

UNDERESTIMATED



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Underestimated
“A collection of writings”

Thanks to our contributing authors.

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Me

Looking in the mirror
And in your eyes
I see the disguise.
Your heart is tell all
Your heart is pure gold.
Your mind is beautiful
Your soul is old.
Strengthened through all the trials
And pain endured,
Your logic is the best.
Experience is your life.
You're not afraid of rejection
With your assets and charm
It's mostly attention.
But what you really want
Is respect and protection,
Love and a little display of affection.
In their world acceptance is key,
But in our world you are me.

Selamawit Tirro

For What It Brings

The pain and hurt caused everyday
Sitting here wishing I could fly away
I'm tired of this life and for what it brings
I would be sitting at home thinking the same thing
It doesn't get better before it gets worse
Sometimes I don't know what to do it just hurts
I'm not the kind of person who thinks these things
I'm just tired of my life and for what it brings

Anthony Parrott

Alone

It's looking for something you will never find;
Like smelling the flowers, but being blind.

It's seeking the truth and hearing only lies;
Like believing in fools, who claim to be wise.

It's praying for hope and receiving the worst of fate;
Like longing for love, and feeling only hate.

It's when your spirit has been beaten and your soul is lost;
Like paying with pain, until you die of cost.

It's bitter cold darkness where the sun once shown;
It's when you need someone and you're all alone.

Troy Atkinson

Beautiful Sunrise

The sun rises in the distance
My heart sinks from all your kisses
With every touch and every hug
Is a reassurance of all of our love
Your eyes are filled with such desire
A glance from you starts a raging fire
Lust and temptation I must suppress
For my heart seeks love and nothing less.
So I caress your face, and press our lips
Together we share, and enjoy a kiss
So grant my wish and accept this gift
I'll take your hand if you don't resist
Forever may we live in this love that exists!



Mike Brewer

Always, Forever and a Day

You hold my heart
Can't you see?
How hard this is
Everyday on me?
I sit and wait
Not knowing what to do
Hoping and praying
And wondering too
I've been away for so long
Hoping that the
Trial won't go wrong
All I want is to be
Back into your arms
Laughing and playing
Like kids on the farm
Whisk me away
Far from here
Always and forever
Just hold me near
I know that I love you
That's what I have to say
So think of me and love me
Always, forever and a day
I just wanted you to know
How much I love you Joe

K. Shoemaker-Chartier

Bio Poem

Justin

Polite, Quiet, Happy, and Forgiving

Son of John and Tammy

Who loves Tricia, Lydia, and Zeus

Who feels happiness when holding Tricia,
loneliness when there is no one around, and
excited when on the mountain

Who needs freedom, true friends, and
someone who cares

Who gives a helping hand, advice, and
trustworthiness

Who fears cops, scorpions, and not being able to move

Who would like to see all of Europe, a ring on her
finger, and a smile on my mom's face

Resident of Peru

Justin

— | | —

Love

Love is a strong word.
I love you with all my heart.
You are very kind and sweet.
When I lay next to you
I feel comfort being beside you.
You make me feel safe and joyful.

Chevis Parrott

Jodi

In your eyes
I see the lies
And the universe
My thoughts are yours in reverse
Leaving my heart with a curse.

Derick Coolidge

Do You Ever?

Do you ever? In my ne-yo voice,
But in my own words, think about our choice?
The way we'd never desert each other?
But now we feel we don't deserve each other.
I love your funny jokes, but I hate you to death.
But how do you love and hate someone simultaneously?
My mind is a mess.
Things been said that can't be unsaid.
Or deeds undid lies untold. A big part of our love is dead.
Unless we're like zombie, "Thriller", Franken-love.
Come back from the grave like horror stories spoke of.
If our minds are still connected, I can read your thought.
If only I could live a double life without getting caught.
But even R. Kelly got caught; he's not trapped in the closet.
Bark of love can't always be withdrawn and never a deposit.
I know things been broken beyond what can ever be fixed.
And we aren't no youngen's, 29 and almost 26.
There's no need in waiting more time,
we spent 10 years at this.
Fighting and scratching and cheating and lying.
Make ups and break ups and sneaking and trying.
Revenge and suspicions and cursing and crying.
I'm shaking my damn head, but I'm no longer angry.
Cause I'm not going to the ump-tenth degree.
I done took all I can take and you leave me no option, let it burn.
I just hope you know better next time
when it's the next chick's turn.
If you ever listen to "Maxwell's Pretty Wings"
it is a beautiful song.
She was wrong; he still loves her but knows when to move on.
Just remember , I can always pretend in my migration,
our love lives on.

Nyeema Ozoza

Gone the Wrong Way

Life's never going to be the same
Due to my mistakes and the shame.
Sitting here gives me time to think
How my dreams went down with the drink.
Living now with different dreams
Life's never how it seems.
Life's never going to be the same
Living in this twisted game.

Derick Coolidge

Jail

Jail is punishment
But does it really make sense?
It only angers

Anonymous

Jail

Jail
Boring, Uneventful
Hating, Evil, Malicious
Lonely, Cold, Uncomfortable, Unsafe
Sucks

Anonymous

I'd Rather

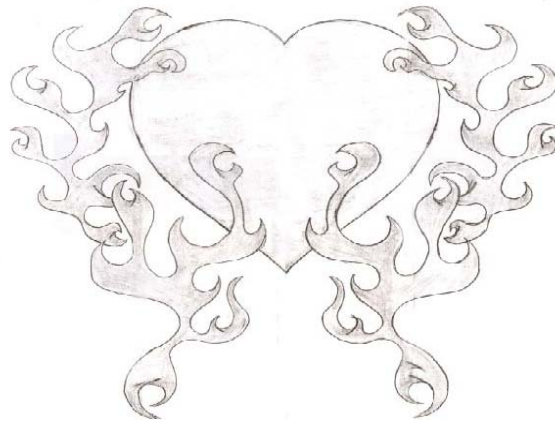
I'd rather step outside myself
And see what others see.
Cause it's like with my own eyes
I never really see the scene.
Sometimes in my head I fantasize.
That I leave off this plane and
I'm flying off in the night skies.
I left all this madness behind.
Live life to the fullest even if only in my mind.
I'd wear a tiara all day long.
I'd have grapes in my wine each hand picked.
I'd have a million doves feather just for me to sleep on.
Cheech & Chong would roll my Cubans with precision.
Giuseppe's, Jimmy's, Manolo's, Gucci
Which shoes to wear would be my toughest decisions.
My only worries would be a scratch on my Benz.
Or an unruly pimple before an event.
But never about the lowly, the meeting of the ends.
No real issues, accountants see the bills, unseen lives.
No secret haters, no undercover naysayer.
Don't have any time to slowdown for any unseen foe.
But that's just my imagination
Running away with me again.
Unless I get a lotto ticket.

Nyeema Ozozo

I Love You With All My Heart

I love you with all my heart
I loved you from the start
When God made you
He made a work of art

David Burleigh



Picture by Justin Briglia

Jailor, Jailor

Jailor, Jailor let me out I'm ready to play
When I leave I'll enjoy the day
Let this jail fade away
No more jail that's what I say.

Derick Coolidge

Truth

I am a strong woman still filled with empty space.
I still wonder if I can keep myself in place.
I hear my daughter calling my name,
I hear her so clear my ears could almost burst.
I see exactly where I need to change,
but only for myself first.
I want to learn from my mistakes.
I am a strong woman still filled with empty space.

I pretend a lot that I do love myself.
I yet feel only desire not to give up,
but it seems to shrink down to a size of an elf.
I feel the pride but I won't let it show.
I worry that no one will understand
that's why they can't know.
I secretly cry to let out my pain.
I pretend a lot that I do love myself.

I understand why I keep these feelings for me.
I say I'm alright but inside I bleed.
I dream to have goals
I know I will accomplish in life.
I try, well I can't say that, then it'll be a lie.
I hope this will lead me
to become confident and successfully.
I understand why I keep these feelings for me.

Briana Atkinson

Mysterious Girl

Quietly, secured, yet frantically known...
Someone so young and still so grown.

Grateful of living, unknown when around...
She values her freedom but is always locked down.

Judgmental to others, truthful but vain...
Carries her confidence while she carries her pain.

Heavenly sent, but devilish by mind...
She's very deceiving always has mischief to find.

Honest when spoken, loyal when desired...
Her love is wanted but easily expired.

Tensely moved, easily stilled...
She keeps so much room but no space to be filled.

Unique ideas, creative thoughts...
She gave up something that wasn't bought.

Stubborn to listen, conditional to speak...
Knowledge is her drug it keeps her up from being weak.

Briana Atkinson

Built of Love

If I had a grain of sand
for every time I thought of you,
I would have a beach so grand
that all the sand would reach above you.

If there was a single star
for every time I dreamt of you,
there would be a star lit sky
above that beach I built to love you.

If I could pick a single rose
for every time I said I love you,
there would be a rose made path
along that beach that's there to love you.

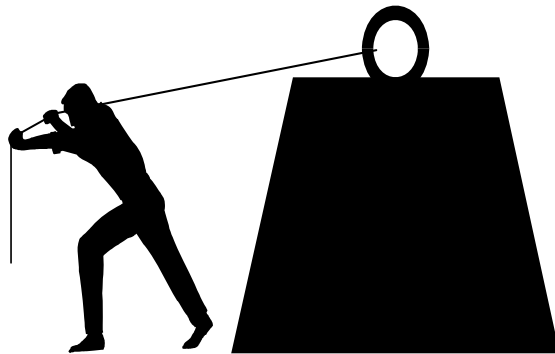
And if I had a single wish
for every time I send a kiss,
then I would not be writing poems
and you would not be reading this.

Anonymous

Time to Change

I'm in Clinton County Jail
That's where you'll send my mail
I'm locked up tight
I'll make this right
I won't just fail I'm ready to fight
Fight in the war
Explore Iraq on tour
It's my only cure
Of this I'm sure.

Derick Coolidge



The Love No One Wished You To Have

The love no one wished to have, was the love
everyone shared.
The little girl, the little boy,
The little quiet animal locked in the cage
in the corner.
SCREAMING. YELLING. CRYING. SOBBING.
Peace

The love no one wished to have, was the love everyone shared.
Toy chest, book, jelly doughnut,
The inner content that everyone wanted to enjoy.
SATISFACTION, Sweet SATISFACTION
Pain

The love no one wished to have,
was the love everyone shared.
The little boys, the little girls, people everywhere.
The freedom, the feeling of being free,
no restrictions, no rules
NO chains holding you or me

No one wants anyone free but everyone is free
Us
them
you
me
The love of freedom is a love we all share. Unwillingly

My Kids Are My Life

My kids are my life and my joy.
I cared about them more than me
And I gave them up for a better life
than I could give them.
I hope that one day
They will understand why.
My daughter lives in Virginia and my son lives
Here in Plattsburgh, New York.
It's hard for me to not be around them.
I miss them very much.
They act just like me and very little like their dad.
My kids are a part of me
All of what they do as they grow.
My kids will one day find me
And I hope they will understand why.

Janie Abernathy

***Tell Me Something,
What Would You Do?***

Tell me something, what you would do
If this life I live was passed down to you?

Would you care for your family?

Could you care for yourself?

Would you take on the pain?

Could you ask for some help?

Could you stand up and take it?

Or would you drop to your knees,

Begging and pleading, hollering please?

Crying out for some help

That no one can offer.

The next time you fall, It seems a lot softer.

A good life to live is all we desire

Another step up, another step higher.

So tell me something, what you would do,

If the name below was signed by you?

Mike Brewer

Easy Way Out!

Life is pain and pain is not tolerable
This life we live is always impossible.
The things we expect
The feelings suppressed
I watch the world pass, as my life seems to stay.
The easy way out
Is a hard way to go.
The one way I live is the one way I know,
So I ask for some guidance and someone to show
That life has a meaning
With people who care.
But my family has forsaken
Because of the sins I partaken.
So I leave them with this
A last hug and kiss
This is a pain I sure will not miss.
I chose the hard way because it's easier than this!

Mike Brewer

Jail

Flow like liquid on the paper
But locked in a cage like a bird
The only way to know you have feelings
Is in the written word
Live for one more day
Freedom is just around the curve
Come out a lil' older
And much more mature
Learn from your mistakes
Is the magic word
If not coming back
Will be the only thing to reoccur
But good luck and success
Is in your future
If you learn how to
Reverse history's curse

Cleveland Mayhem

Too Late

My life as I know it slowly disappears
In a crystal ball lays my pain and my fears.
I drop to my knees what more can I say
I plan for the end, so it all goes away
I cut my flesh, releasing all of my fears.

I cry out for help, but I know no one cares
It seems like my life was lost in a glare.
What used to be visible you now have to stare
If you take just a glance it's not even there.

So blame it on me and not on yourself
A reminder of me remains on a shelf
My picture and poems say more than my mouth
You just wouldn't listen when I spoke with my mouth!

Mike Brewer

I Can't Believe You're Gone

I can't believe you're gone
The wind just blew you away
I'm sorry that this happened
I wish you could stay
Why did you leave
We didn't want you to go
You're in our hearts now
We miss you so

Anthony Parrott



What is Love

Why is love always the topic?

Is that the only thing that comes to mind?

Or is that what's in your heart?

A lot of people misunderstand it

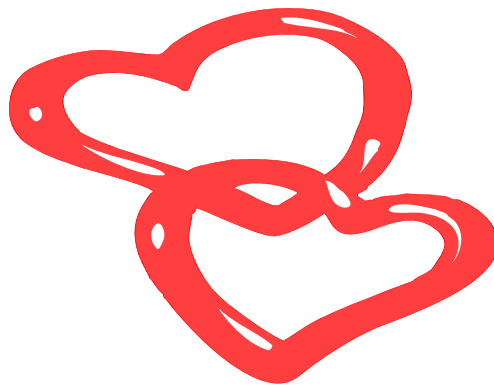
Think of love all mushy and nasty, sensitive and girly

But let me set the record straight

Love is the toughest feeling you can have

Because it's not easy to swallow your pride.

Madame NYC



I'm an Addict

My name is Sapphire and I'm an addict.

My life used to be so dramatic.

I used to smoke dope,

Thinking it was my only way to cope.

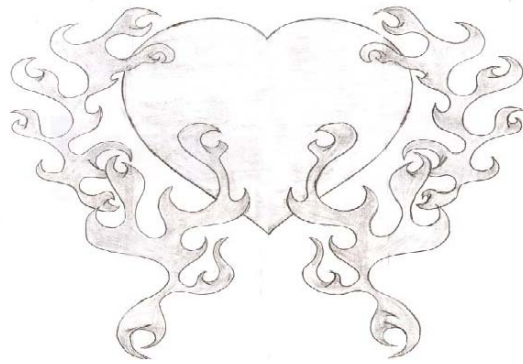
Now I'm sitting in jail,

Without bail.

Sapphire Staley



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