered Spells that you have cast All the moments lost or treasured Taken as they are Nothing hidden, judged or measured Whatever lies disguised within your heart I accept what makes you lonely I embrace your fears but only If you give them to me freely I'll protect you from the dark I am the stars that shine upon you The solid earth beneath your feet I am the moon when night surrounds you I am the truth you'll recognize Show me everything you've hidden Love means you are forgiven No kingdoms lost or conquered Can hide this in my eyes

Let The Light Through

If she had followed you forever lost herself in her obsession would you have eventually decided to let her be to set her free?

Would just ordinary be enough then or would you be intimidated by the boredom lose your motivation sleep your life away.

Perhaps its best
to cut that tree down
let the light through
to reach your grasses
and if they yellow from the heat
then
run away
without delay
its not really HER obsession
that has trapped you
anyway.

Like The Sand

If memories were silted sand sifting through your unclasped hands falling with a thousand grains till barely a single one remains within your hands a grain of love would linger if clinging only to a single finger and maybe then you'd understand my love's eternal...like the sand.

Love In Flames

In the quiet of the night Before dawns revealing light Love is flame that lights the sky She is the only reason why.

She rests safe in night's repose Flames dance above and below Out of reach but still in sight She is the quiet of my night

Breaking dawn becomes the light Love in flames has taken flight Lost within the light of day Morning truth holds love at bay

Bring the quiet of the night When love's bright fire is my light

Love Is Never Lonely

I want to show you rainbows and feel your soft touch on my cheek when they bring tears to my eyes.

I want to whisper my love to you in the morning when everything and everyone sleeps for silence will not harbor lies.

I want to hear your voice when I'm not with you as if it were my own thoughts and love was never alone.

I want to see in your eyes the truth inside me so that everyday that I question I can look at you and know.

I want to take your loneliness and paint it over with bright memories till only love is in view.

Should the stars appear for just one night every thousand years I would wait a lonely eternity to see them with just you.

Love Was Like The Stars

I remember when the wine was sweet and our laughter something that we took for granted. I remember when every dream seemed within our reach, nothing that we ventured ended in defeat and every flower blossomed that we planted. I remember cold mornings that made each day show clear and black crystal nights with a thousand fiery stars so close it seemed they'd landed in our hearts and in our souls burning hot within our passions and love was like the wine and love was like the stars and love was like the laughter that we took for granted.

My Last Breath

Hers is the only shadow on my wall I trace her curves with gentle thoughts. There is just enough light so that I can know her silent silhouette lies beside me.

Hers is the only fragrance in my air. I close my eyes and float with the perfumed breeze Her presence lingers like a morning mist and I am the meadow that she rests upon before the heat of the day.

Hers is the only meaning in my words. Her dreams are my poetry. Her life is my song. Her melody makes me dance makes me sing bringing joy to my helpless heart.

Hers is the only heartbeat within me.
Cut her and I bleed.
When she cries,
I am her tears.
I am a drowning man
and she is my last breath
sweet ocean air above me
beckoning for me
to save myself.

My Night

I dared the night to swallow me
Leave me blinded hopelessly
Paint my soul in its darkest hue
Hide me from all judging views.
Still light seeped through night's darkest veil
Steadfast though distant, almost pale
A timeless glimmer from afar
A hundred thousand dancing stars
I let the dark relax its hold
And bade the quiet bathe my soul
Released by tiny hopes of light
Light in my heart and in my night

My Specific Evil

Don't anticipate my apathy.

If you interpret my silence
you deny me the opportunity
to bargain with my conscious.

Let me consider
both the porcelain and the pottery,
and should I shatter one
or both
the light of day will reveal
the shards of my specific evil.

Even when the day
begins to lose its honest light
I will help you to condemn my dusk
or perhaps
celebrate my dawn.

My Surrender

I cannot fathom her consuming essence. I recognize a silent erosion of my will, and yet find myself embracing the totality of my surrender. Her simple laughter can stir and mix my emotional being my thoughts and words my imagination and then momentarily eliminate my sense of who I am and who I will be. Without effort she can both bemuse and bewilder leaving me to wonder without really caring about the answers Her presence can encircle my consciousness like flames burning paper yet I find myself elated desiring more fire. Thoughts of her barge into my mind at inopportune moments but more and more my efforts to separate her image from my present are weak and invariably come to no avail. I cannot fathom her consuming essence and I'm losing the desire to and the reasons why I should continue to try.

Night Beat

Alone and walking slowly The cool touch of the evening breeze quiet laughter rustles through the trees half-closed eyes of the city sees Alone and walking slowly. The night is comfortable with the noise it brings telephone calling out with helpless rings city sounds of silence sings Alone and walking slowly. Neon dances to the jungle beat metallic glass sweats from the faceless heat lonely candles melt in cold defeat Alone and walking slowly. Above it all the moon is crying mourning what no one knows is dying eyes are seeing but hearts are lying Alone and walking slowly.

Not My River

I was walking and I heard a river laughing somewhere behind the trees It's not for me. Not my river, not our trees. Not your laughter, not for me Then I was sleeping and I smelled your hair on the pillow, next to me It's not you sleeping, couldn't be not your scent, not your sounds but I saw you sleeping next to me. only it isn't you that I see. And I was walking and I heard your laughter when the river flowed but it's not true Not my river, the sound's not you only water, cold clear water rushing over me everything becoming dim but it's ok, in the end I've always known that I could swim

Why didn't you? why didn't you

Ordinary Things

First, talk to me of ordinary things of morning walks time smoothed rocks and trees with green forever. Then, tell me why all things die of age or time some in their prime and most without true meaning. Don't misunderstand I'm not feeling sad just a bit lost inside. If it's ok, I'd like to hide in your arms if only for a moment.

Passion

I want you My passion controls me. There is urgency to my desire. An almost painful intensity that overwhelms my senses and thoughts. I am consumed by the need, to touch you to be close to you so close that I am part of you inside of you till we are one. Your senses are mine. Your quickened breath and soft moans echo in my thoughts. There is nothing but you. I must touch you. Every soft place and gentle crevice, I must taste your skin, smell your hair, hear your quiet gasps. I cannot conceive of anything but you, the curves of your body, your perfumed scents, the soft silk of your hair, the inflaming smoothness of your skin. The very sight of you, the longing in your eyes, the vulnerability in your repose, the pureness of your bare skin, are fuel that burns in my tunnel vision. I can no longer think. There are no choices in my passion, but there is clarity. I want you...now

Rain

If I'm standing in the rain that's where i want to be. Can you see me? Glistening on your skin. Trickling from your hair. Why did you turn away from me? Just one more touch like raindrops on my skin. It's getting cold. You'd laugh at me if you saw me soaked and standing there. I feel it. I don't need more loss raining in my eyes all day. Everyday. I need to hear you whisper, To lose myself in the quiet of your eyes. You turned away from me. I'm not what I appear to be I'm not how you think of me. I'm more. There must be more. If you cut me I bleed just like you. Mostly, I do. I'm by myself on my ledge. It's not that far to the ground. Maybe everything will look different When I get down. If I'm alone, It's because I choose to be. Why can't you see? Are there raindrops in your eyes

TP Sage

just like me?

She Is The Night

She comes to me under muted moonlight, walking barefoot leaving fragile footprints in the soft wet grass.
Night's quiet scent drifts to me gently hiding in a summer breeze.
She is close.
My heart is alive in my chest, jumping like a tribal dancer.
I can see the stars in her dark eyes.
Her lips are melted crimson.
Her skin is pale but glowing.

She is the night.

Beauty with no beginning or end.

For an instant, I'm alone with silence.

She smiles as she catches my stare.

Then she surrounds me like a comforting darkness.

I'm floating untethered in her arms.

Her skin is hot.

Her breath is sweet.

Her quiet night sounds

are glowing embers

igniting flames within me.

I am burning.

We are burning.

The night is aflame.

Fire engulfs us

roaring like a captive animal released.

Flames dance across our limbs

upon our skin

outside

within

and the night explodes in fire and light

thunderous and shaking

thunderous and shaking

shaking

trembling

trembling in near silence.
The only sounds
are night's whispered sighs,
a siren's song
burnt into my soul.
She is the night,
and the dawn
and all the time that follows.

She Opens My Eyes

She carries morning's first light Beauty that opens my eyes Lifting the day from the night Chasing the dark from my skies.

She is the nightingale's song My love's growing melody Sound that can only prolong The notes of our symphony.

She dances with butterflies Floating as if she is air Carries me to the night skies Makes me feel I belong there.

She is my dusk and my dawn The place and time I belong.

She's Happy In The Dark

She's walking through a ghostly mist alone beneath night's glowing disc midnight denial seems an easy risk she's happy in the dark and her heart is distant like the stars her emotion hidden like a scar to feel at all would be to hard she's happy in the dark but the mist transforms to streaming rain she's soaked in jaded, justifying pain her love is just another stain still she'll cling to what little does remain she's happy in the dark

She's Not Listening

This song I'm singing is for her I feel her sounds inside of me She is the music in my mind Her heart my only melody

This whispered secret is for her She'd understand if she only knew She is the only sound I hear I wonder does she hear me too

I'm singing with my lonely soul My naked voice has been set free But I'm just singing to the moon Because she's not listening to me

My songs are fading whispers
Muffled by the morning dew
And the whispering wind is telling me
She's not listening to you

Swim Until The Ocean Ends

Hold on to angry persistence Lean forward into bitter winds Brace yourself against the currents Swim until the ocean ends

Choose your own direction
The road less traveled, the beaten path
It matters little which goal you've chosen
For the journey, not the destination, is your task

Tears Make No Sound

In a darkened room alone, except a memory the night cries for daybreak but her tears make no sound. dreams melt by candlelight the night, an ending song she cries below her surface but her tears make no sound morning comes before she's over her song, a muted buzz she cries inside the minds of many but her tears make no sound pray for tears that sound like rainfall pray for songs inside your head dream away the night, but waken mourning comes before the dawn

That's When I Know

When I touch you in the morning and the days first sunlight warms your skin When your eyes have barely opened and your day can now begin When you feel me there beside you and you reach to bring me close That's when I know I love you That's when I need you most

When I kiss your shoulder softly and you tremble at my touch When I wrap my arms around you and time does not mean much When you whisper to me gently that I make you feel so safe When a single crystal tear appears momentarily upon your face That's when I know I love you That's when I know my place.

The Absence Of The Light

In the silence of the night when the sharpest edges are softened by the absence of the light and a new moon glow reveals the path less traveled without advice or hints or judgement if it's wrong or if it's right That's when I'm frightened by the dark Enlightened by the dark And I'm dancing without music though all my golden arrows have badly missed their mark In the stillness of the night when all movement is hidden by the absence of the light and a new morning glow is but an expectation of the exploration of the certainty of today That's when the whispered voices come unhindered through And I'm afraid for you My thoughts delayed for you Till the whispers softly shred your memory to the winds The silent stillness of the night... ...it never ends

The Bench

They sat on the bench together. An ancient looking woman, and a boyish looking man They watched the children playing, making castles out of sand. Not a word was spoken. Not a feeling felt. Silently each began to question the lives they had been dealt. The young man sat in numbness on his face a hopeless stare. He still hadn't found his answers and he no longer cared. As they sat on the bench together tears formed in the old woman's eyes. And when the tears flowed freely he softly asked her why. She turned to him and whispered 'You know you've lost the battle, when nothing makes you cry.' As he watched the woman leaving he began to search the feelings that he'd so deftly tried to hide. And with a flicker of hope forming again inside him, the young man sat alone on the bench, and cried.

The Most Important Thing

it's all good. i really feel that way. i do. it only matters what's inside. the storm may rage and tear away the pieces that you see. but that's not me. not anymore. it used to be when I looked at the moon i saw an endless possibility. not anymore. lately all i see is the darkness that's surrounding me. not anymore. i'm going home. that's what i need. i'll be ok. so please don't cry for me. i left you all the important things. my hopes my dreams my naked soul i left you who i really am. and it's all good. i hope you see that at the end, i got to be who i really am. it just wasn't enough to keep me here

so i'm going home. where the moon is magic and the darkness just a frame. i ask
one thing of you.
please take care
of my soul for me.
it's my most important thing,
and maybe
if it touches you
that will help you be
who you want to be.

and when you look into the dark night sky

i'll be the moon.

and you will see that i'm still shining

just for you.

The Music Plays

I thought you were the ending

to my final story.

The last chapter I would ever have to read.

I thought your sounds

were ones that I was making.

I thought your dreams

were visions

of everything I need...

I put my heart into your hands

for keeping,

but when I looked away,

I found that you had set it down.

For an instant

I lost myself inside your memory.

Frozen.

Confused at waking all alone.

Empty promises framed my confusion..

I clung to every entropic dream.

If you closed your eyes and listened

You could hear the isolation in my fear.

There were no children laughing.

No soft and soothing sound.

Just crumpled paper voices

in dim and dusty places

a din of fragile silence

trapped my lonely soul.

except

Silence, as a prison

is illusion.

A gossamer cage

to rest your id.

I have everything I ever had

inside me

the music plays

I dance

I sing

inside me.

I'm not alone, now

and truly

never really was because inside me the music always plays.

The Only One Who Cries

I hear your gentle whispers as if you're standing near.

I see you in the morning mist when nothing else is clear.

And sometimes when I'm half awake and real and dreams are one,
I feel you lying next to me and the nightmare is undone.

It's not that I am lost, though I miss looking into your eyes.

And watching a sad movie is not the same if I'm the only one who cries.
I no longer understand the endings.

Why were you the one who dies?

The Sound Of Snow

The sound of snow.....
it is all of these together
or separately
or combined
and sometimes
none of them at all,
like a dark still night
where sound just doesn't belong.

....it is a kitten landing on a feather pillow, a single thin piece of paper floating from side to side then settling on the ground in one graceful slide, it is a wind through a spider's web, long silk hair tussled by a breezesnow is not silent it is discrete, hiding in the opena three year old's sleeping breath, a tear of joy escaping down a red round cheekthe sound of snow is the moment between sleep and consciousness, fuzzy and both empty of thought and full of promise all at once, snow is the sound dreams would make if we heard them while awake, snow is the sound an angel makes as it guides a soul to rest. The sound of snow ...it's all of these together or separately or combined

TP Sage

and sometimes

none of them at all.

Thoughts Like These

I'll see you
across an endless sea.
You'll smile
when you sense my stares.
You'll wonder
if we've met before.
We have.
In our restless prayers.

Are you out there thinking thoughts like these? Are you out there waiting? Will you know, like I know now... that our storms are soon abating, that only chance keeps us apart, that fate unhindered binds us. That eternity can only start the moment time unwinds us.

You'll see me
on an empty street.
You'll pause
till I sense you there.
You'll wonder
if I'll come to you.
I will.
In our answered prayers.

Are you out there

thinking thoughts

like these? Are you out there waiting?

Thoughts Of You

You were the last thought I had last night before I shut my eyes. Then I dreamt of you dancing barefoot in gossamer silk and smiles. Alone in a moonlit meadow with an orchestra of stars playing music to the skies. A silent rhythmic wind blew flowers in the air, and gently lifted you above the groundless miles. And like a silver mist you vanished in the night. You were the first thought I had this morn when I dared open up my eyes.

Tonight

Years from now
We'll laugh and cry
about foolish mistakes
lonely moments,
and painful happenings
that all had happy endings.

months from now
we'll sing out our love
dance on the tables,
cry in our beer
and dream the dreams
that only love brings.

days from now
we'll wake to the sunshine and the birds
jump naked from the bed
into life
knowing that what we have
is what we want.

Tonight
will last forever
it always does when you're not here.
But, even though when we're apart
time stands still,
love does not.

True Love!

I will build you castles of silver and gold,
I will risk my life, even my mortal soul
defending you against the evils
of both man and beast
If, just for this one time,
You'll let me watch the f 'ing game in peace.

True Love?

True love lasts a lifetime...
or so wise men and poets have said...
But, if that tenet indeed were true
Then I would certainly already be dead.

Untitled

You belong to me

like a rose blossom belongs to the spring

like a firefly belongs to the twilight

like my love belongs to thee.

What Chance Have I

If a lover's heart breaks apart
Disintegrating into dust
If our bravest sons turn and run
Steel will corroded by fear's rust
If the chaste and pure once defer
Corrupted by dark lust.

What chance have I to catch your eye if love is all I trust.

When I Look At You

when I look at you i see an endless universe in your eyes an infinite unimaginable beauty that I could touch every day but might never hold in your eyes i feel a consuming loneliness a soft hunger, a quiet thirst an invisible erosion that everyday silently takes more of you away. Your lips are silent but they still whisper the smoldering hiss of desire, a pulsing cayenne ember of a passion that will inflame the heart and mind of any man fortunate enough to taste of their fire. I sense, about you, the grey aura of loss a loss of love, a loss of people, a loss of trust, a loss of belief they do not belong to you, they belong to the past and if you cling to them, you will become what they are a memory... I hear the music of your beating heart a cacophony of sound cleansing laughter and dancing rain, the pregnant pause of a tear the startled joy of exclamation angry rolling thunder the caressing whisper of dreams a symphonic, new age, one woman band with a string section and i have fallen in love with the composition.

Who I Am

I opened my eyes to see there's a little boy inside of me This isn't who I was going to be It's only who I am.

I closed my eyes one day, and grew up, almost all the way I suppose a grown up is what I must stay But it's only part of who I am

I opened my heart for all to see I feel better if who you see is me Regardless, I will be who I must be But I will still remember who I am.

Will You

If I say to you...
I already understand.
Will you hide a laugh
and turn away?
Or will you nod
then gently smile,
and ask what else I have to say.

If I say...
I know the answers.
Will you ask me what the questions are?
Or, will you stop
and watch my eyes
to see if I realize
that answers aren't what's hard.

Even if I say...
I may know nothing.
Would you never leave my side?
Would you keep me like a second soul inside you
and give my courage
place to hide.

And when one day...
I leave this world.
Will you cry
a thousand tears?
Or will you
simply
pray
that in the end,
I forgave myself
for all I hadn't done
and never saw
and couldn't dream
and wasted
with my fears.

Will You Wait For Me

will you wait for me till i can see the sunlight in my eyes till the stars shine bright and in dim moonlight i can feel the quiet sounds

will you wait for me
till dreams are real
and you can feel
my heartbeat in your soul
till my shadows recede
into the light i need
to see you through the fog

will you wait for me
till time stands still
if you only will
i'll be there for you then
when this cycle ends
and a new begins
then everything can change

will you wait for me
till i can know
you'll no longer show
the pain that i have caused
please forgive me dear
it's my greatest fear
that you can't wait
for me
anymore

Will You?

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I already understand.
Will you hide a laugh
and turn away?
Or will you nod
then gently smile,
and ask what else I have to say.

If I say...
I know the answers.
Will you ask me what the questions are?
Or, will you stop
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I may know nothing.
Would you never leave my side?
Would you keep me like a second soul inside you
and give my courage
place to hide.

And when one day...
I leave this world.
Will you cry
a thousand tears?
Or will you
simply
pray
that in the end,
I forgave myself
for all I hadn't done
and never saw
and couldn't dream
and wasted
with my fears.

Winter Stain

Where were you when I walked lightly through the winter rain? My summer skin was covered by drops of freezing stain. I wore a cloak of clouded apathy that dulled the cold and dulled the pain. Even though the vindictive storm darkened my night and morning skies, I still looked for you in lightning and listened for your whispered lies as the baring winds sang all your last and best goodbyes.

...tell me...

Where were you when the winter rain soaked me and my blues sweater? It stuck to my skin like cellophane and on my back left a deep blues stain. If you had been there in the winter rain, I would have given you my last blues sweater, and then, on your flawless, silken skin, the soaking rain would have left a matching stain.

You Are...

You are fresh cut flowers on the table, a rain that cools the summer air, cotton sheets and vanilla candles, the cotton candy smell of a county fair.

You are the song without a title stuck in my head, distant laughter on a spring afternoon, the lonely whistle of the wind on a dark quiet night. You are the only star in my sky, and I am the moon.

You are my only thought when I'm frightened. You are in every tear that I shed. You are the joy in my laughter. You are in every prayer I've ever said.

You are the key that opens all the love inside me. You are the reason in all my dreams. You are the soul of all the songs I'm singing You are the end for all my means.