

This book of poetry is dedicated to my Mother Jean Ervin and my  
Father Anthony Frank Ervin Sr.  
and also  
in memory of Anthony Frank Ervin Jr.

## A New Kind of Pain

it hurts every time I think of her, should I take the pain an dream of  
her?

should I look the other way, every time a thought might linger that  
might stray into a topic of random conversation  
in turn bring forth the name that triggers the silent pictures in my  
head of the girl in which brought a new kind of pain in my life,  
to where I shed a mental tear strip a mental gear thoughts of when I  
softly whispered in her ear

the 3 words that brought the 4 words back that once brought me  
joy and self meaning

that actually turned out to be a hollow saying thrown around by the  
particular person who hurt me with the same words that once  
brought me joy,

now curse me and ring in my ear not of volume of the voice but the  
hollow shallow repetition I heard it,

I believed, it I miss it, and yet I wish almost never to hear it again,  
but what can i say she lied, I cried, she cheated, and I left.

I came back, to fake smiles, hellos, and goodbyes, the constant  
chant of her friends about her late night escapades with other guys.  
do I want the same delusion of the 4 letter word that lifts some up  
an has stricken me down?

will everything be better,

I think not, the face I see now is not the face of an angel in which i  
thought it was, it must have been the reflection off a mirror that  
blinded me,

because when I thought i was blinded by beauty it was actually just  
a side of her that did not want to be seen,

and once I seen it, it makes me think now, if I cant get a better girl  
that means the rest of the world is taken and I'm left out.

## Try To Enjoy Life

I sit staring over the cracked sidewalks  
of the unnamed street  
in the unknown town  
I enjoy sitting in solidarity  
I enjoy life, at least I try  
I look past the yard with the dead tree  
littered with beer cans and other assorted alcoholic beverages  
to see a meek bush growing amongst the weeds and uncut grass  
looking at the bush I see a single red rose  
its never in the way  
it never gets attention  
I wonder how it grew  
the sun was sufficient, yes  
but water maybe not so much  
I take a closer look to find a 40 oz. bottle of malt liquor  
spilled over unseen, covered by the tall grass  
I believe the rose enjoys life, at least it tries

## All for You

for you I'll write a sonnet  
how you sleep and how you blink  
It's simply perfection every smile and every wink  
for you I'll write a love novel  
with every detail of every curve of your body  
makes my spine tingle and my heart pound  
to where I'm sinking into the pages of my own book  
in the back of my mind the pictures fresh in my head  
as if it were yesterday  
and if it was, I'd wake up in your bed to a letter  
saying it was amazing last night you are the best  
if you want you can stay I'll be back around 3  
for you I'll write a song  
where every lyric strikes a cord in the listeners heart  
not of heartbreak but of the opposite playing card  
for you I'll write a lullaby  
so I know you'll go to sleep I'll listen with you too  
so when you drift off I can drift off too  
and we can meet each other in our dreams  
and we can do all the things we want to do on earth  
with the privacy of our own 2 minds  
for you I'll write an essay  
about walking down the shores  
for you I'll write anything just say the word and it's yours

## Best Wishes

I remember when I first saw you

we were in the 9th grade, in English class  
I felt through the previous 2 years iv been in Mississippi I didn't  
belong  
no one talked to me willingly, no one really cared, they just passed  
me by  
I grew accustomed to it, but you talked to me when no one else  
would  
I felt you liked me, when no one else did  
I guess you can say it was love at first sight  
I thought at first you liked like that too  
we talked everyday I even remember the first time you flirted with  
me  
I wish u were in love with me as much as I was with you  
every now and then since then I felt like you still had something  
for me  
if there ever was something there in the first place  
which reminds me, in the 9th grade when I thought u liked me  
I went to the dance and you were there...and we danced...but  
you stopped dancing and left me on the dance floor and didn't talk  
to me the rest of the night...well to tell the truth that was when u  
stopped really talking to me  
I wouldn't take it back because the 3 and 1/2 songs we did dance to  
were the best songs iv ever danced to in my life  
I still got the Christmas present u gave me in 10th grade  
the piece of paper telling me how good of friend I am  
thank you for that  
you are the most beautiful person iv ever seen in my life inside and  
out  
I just want you to know that  
you are the first person iv ever asked on a date  
remember I used to call you  
I went to your house one time to see if u wanted to go to Magee  
or something and u walked out with pajama pants and a shirt 4  
sizes too big for you and you though u looked horrible,  
on the contrary I thought the opposite.  
I can keep going. but ill stop with the wishes and memories.  
part of me wants you to know who wrote this  
but yet part of me doesn't want you to know  
your smart...you will figure it out.  
anyway your graduating now and my heart is full of regret  
chances passed up and opportunities lost  
but I'm really happy for you and wish you all the luck in the world  
I know your going to be one awesome individual and will make  
something of yourself  
I'm proud to of had the honor of meeting someone like you

Best wishes.

### Family Values

Everyday you go to school...usually. You hang out with a group of peers that have accepted you from day 1 everyday. You keep on schedule unless something unexpected happens. During the course

of the time you spend in high school and junior high, you hear some crazy and debatable statements and stories. Well I'm here to tell you a story about a time I should have intervened with her decision but didn't. This story is about a girl who iv known throughout all my high school years. She has a good heart from what I take of her, she's always been real with her opinions on situations no matter how controversial. Iv always respected her and have even had a thing for her where I developed what some call a "crush" on her. Anyway back to the story. Near the end of our senior year she was invited to Alaska to spend time with her brother that was station there in the military, seems reasonable right? Her brother saves up his money and buy his family tickets to a Trace Atkins concert. Her brother has been in the military for the better part of a year or two, and has not had much leave time to spend time with them. Well this seems like the opportune time to spend time with him right? Not for her apparently. During his service his sister, my friend, developed a strong liking for rock music. Well as she's telling the story to me and a few friends gathered around to listen to her. As she puts it "well my brother bought us tickets to see Trace Atkins," she said as she let out a chuckle. "I told him, 'do I look like a person that listens to Trace Atkins? And he said 'yeah you used to love country music' and she said 'not anymore the last concert I went to was Bullet for my Valentine and Atreyu!'" she said. What kind of response is that?

Excuse me but the next message is for anyone has been unappreciative of gifts, shot down a gift because 'your too cool for that' ESPECIALLY when you used to be into the thing the person got you. Nobody is here forever, enjoy what time you have on this earth and work not only to make yourself happy and content but the people around you and the people that you love. When your brother buys you tickets to a concert he thought you all would like including yourself try to make the best of it, and thank him for doing what he did for YOU! HE thought of YOU enough to BUY YOU a GIFT out of the KINDNESS of HIS HEART! HE didn't have to BUY YOU anything at all and let YOU be bored and just spend QUALITY TIME with HIM, but NO he thought of YOU enough to think 'hey I want to make it fun for HER' so he BOUGHT the tickets for YOU. I know I over explained some parts and am most likely rambling to you, I feel like I'm preaching a sermon on the topic of Family Values. Well I guess I am.

## My Block

Sometimes I sit on my front steps and try to convince myself, I try to convince myself that everything that happens on my block, happens everywhere. No better and no worse. From the suburban rich neighborhoods, to the rundown farm towns, all of them, I try to convince myself they see the same gangs, drugs, violence,



hustlers, pimps, prostitutes, crooked cops, teenage pregnancies, and drug addicts that i see. I convince myself that they are just not here, or just sprawled out in various urban regions, but everywhere. Everywhere the wind blows, Everywhere the sun shines, everywhere you can stand firmly on the ground the same things are happening. You see most of the time I sat and did this because I felt sorry for myself, I needed to know that there was someone else out there that felt the same way as I did, felt my pain, or is worse off than me. That usually worked, not because I'm cruel but because I would like to say sometimes that I don't have the worst luck or I'm in the worst situation. As I tell you this I am obligated to tell you that I have seen good in my lifetime. Iv seen 2 or 3 families share an evening meal because alone their families wouldn't have enough food to go around. Iv seen ex drug dealers, ex pimps, ex gang members find Jesus and become deacons and ministers in the church. Iv seen 16 year old kids give up the partying and the negative activities and find a job to help support his girlfriend and his unborn child. Iv seen forgiveness, revenge, redemption, retribution, styles come, and styles go. Iv seen the night fall, but when you see the sunlight the next day it makes everything worth while. The air never felt so crisp, clean, and refreshing through the pollution than when I'm sitting here thinking. Thinking about my block.

## Can't Believe I Made it Out Alive

i open my eyes an realize  
I'm not in heaven man I'm still alive  
bleed the same blood same flesh an bones  
cant believe i made it past the sticks and stones  
broken bones but the words cut the deepest  
got to climb some mountains done made it through the steepest  
feels good i wish i could share the feeling  
when i thought i was gone then looked up at the sealing  
i had a choice an i chose another day  
to see your face so you wont have to feel pain  
i look in your eyes an i see my reflection  
u deserve it u steered me in the right direction  
i was wild an on the wrong track  
hell bound thought there was no turning back  
that's the best i could put it no better words could describe  
then these words  
Can't believe I made it out alive.

## Legacy

when i die don't u cry for me  
don't you think about my memory constantly  
i will always keep an eye for the ones i love  
if you ever need my help ill be up above  
just talk to me  
ill be an angel on your shoulder the voice in your head  
that tells you that i have eternal life and ill never be dead  
when i die shed a single tear and that's enough  
bury me dirt still fresh on my pants cuffs  
i lived a life of whatever i could  
a little sin a little heartbreak but there still was some good  
i left a legacy behind with my dope lines  
if you ever want to talk just press rewind.

## When it Rains it Pours

i look to the sky an see i came so far  
i look at life do or die so i puff my gar  
knowing today might be my last day  
last time i feel heat so i burn haze  
I'm having thoughts of me being chalked on the street  
so i load my 45 an take a puff of swisher sweet  
i hope i grow old with bank full of dough  
still ripping tracks like jay z showing i still got flow  
but still i have dreams of being a dad  
giving my children the childhood that i never had  
watch them grow an say no to weed  
watch them go through school an get the knowledge they need  
to succeed in the demanding life  
be successful the first time an not have to work up twice  
they will never get lost Because we will always be together  
an i will do anything to keep the sunny weather.

## Cry of the Business Man

the fall of Rome didn't happen in 1 day  
I fell piece by piece spanning a couple decades  
same reason we fall today  
never ending paper chase because we run to get paid  
we don't run to stay fit we run to catch the bus  
takes us to the job that supplies all of us  
with dinero, cash, candy paint wetter  
then the ocean right after hurricane Katrina  
yeah right catch me on the bike  
Because I cant scratch up gas money tonight  
tears dripping off face so I go on home  
look in the mirror but I'm really looking at the fall of Rome.

## Storm Clouds

I'd hate to rain on your parade but I think I see clouds  
a couple no shows a couple umbrellas up in the crowd  
my brain is fried from information too deep  
legs getting weak from climbing hills too steep  
metaphors aside I tried to look away  
when I saw you with that other man the other day  
I'm a survivor I'm a lover not a fighter  
this only makes my narrow bridge that much wider.

Love these Days

i see a brighter future than the times i see  
couples meant to be together but they don't agree  
separate little differences seem to tear them apart  
opposites attract but they don't see it in they heart  
they don't understand this thing called love  
if u need some direction just look up above  
images on TV got hearts covered in lust  
dudes judging women by the size of their bust  
an it makes me sick teen pregnancy is sky high  
14 single mother no babies by the same guy  
confused child in a grown world  
even though she has a child she's still a little girl  
an the world keeps turning wont stop an wait up  
love is at a minimum in this world straight up  
ill tell it to u straight i don't need no metaphors  
just show some love Because everyone can use some more.

### Black Market Exchange

sleep is the cousin of death  
just like crack is the cousin of meth  
so don't sleep on me or you'll be sorry when you wake up  
an I'm a million dollars richer an u wake up to a pay cut  
got so much cash that my safe is too full to shut  
dollars growing in my hands like i planted seeds in my paper cuts  
i see more green the a leprechaun my eyes turn to dollar signs  
if u try to blind me i got a weapon on an will turn this into  
columbine  
so fall in line wait in front the store when the Tru platinum album

drop  
just like madden tru platinum going till the years stop  
an when the years stop tru platinum keep rapping to the holy ghost  
replace my gold halo with the platinum that shine the most  
they say that the streets are paved with gold an precious stone  
well i will live on platinum street an ill gladly pave it on my own  
with a house with 1 brick for every good deed  
i built a mansion a studio with everything i will need  
an ill gladly feed anyone who come to me with a heavy heart  
an ill spread the gospel like some fleas in a trailer park  
keep the bark from the trees that gave me the oxygen i need to  
breath  
an lead the next generation with great speed to move on an proceed  
an succeed in the life that they want to receive without greed  
Because everyone will have enough money to feed their seeds  
the same way as the next man just heed this warning if you don't  
change  
silver spoons will no longer exist without the black market  
exchange.

### The Rain

days of my youth i used to hope for no rain



Because i didn't want my rhyme book ink to wash away  
rain never brought me nothing but colds an coughs  
i used to look for a valve so when it rained i can turn it off  
1 day it rained an i looked out my window  
a little girl no umbrella splashing in the puddles  
i ran outside to offer her a jacket  
she said this is the only time i come outside so i don't want to have  
it  
smile on her face when she said i don't want the rain to end  
sometimes i splash in the shower like its rain just for pretend  
i didn't ask her why or go inside  
i simply threw the jacket down an played right by her side  
we jumped in every puddle till we were out of breath  
she said she can only stay outside till the rain left  
i watched her leave until she closed her door  
she died 3 years later i don't pray for rain no more.

I may be gone tomorrow so I'm living for today  
so let me hold you and say what I got to say  
I never knew it would turn out like this  
24 to live till you have to miss  
me be in there to hold you in the sun  
I miss the sunsets from that summer we had our son  
so give me a halo and strap on my wings  
and put me in the choir Because I got a song to sing.

Never Through My Eyes

troubles arise  
sunshine subsides

you may see the same things  
but never through my eyes  
they say the sun comes up right after the last night falls  
it must be 30 days of night dawn might never come at all  
I sit an stare out the window an sometimes I cry  
you can see the same darkness but never through my eyes.

### Rough Day

I'm stuck in the rain  
lord please don't make me say your name in vain  
things are not going the way I planned  
please help me slow down these grains of sand  
understand I like my gift of gab

I'm thinking about the money i wish i had  
i take my pen an my paper an hope it pays  
turn the page oh lord its another rough day  
what did i do to deserve these kind of days  
i should change but i don't know any other ways  
these days i wish i could sleep like my alarm clock is broken.

I would like to thank everyone who inspired me to keep going not only with poetry and short stories, but in my music as well.

Thanks.