

#POETRY

2

JACOB RUSSELL DRING

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Author's Note

This is a straightforward, bare-boned collection compiling poetry I posted on my Instagram account (omitting typewritten pieces) between July 18th (day after my 25th birthday) and the last of December, 2014—as they were chronologically posted so have they been arranged here.

This is a sequential follow-up to my previous collection, poetry taken from my account between January 1st and July 17th of 2014.

Topic matter varies, with love and passion being a mainstay, but also more ambiguous works as well. Mind that the subjects of these poems also differ; I occasionally write about ex's, as a form of release as opposed to bottling the words. Words of admiration have erratic focus as well; ultimately only I know the muse for each piece, most of the time.

I always wrote these on my phone, as they came to me, so improvisation was key to most of them. A few weeks into January, I began accompanying my original poetry with photographs borrowed from other accounts, always attributing credit. Here you will get the rawness in text, as well as its original justification.

The cover for this was taken by Lucero, an Instagram follower, whose account is @orecul13. Many of her photos influenced and backdropped some of my poems throughout the year, so I saw it apt to use a fresh one for the cover.

I welcome all forms of feedback. Thank you for your interest.

1

The Candidate

Red windows and
Blurry faces
Jacob's Ladder dreams
Fiery distortions
Memory mosquitoes
Were they red
Or was I just asleep?

2

No Dilemma

Devourer of hopelessness
Digesting fear, becoming joy
An epitome of all things
Beautiful and enriching
Impaler of nightmares
Spilling dreams into my reality

3

Finders Keepers

I saw light in everything she did. Beauty, in every flaw and every error, however few they were. I assured myself that the ones which spoke the loudest were simply my faults in reflections, lost in a daze in those glimmering brown eyes and that metal-bending smile. And perhaps I lost a good deal of myself in her pale palm, the softest thing I'd ever touched. One thing I held onto during our friendship was my naïveté,
Something she may now keep forever

4

Waterfell

I will deteriorate at your roots
Drift up in dilapidated shreds
To spread through your fibers
My undoing will end your everything
To pave way for that which you have
Previously thought impossible
And together we will begin
As the sky once was
Empty and full all at once

5

Roswell

Her name was Rose, short for Roswell
Though I'm not sure why she'd ever change it
She had these almond eyes
Captivating to say the least
I felt like she could see right through me
She might as well have been able to
Every embrace, every kiss
Was like an abduction in and of itself
She was my proof that
Life beyond this plane existed
No wonder this padded room
Is so fucking comfortable

6

Aftermath

Not much could be said
After the rain flooded our vessels
And the domes we kept
To contain them
Like subconscious zoos
The amusement was
Waterlogged
Much like my thoughts

Of her and I, we
Which would never be

7

Close

I want to hold her close
Like the sky does the crescent moon
On those pitch black nights
Or the cloud to the sun
On days when the weather channel
Reads overcast
I want to hold her until she shudders
Not from being cold
But from that feeling
Of human warmth
I want to hold her until her bones
Dig crevasses into my flesh
And our skin becomes one
Fossilized layer
Emotions and thoughts intact
I want to hold her close
The way bad luck holds me
Tightly in its embrace

8

Not Rejected

She didn't fold because she was weak
Since she was the strongest person I'd met
No, she folded because she loved
That power over her
She folded because she adored
The darker side of things
She folded because she trusted
My twisting shadows
She folded because she
Came louder when she does
She folded because she knew
She could bend without ever breaking
And because I loved her so

9

Disa(vow)

I must ask, if I were to stop writing
Would you still love me?
Though perhaps the better question is
If I were to stop living
Would you still love me?

10

Those Eyes Just Then

Those eyes find me in the dark
Gleaming reflections of beauty
Impossible to miss, difficult to avoid
A stare so soft it makes you hard
To forget the meaning of words
And the essence of time evaporates
On lips composed of velvet clouds

11

Greater Measure

We lie together like quilts in the wind
Swaying and whipping, malleable vessels
Carrying love like power in flesh and bone
My gaze traces every line your body offers
The stalemate lasts as long as we wish
Half of me wants it to end like water on fire
But the other part wants the fire to grow
From this petty skirmish of significance
I watch the weather change in your eyes
And take you as you seize me in an equal clash
Of energies and forces beyond this world
Whisper that you want more and I'll give back
Everything in greater measure

12

Spilling Ink For Peace

I dreamt of a war between man and animal
Monstrosity and humanity
Merciless blood baths disregarding age and sex
Chaos wept from walls and death wetted the air
Tears were synonymous to minutes on the clock
But when I opened my eyes I realized nothing changed
It saddens me to know it but the facts remain
And so does the pain
But I strive for hope beyond this petty life
I hope for hopefulness worldwide

13

JAB

As the sun peers over
The scalp of the Earth
I wonder where you are
Under whose influence
That you drive that smile
And if your conscience recalls
Me as much as your heart does
And I can't help but love you
While hating myself for it

14

Tattooist

She was a tattooist
Without knowing it
She inked emotions
Into my skin and they
Sunk beneath the flesh
To stain my heart
In the most beautiful
Black you could imagine

15

Small World

Helicopters streaked the clear sky
Their pilots' jaws on the floor
They needn't search anywhere
There was no sweeping the surface
Or raking the navy depths
Their find was Mount Everest size
An anchor of indubitable design
Resting in the Pacific Ocean
Its chain was taut and sky-piercing
Extending beyond the clouds
The pilots swallowed their hearts
And regurgitated their fears
As a thunderous reverberation
Coursed the firmament above them

16

Art

She sent me her painting and asked
If I would transmute it into poetry
But I was left speechless and defeated
I stared until it drained the love
From my eyes, taking the colors for itself
And then I realized how pointless
Her question had been, it was poetry
All along, an expression of her heart

17

Iris Edge

Sky-bound manta rays
Swam in her vivid eyes
Sunset swirls at iris edge
She breathed warmth into me
And shed her skin at the door

18

Driftaway

Play your voice
Between the layers
Behind me eyes
Placate devastation
Soothe my blood
Introduce heaven
Momentary bliss

19

Obsolete

I'm beginning to think
Love isn't the word for it
We were never meant to be
Despite the magnetism
It was mutual and even now
She longs to taste me
But her lips have become
An obsolete language
To which I am unaccustomed
Perhaps it's better this way
I falsify the truth
To placate my present

20

Freeverse

She was a dissected horizon and a cadaver of the night
She was this brilliant darkness
That I foolishly got lost in
Every chance I'd get
And I didn't forgive myself because I never sought it
This was a guilty pleasure
That pleased my guilt
As much as it did twist her heart
Like salacious origami

21

The Passage

"I am Death"
Her voice melted through the trees
And I crumbled into the loam
Shadows shifted beautifully
Dripping from Her eyes in tears
She was happy to find me
And I, though at my end
Was joyous to be taken
By the wind's grace

22

Synopsis

I find the first and last chapter
Of my story in each of your eyes
The light at the end of the tunnel
Doubles to accept my route
Debris from fallen opportunities
Litters the ground at my feet
But you glide over it with grace
Coming to kiss me with an
Epilogue I will never forget

23

Making of Love

I find you in the heat of the night
Flames lick up from your sheets
To sweep the ceiling until mirrors
Drip down with reminders of why
We love each other
And I can only imagine the sounds
Of glass cracking before a shatter
Of hearts and treasure chests
As I explore your core and surrender
Myself to its volcanic depths

24

Broken

After what her past had done to her
He now held the product of emotions
Tightly in his sincere embrace
He hoped to love her pain away
Shatter the ice which encaged a heart
Once capable of such buoyancy
He reminded her that although she
Felt irrevocably damaged
Stained glass windows hold
So much marvel and beauty
Yet they're entirely composed of
Broken glass and here she was now
The loveliest thing he'd ever seen
He imagined he might go blind
Should he see her all in one piece
But he'd gladly do so
With a smile on his face

25

Tides

Tides pull me away from her
I can still hear her voice
Float in the air on like waves
Our lips never came close
But our hearts rippled as one
Although mine was left stranded on the shoals
And now it weeps for the wind
To pick it up and return
It to the sea where it belongs
The tide separates us

And that's quite alright
Because she wanted to
Control the waves
And I just wanted to ride them

26

Harbinger

She had wings on her heart
And beauty in her eye
Shadows swam in her blood
And words on her lips

27

Simple Escape

I woke up in a chasm of infinite seasons
The skies were dark and bright at once
Covered with vivid layers of color
I realized I was buried in her aorta
At the center of it all and while the exit
Screamed clarity, I knew there was
No simple escape from this dangerous place

28

A Theft

Your eyes steal my lungs away
Smiling tosses my boat in the waves
That your mellifluous voice originates

29

Collection of Dust

Dust collects on spines left to rot
In graveyards of text and paper
Months of mind and heart spent
Producing that which you neglect
They watch as their brethren
Who live and breathe quality
Are plucked and loved with verve
But all they will ever be is dust
Just dust

30

Natur(h)e(r)

Some say we are beautiful because we
Came from the earth, but I believe
The earth is beautiful because she
Walks it with light in her heart

31

Pendant

Wings crowns
Her heart
Smiles shown
In the dark
Illuminating a life
Beauty as sharp as a knife

32

Dubious At Best

The sun rises and sets
Simplicity yet awash with beauty
A sense of earthbound divinity
I feel like I'm deteriorating
Sharing the sunset's simplest traits
I'm here to rise and fall
No shine and losing grace in the latter
Like a spill of paint that spreads

With no purpose except to shed
Any meaning of thought or color
Dried and conditioned to die

33

That Smile Though

She doesn't crack a smile
So much as she does break, smash,
Mutilate, and set it on fire
With every millimeter
That her lips curl up
She puts the sun to shame

And I can never decide whether to
Make a circle of her lips
Or sit and enjoy the paralysis

34

Phobia

She's scared
Of the heart that will grow wings
And sweep her off her feet
Talons dug into her shoulders
Putting the fear of flight
As lunar shadows turn her cheeks

Into a free-for-all dance floor
Soon to devour
Her doubts of true love

35

Rhetorical Redhead

Fire streaked the skies
Circling a visage of clouds
And down upon the earth
Her words wove urban jungles
Enigmatic eyes unseen
A beauty however palpable

36

Night's Firefight

She flowed through the night
Like liquid snake bites and fireflies
In orgies stricken with stage fright
Her skin won't put up a fight
She's shivering for his light
Prepared to climb new heights

37

Every Bit Of You

I wish every bit of you
Would invade the confines
Of my skull, my flesh
This body is just a suit
And I want you to wear it
Take me home, take me away
Weave your dreams
Inside my bones

38

Diary of a Mental Straightjacket

A brothel of memories
Sets up shop in my cranium
A special kind of lobotomy
And I arrive in delirium
Bound to a wheelchair
Muzzle strapped to my face
My keepers don't care
Insanity is all I can taste
I sibilate at what I need
Words unable to muster
Reduced to a simple breed
Enduring a wretched torture

I once believed I had control over my thoughts
But now even my conscience is at a loss

39

Pretend

Just try to pretend you love me
I wonder what your beauty feels like
I long to hold you in my arms
And whisper stanzas in your ear
I wonder if you'd even care
To just close your eyes beside me
And share dreams

40

Enjoy

I enjoy the warmth in your face
And being the source of a smile
Like having a toggle in my hand
To flip the sun on my command
I just hope your happiness
Never experiences a dusk

41

Waterbed

She was a cunning creature of the sea
Occupying the surface with such grace
It didn't need to be a waterbed for me
To know that she owned its waves
She had enough fluidity in her motions
To fill the Mariana Trench two times over
And without uttering a single word
She made me swollen with ardor
And everything was swell for she and I
Were quickly made into one body
Sinking into the sheets to participate
In a feeding frenzy with no inhibitions
My inclines slapped the highest rise
Of her tumultuously rippling seas
And from her plush lips spilled
The wind which swept my skin back
Filling my sails and veering my rudder
In directions never thought feasible
Our fingers interlaced like seaweed
Clawing the relentless tides
Until we were both so deep in the blue
That everything was black and red
With the kind of passion one might
Expect from white-hot love
By which time we'd both developed gills
And drowning was just a pleasant way
To say we'd swim forever, together

42

Walk

Please take
This walk with me
Free from syllables
Bathed in love's light
And showered by
Each other's touch

43

Not Unlike the Sun

She fell through the deep black skies like a dying planet, snowballing as she gained speed, collecting stars beneath her eyes. I knew it was a woman because of the myriad of hearts that gathered in her hair, they were all intact and full of life in that they were a part of her essence but no longer a part of their various sources, though this didn't weigh her down. Even as she fell, beautifully and with such grace, her gravity and impetus was too much for one human to bear. Even as she fell, searing a hundred galaxies' boundaries, she brightened and accrued neither pain nor sorrow, but tacit pride and a sense of divinity. Because even as she fell, she rose not unlike the sun ensuing its death every beautiful cycle on the planet Earth.

44

Translucent Ceiling

As I look up to the canopies
I feel myself pulled skyward
If not by a celestial force
Then perhaps a sensational
Realization of true, faultless love
The kind which happiness composes
Music orchestrated from hearts
On a divine collision course
This power courses through
My vascular catacombs
And threatens to burst my seams
If I don't give in to its gravity
Wings birth where cinderblocks
Once held steadfast tenure
And I know freedom is imminent
And I know beauty is permanent
For I can taste love's sediment

45

More Than A Kiss

The serpent inside my mouth
Seeks the forbidden fruit
At the back of your throat

And when it finds it, it shall bite
And when it finds it, it shall devour
And when yours finds mine
We just might scream together

46

Confession

I'd engage in decades of
Foreplay with you
So long as centuries of
Lovemaking ensues

47

Fern

The sound you make with your wings
Amidst the beautiful greens
Brings me to my knees

48

Buried Beneath

Leagues beneath the surface
A city of postmortem life lurks
In the bowels of an abyss
Those with gills avoid
But those with intrepid hearts
Seek treasures within
Sunken skeletons

49

Prototypus

It slithered
In between your carapaces
Rusting cogs oiled by its presence
Steel plates barricading secrets
But once it supplied sustenance
To your prototype, a glorious
Awakening birthed new essence

50

(Ground) Zero Façade

There's a fracture between her thighs
The heart has relocated, drawing me nigh
It's fissured but not shattered

Repairs are in order, I'm flattered
She has faith in me for the task
So I begin excavation unmasked

51

Dance Rehearsal

I erratically misstep
Burdened by regrets
But I won't "return to sender"
When I go on a ranting bender
Hydra epiphanies set in
And the writing begins
For the better, that's what matters
I might not be definitively happy
But I'm definitely "not too shabby"

52

Intrusion

Your chimeric aorta
Sneaks beneath my skin
Your cells infect mine
With the disease of love
Lustfully venomous
You kill me slowly
Then regenerate my life
To thrive in your blood

53

Difference

I'd prove to you that we
Aren't lost as a species
There are too many boys in
This world
Wearing the masks of men
I regret to inform you that
It won't change
But we must learn to see
Past the façade and into
The soul
Even after trial and error

54

A Monster Collective

A hundred eyes are upon me
In the thicket of feral night
Amid them a low growl creeps
Into my foundation
Bearing the curse of fear
And from the shadows is born
A monster collective
Rapacious and curious

55

Love Nonetheless

She loved the night
Because it described exactly how she felt:
Dark and silent, but infinite
Beautiful, but often unappreciated
Underestimated, of all things
But within her pulsed
A trillion particles of light
Always dying and being reborn
Much like her soul, she believed
But as a man on the earth
I knew that, like the night and its sky
It was perpetual and indestructible
It had stolen my heart long ago
And while some might call it a naïve love
It's love nonetheless
And with each smile, I felt
Like I was travelling through windows
Into her soul and her being
Or perhaps I'm only dreaming
Afterall, isn't that what occurs at night?
If she is in fact a dream
Then she better wake up and realize it
Before I fall asleep
Forever

56

Deserved

I swear to high heavens
One of these days a man
And I mean a veracious man
Will sleep you off your feet
So hard you'll question broken bones
And he'll take you skyward
To a place of bonding clouds
Where you truly belong
And he will never leave, unless it's
To visit the earthlings by your side

57

Voiced

A name is but a wall plaque
'Til it leaves your tongue
To traverse waves of air
And then it is poetry

58

Reclamation

Through rolling hills of clouds It descended
We squirmed with ambivalent anticipation
But instead of being a visitor it was just a Native
Returning home, what we'd been calling our own

59

Thank You

I am so frequently given wings
By my followers and those whom
I eagerly follow, the poets especially
Their words whistle wind
Beneath my feet when I have
Lost track of their placement
And while this flight seldom
Lasts longer than a few hours at best
I am nonetheless indebted
For their support, even when
It isn't directed at me, the beauty
Of poetry is open interpretation
Well, one of the beauties at least
Certainly one of them

60

Capsized

There is no rocking the boat with you
You capsize it with a smile
And curve of your hips

61

Truly

It isn't her eyes I'm so attracted to
It's how her heart pushes through them

62

Night Growl

And as he drifted asleep he realized
It was not pain in his stomach
But hunger...hunger for happiness

63

Breakthrough

The golden arches stared down at us through the reflective windshield. It was midnight and the parking lot was a necropolis of empty employee cars, dead space, and then us. The fingers on my left hand kneaded my temple pensively, occasionally pressing too hard every time she grew bold. My teeth made a car wrecking sound yet we sat still. My mind meandered to break writer's block. My right hand conducted sign language as if mutely dictating what I wanted to write. She moaned muffled sounds and my eyelids fluttered like batwings. My world tumbled standstill and inspiration came when she did. Once my writing hand was free and licked clean, I busted...out the paper

64

Open Architect

She is my
Architect of love
Resurrected bridges
Beautiful archways
Stained glass
With a purpose to live
And live beautifully
She is my
Open book of life

Impeccable pages
Haphazard text
Smudged ink
With a passion to live

65

Takeback

I pick her up and set her
Onto the cold counter, where she
Shivers and giggles
For she isn't wearing any pants
I begin kissing her legs
And she murmurs softly to hurry
I tease her as she
Often did me, eventually finding
The spot she cherished
But as I dove, I felt her fingernails
Clawing my forearms
And there upon the empty counter
Spilled what she'd taken
From me, crimson and misshapen

66

Wet Serenity

Weary from the day

The water takes her away
Thoughts drip down her skin
Smearing her vision across tile
A heart swollen with love
Seeks not to escape but drown
In this wet serenity

67

Take 2

The darkness stirs
When I turn off the light
Black static swimming

I just wish you were here
Lying with me
Yours eyes in mine

Why can't I just say goodnight
And mean it?
Why can't I just dream
And believe it?

68

One-Thirds an Artist *(handwritten)*

I wish I could sing
For you
I couldn't if I tried
And I do
Every fucking day
But alas
All I have is ink to
Please you
I just wish it was
Enough

69

Reminder

These blades of disarray sway
Under the influence of cold passage
Gray distension above pulls me
From the earth and into everything
We have ever taken for granted

70

A Radical Notion

(handwritten)

I think I could fall in love with you because I see you the way I wished you would see me. Your every feature like dust particles dancing before a sunlit window. You have tribal eyes that float

on soft linen and I imagine being the lids during REM sleep. I think I could fall in love with you because you don't condemn tears when they sting my wishing well eyes, instead you sing softly the ways to placate me into your heart. You have fingers that seek art when they aren't at work with the world you feel connected to in more ways than one. I think I could fall in love with you because I'd have no other choice, and I couldn't dream of one.

71

Ravenwood

She dripped
Onto parchment
With the splendor
Of a million ravens
Murdering the night

72

Panet

The sand depresses beneath me. I walk this path without realizing it, the grains shifting between my bare toes. The sunset bleeds against the horizon to my left, as if you're trying to tell me to be happy for you. My mind floats off to sea, but my sails have no wind. I force myself to believe in a heaven, shove my agnosticism aside and imagine you up there or somewhere of

equal quality. I just wish you could be down here, enjoying the life taken from you so fucking early. I've written of you before, I cannot help it. It always glazes my eyes much like the brine splashing ashore. I've said to myself "I just wish he was here, laughing and enjoying himself." But perhaps you are, in the palm of my hand and on my shoulders, in the air of everyone else. I can't explain or understand, I just love you.

73

Instant

Amid dust motes
And incomplete thoughts
I remain hostage
To the erratic concept of
Creative freedom

74

Aloud

There once was a man who spoke with his brain, not his tongue.
He had two hearts for lungs, and neither knew when to shut up.
As the night grew darker, so had he grown mute.
But as the blue seeped through, his thoughts acquired a voice.
Despite this erratic freedom, he will always remain imprisoned.

75

Inertia

Follow me into the fjord
Of your dreams, a place
Where we can finally
Establish peace without
Conflict, where the shores
Of consciousness are
Verdantly cleansed and
Your skin is but a shadow
Of your true beauty
Beneath the fingertips of
My cardiac thoughts

76

Contrarily

She tastes like saltwater
In my wounds despite
Her tourniquet eyes

77

Autumn

The leaves fall, but I feel them rise
Dissipating like satin fire in the skies
To paint your name when each day dies

78

Jaws

She chewed more than I could swallow
Too bad my life was still stuck in her teeth

79

Swept

I think I will shine today.
I think my beauty will
Press and push through
I think my sanity will
Take a hiatus so thorough
That I'll forget the date.

80

Out There

A cardiac valley fit for
Ten thousand souls
Carries us one by one
Beneath her solar crown

81

Route

Our path runs parallel
The veins of a loving tree
Keeping at bay the sky

82

Luna

When the clouds veil
Her argent gleam
We're reminded of
Our own mortality

83

Compar(i)son

Some might suggest that stars compose your eyes, but I don't believe that's true. When I look into your eyes, I am feeling myself pulled into them – not simply observing them, as one might a star. Besides, stars are particles of burning debris that are constantly dying; this isn't you. What I see in your eyes, as small as they may appear, isn't a star in space but space itself – that seemingly featureless and dark yet miraculous expanse of infinity. I can think of no better comparison than to say the beauty of your dark yet enchanting eyes is much like the perpetual boundaries of space, yet to be fully explored.

84

Requiem for a Dream

We can rule this life
And the next with a
Green halo and white veins
Tike isn't an enemy
I can't get addicted
I swear on my life
My life that isn't mine
No more than my fame
And as I ascend

I am numb to my demise
These tears fall
Down a frigid spine
I will be okay
Everything will be fine
I will be
Here

85

Sometimes I Wonder

Sometimes I wonder
If people realize that the best words are those
Buried beneath the dirt
Veiled by the clouds
In the Mariana Trench
Amid the Alaskan wilderness
Lost to the Bermuda Triangle
I'm just glad that
I don't have to wonder about me

86

A Different Kind of Beach

I've walked everywhere
But the sands of your mind
Vacated of flesh

Yet oceanic with time
I long to share a sunset
With your tidal conscience

87

Lupine

A psyche at home
Beneath the canopies
Shrouded in shadow
In hearts he roams
With a pack mentality
Soulfully alone

88

Trade Off

The good and the bad
For the sake of quality
I'll fly with the clouds
For the sake of fame
I'll lie with the bedrock

89

So I DID

She said she wanted to write about
Death
Insomnia
Depression

And what have I to say, except
Look out your window
Observe the millions dying
As winter rakes its grip
Through a once verdant earth

And then lie back, try
To grasp the many notions
That swim and bustle inside
For you are human, unlike they
So suffer for it you shall
When you yearn most for rest

And respire melancholy
As you struggle against clarity
Realizing that the falling leaves
Are neither experiencing
Death nor insomnia
But are freer than you are
Enough thoughts to replenish
A billion trees by New Year's Eve

90

Havoc

The storm
Churning in me
Saturates your blood
And tightens my sinew
With every breath you take
Resuscitating my flooded lungs

91

Prowess

Her prowess on the
Battlefield of life
Renders me breathless
With every swing of her pen
And that mighty
Thousand-league stare
That drops my shield
Each time without fail

92

(Un)suppressed

Babe,
The only time I'll ever hold you down
Is when you're writhing beneath me
Perspiring vivacity and
Salivating euphoria

93

Inseparable

I suppose it was there
Deep within her cold depths
That I found my peace
As jagged as it had been
Surprising warmth rushed through my bones
And I knew that trust was something that
Stitched us together
Inseparable we became
And I imagine in death
She will finally claim me
As I've dreamt of
Doing so to her heart

94

Odyssey

The odyssey I spent
On the undulating waves
Of her symphony
Was a journey I shall
Never forget
Not just the vistas
But the visceral harmony
She conducted with my veins

95

Shadowflight

Thus in the darkness
She grew her wings
Plumage born of eyes
And with each blink
She was bound to the sky

96

Funeral

The tombs in my bones
Seep a special kind of empty
Where dreams are believed
To hold no hope with which to cope
And as the roses chose
My feet to flee to
So shall I recall the pallbearers
Of this life buried in stride
Your names are not to blame
But your deeds heed no forgiveness

97

Harbinger of Breath

He moved like poetry on a predator's legs,
With a bandolier hanging from his neck
And shark teeth as fingertips.
He had a gaze that could shatter any man's knees
Or melt the strongest woman's heart.
He was a whisper of death, the
Harbinger of Breath.

98

The Terrible

Your voice, even in ink
Is about as hollow
As the hearts you claim
To have penetrated

99

Los

Anarchy brewed
In his chest
It's too bad the
City of angels
Refused his shoulders

100

FOR3V3R

To follow this abstract passion
Is to fall in a wondrous abyss in which

Shadow flirts with illumination.
I found an intimacy which took my soul
To a vast publicity of ardor
Amidst a storm of illustrious notions.
A particular vagary caught my spirit
To murmur a vow of vicious vitality that
My mind would absorb for
Savory immortality.

101

Unboxed

Oh, how I'd forgotten
The beauty of night
'Til I saw its reflection
In your eyes

102

The Return

And that's all it took
The smallest smile
To blink ice down my spine
Opening this heart's book

103

Anticipation

It wasn't heaven or ambrosia
That I tasted when we kissed
No, it was mortality
Which dripped from her lips
And if it choked me to death
I couldn't be happier

104

Highway

The beauty of
This moment
Is that, if I go
Only the shadow
Will know

105

Love

The realm of grace and radiance
That composites the greatest emotion
Humans are capable of
That feeling is called love
Is one I am not a stranger to
But its limits are colossal
Its boundaries vaster
Than the most expansive valley
For I feel an undying love
For my family and those beyond it
Who've shown me loyalty
Vacated of selfishness
And though flawed I believe I'm
A man of growing love
To taste it on the brightest smile
Or see it on the shyest wave
To hear it on the softest hymn
Or feel it on the smoothest touch
I am beyond moved to know
This same love is felt about me
In one form or another

106

God

Inquisition is embedded in my veins
But I can't say I don't believe in anything
When there is not engraved evidence
Because I do believe in souls
And the existence of life beyond Earth
I have more hope than I have faith
And while I'm unable to put it in

God
I must admit the desire to believe in a higher power
For it is both a comforting
And marvelous concept
As for the presence of
God
In mankind I must also admit
I am grateful because to imagine a
Godless world
Is to imagine a terrible life unfurled

107

In the Making

There is no kiss like the one
Which graces between our lips
We fold into each other, undone
But not without the essence
That has driven us this far
I am reborn in your eyes
And you sing of pleasure
As our bodies melt in time
A moment of flawed perfection
And impeccably loved perception

108

A First for Everything

For the first time
In a long time
You've left me
Utterly speechless
I believe my best words
Are still on your lips

109

Always

She was this miracle
At my fingertips
An uncanny cunning beauty
With plush lips
That tasted my name so well
Her eyes burst
With verve when I loved her
And I will, always

110

Transition

When did December 6th
Melt into December 7th?
Somewhere in between
Our sixth and seventh
Breaths between us

111

Undercover

My eyes convey cardiac fingertips
Tracing the lines of her neck
Down to the valley of her back
There is love on her silken skin
And my name on her lips
Entices gentle areola kisses
A waist squeeze and
Her name in my throat

112

BTW

Contrary to popular belief, it will always be your smile that serenades my soul before anything else. To embrace such a beautiful spirit in my own arms makes me chipper in more ways than one, and I'm in love as if it's a straightjacket no one would

ever want to escape. When you stand you have me enrapt, when
you curl up I'm captivated, when you smile I'm weak at the
knees and strong in the heart.

I love you.

113

Symptoms

When I'm with you
My heart beats faster than normal
To the point where
I'm more chipper than usual
And my stomach might
Quake or growl
But I assure you these are
Just symptoms
Of being ridiculously in love with
You

114

Diffusion

Amid your beautiful infusion
I continue to envision
The dissolution
Of our division

115

Melting

With each shimmering glance
You melt me like a summer blizzard
I can only hope that in my arms
Your reaction is a similar blessing
To my heart which is happiest
When you are smiling inside

116

Dreamspeak

Her halo hovered heavier
When we whispered waves
Of ontological origami

117

Reaction

Flames flow freshly from

Scintillating skin succumbing
To this tantalizing touch

118

Winders

I'll walk the yellow brick road
Snaking through your dreams
Drifting like wind through your hair
Caressing your face in whispers
We will be swept away
Together

119

Destiny

We can flow as one
In the creek of life
Coursing over obstacles
Hand in hand
We can break no stride
This is how we walk
We fly
Answer our calling

120

High Exposure

Here I float
In a world of dissipation
Exposed and debilitated
Seaming mistakes
For a grander purpose
Forgive my poor footing
These coals grow cold
Scalded flesh
Is exuded weakness
Here I'll remain
In a world of disillusion
Juxtaposed and rehabilitated

121

Voice

With each syllable
That dripped from her lips
I was inebriated
With a passion to
Love her stronger
Than I already did
Thus defying reality

122

Antidote

When she's not feeling well
All I want to do is
Poke the world with my pen
Hoping it'll bleed a remedy
Or wring my heart out
Wishing to find a cure

123

Third

I lay still, as if in a tomb
But there is infinite room
My eyelids shut while beneath
What I can see dances freely
In the comforting darkness
I feel a beautiful presence
Prickle my nerves and usher me out
Of this bleak verve riddled with doubt
I find myself gliding skyward
Looking nowhere but forward
And when I can see into the beyond
I know in my heart the blindness is gone

124

UYI

I cannot hear them anymore
Without feeling your influence
Work fingers under my skin
Kissing my arteries and
Holding my spine dearly

125

Alexandrine

Night skies don't compare to
Her lunar hold on me

126

Caution

There is seldom a heart like mine
Buried under leagues of ice
Pulsing with enough warmth
To make snow of a few layers

I just hope your equipment
Is strong and tenacious enough
To care in excavating me

127

Afterword

I absentmindedly leap
Into the shower
Crank the water a few
Degrees shy of magma
To scald off all the sweat and soot
From nine hours of
Strenuous manual labor
And scrupulous overthinking

128

What We Do

I'd like to believe that
As writers
What we do is paint
Horizons
For those who are lost
Or prefer
Words rather than brushes

129

'Twas

And even as I evaporate
Into a pensive slumber
Her scent rises to permeate
From the bed cover
Soothing my blood
Reminiscent of love

130

Bella

No image could ever justify
How beautiful I saw you to be
With each rising full moon
And setting sun ablaze
I remember you in my arms
An impossible feat of life
To kiss in more ways than one
Such a labyrinthine beauty

131

Nemesis

She is my nemesis
The creature responsible
For my undoing
The only heart capable
Of disarming mine
A love insalubrious

132

Like A Satin Whip

The
Limbs
In her
Whispers
Dismembered
My diffidence

133

Inside Out

How dare I question
The duality of her beauty
Like the brain's butterfly wings
Her charisma poetizes my perception

134

Resumption

Please return to me
Like cloud wisps rolling
Across my mountain range
Breathe color back into my solitude

135

OMW

There is
No road
Like the one

I wandered off of
En route to losing
Myself in your storm

136

Interterrestrial

A muttering shiver
Caught me on the edge
Of a slippery slumber
Like ice on my breath

Shadows scampered
As she glided inside
A fragile hovering shape
Devouring my dreams

137

Deliverance

They can only barricade the light
For so long before it pierces their walls
And finds their destiny in the
Swimming pools of her observatory eyes

138

Touched

I'll never forget the way
Your fingertips coursed
Over my stomach and chest
Little did you realize
They were dipping deeper
Than flesh could permit

139

Guidance

It is in the sky
That you belong
My undying itinerary
But by your lights
I shouldn't be lost
For long

140

Itch

If I wait any longer
To see you again
I'm likely to start
Scratching my veins

141

Capable

That smile could
Turn the world upside down
I'd be lying face first
In the ocean trying to breathe
Not caring how
Her eyes found me
So long as they too
Were smiling

142

True Freedom

There's this need, this desire, this emptiness insistent on being filled to the brim until it's overflowing – can you picture it yet, that beautiful expanse so marvelous it defies every positive adjective you could think of – yes, that's it there, with but a word or two we might label it “true love” although personally I prefer the term “unconditional freedom” or perhaps they're the same thing – I just know I want it, I need to want it and I want to need it because I know that without that searing desire I might as well be nonexistent.

143

Mistletoe

My hands find home sweet home
At her waist, clad in red fabric
I pull her close
Lips on neck but voice in ear
The words are obvious by now
But I can't resist

144

Architects

Towers were
Erected and deconstructed
In her name

Such a sweet bewilderment
In the name
Of demolition

145

Salvation
(handwritten)

I cry out for the blade
Seeking the crimson tears
That may one day save me
From all of my phobias
And take far far away
All that you hate about me

146

Lost in Dreams
(handwritten)

There's a time shift
And it's all thanks to you

I couldn't find my way
With the thunderclouds
So swollen and irate
But you swept them aside
With a curtain of rain
And a reminder why I smile
Sometimes without knowing why

147

Enigmatic

There is nothing more
Enigmatic
Than the way her eyes find me
In the cloak of night

