



Does anyone even read poetry anymore?

Your Sugar Sits Untouched

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teatime poems

by

Emilie Autumn

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Goodbye

And so I've said too much and not enough And so the play is finally at an end You never had the care to call my bluff And so I must be pleased to be your friend But what then was the purpose of this game? I never really had a chance to win It's true, I rather like who I became But what am I to do with who I've been? For I may wish to meet myself someday Among the ashes of a fire long dead To see my shadow there and hear it say That it was happy with the life it lead What emptiness awaits me? This I fear Far more than any peril I might face My purpose in this world became less clear When you were taken from your cherished place Within my wishing heart and went your way So willingly it almost makes me ill To think it never crossed your mind to stay Pushes the dagger deep, completes the kill And yet how much of this was done by me? Had I the courage would you still have flown? How sad to think this was not destiny But my mistake, yet how could I have known?

Now here is my dilemma, as it seems Do I accept the score that fate has set And calmly watch the passing of my dreams Or do I dare to place another bet That where the curtain falls another rises If I am wrong then strike me for my sins But I believe our acts and thin disguises Were but a prologue to what now begins...



The Day You Love

Remember and tell me, the day you love Behind a veil of tears How dreams as these you dreamt not of And thought to pass your years More peaceably than others do Devoid of common pain Your own company pleased you And as you heard complain Of those small hurts that never heal And scar their victims deep You oft' proclaimed your heart could feel No love and sought to keep Your perfect brow untarnished by The sorrow you would save Your perfect lips unvarnished lie To kiss might thee enslave Protected are thy limbs. No fear Of deeds unseemly grasp thee Directed by thy perfect ear No words could hope to clasp thee Indeed thou will not be enshrined Will honor no man's name But in disdain you are, you'll find Enshrined all the same

In your defense, you say not so When standeth thee accused Of hatred for mankind, but O How hast thou been abused That such a mortal fear could frighten All your nature wills So much so that what might enlighten Passion, pity kills And cannot bear to look upon A soul you have enraptured With cruel haste you bid begone The fools you have encaptured Mistake me not. It is unjust For every lovestruck squire To claim a heart he hasn't won But what of your desire? Can'st thou pretend within thy breast A beat was ne'er misplaced And lost somewhere? Dost thou but jest To say thou never traced With trembling fingertips the image Of a foreign shore Embarking on a pilgrimage To where none touched before?

The most deluded eyes could see Thou harbor'st in thy frame A store more rich than most should be In every sense's flame That thou dost feel I know it well That thou dost feel I know it well That thou dost love I'll live to tell If thou would only dare Remember and tell me, the day You love beyond all this What truth within my counsel lay And thank me with a kiss.



At What Point Does A Shakespeare Say

At what point does a Shakespeare say I feel its time I write a play What subject shall it be today A tragedy I've done

Lovers twain have been united Audiences are delighted No doubt I shall soon be knighted Royal fame I've won

The Queen has come to every show And, flattering, she feigns to know A couplet from a verse, also A refrain from a rhyme

But the ones I aim to pleaseth Most of all upon my kneeseth Are the folk who cough and sneezeth Through my prose sublime



Blackbird Sonnets

Sonnet I

How shall I fly when feathers be not mine Though all my wishes skyward do attend? How tie my wounded heartstrings safe to thine So thou to me, like sun to moon, descend? Or if thou wilt not bend thy starry frame, Wishing to keep thy brow o'ercrowned with mist, I'll rise so that thy place shall stay the same But will not then depart from heights unkiss'd. For bargains may be struck and kept with pride When lovers from their just demands ne'er hide.

Sonnet II

My lover's eyes are darker than the moon Or are they brighter? I cannot decide. His tender voice makes other's out of tune And shows me how I cannot them abide His movements are of more than feline grace His hands are soft and pale as ivory And though I've rarely seen a stranger face, More perfect looks I should abhor to see For others may be pleasanter in part But all my love remains a work of art.

Sonnet III

How is it that I smile when I am sad? From what resource do I derive this strength? I've lost none but a thing I never had To keep it would I go to any length But distance is not measured in a heart So I could weep and say that I've been wronged And yet, as ever, be so far apart From him to whom I swore that I belonged Alas, I blame as though he were untrue

I loved him but, poor fool, he never knew.

Sonnet IV

If all you love I am, as I am quite,

Then why dost thou not love? Dost thou not see A plainly perfect match? If thou art bright,

Then why, when thou dost love, love'st thou not me? Instead preferring someone far removed

From all you claim to most admire? I would Commit you as a lunatic if proved

Thus mad you were my ward for your own good. And yet I'm making light of my own pain Because I finally love, yet love in vain.



Constant

You appeared to me Like rain after a dry spell Like growth after a hard year Like life after death And it had been so long Yet my eye could discern Less beauty in its object Than my memory maintained So I whispered to myself "All is but illusion You did well to love him It gave you songs to write And kept you safe" And with a sigh of relief I let you go But you would not go For you came to me In the air about you And you walked with me From the other side of town And you touched me With your hands behind your back So I whispered to myself "All is but illusion You were wise to look closer You have lost nothing Only exchanged a face for a soul Whatever happens now You have been Constant And let no one say You never loved".



Ghost

Did you know sometimes it frightens me when you say my name and I can't see you will you ever learn to materialize before you speak impetuous boy, if that's what you really are how many centuries since you've climbed a balcony or do you do this every night with someone else you tell me that you never leave and I am almost afraid to believe it why is it me you've chosen to follow did you like the way I look when I am sleeping was my hair more fun to tangle are my dreams more entertaining do you laugh when I'm complaining that I'm all alone where were you when I searched the sea for a friend to talk to me in a year where will you be is it enough for you to steal into my mind filling up my page with music written in my hand you know I'll take the credit for I must have made you come to me somehow but please try to close the curtains when you leave at night or I'll have to find someone to stay and warm me will you always attend my midnight tea parties as long as I set your place

if one day your sugar sits untouched will you have gone forever would you miss me in a thousand years when you will dry another's tears but you say you'll never leave me and I wonder if you'll have the decency to pass through my wall to the next room while I dress for dinner but when I'm stuck in conversation with stuffed shirts whose adoration hurts my ears, where are you then can't you cut in when I dance with other men it's too late not to interfere with my life you've already made me a most unsuitable wife for any man who wants to be the first his bride has slept with and you can't just fly into people's bedrooms then expect them to calmly wave goodbye you've changed the course of history and didn't even try where are you now standing behind me taking my hand come and remind me who you are

have you traveled far are you made of stardust too are the angels after you tell me what I am to do but until then I'll save your side of the bed just come and sing me to sleep





How to break a heart It is not difficult Anyone can do it So could you, if you tried Just find a light And switch it off As easy as blinking That's what I was taught When I was too young to ask By ladies in white nightgowns In dripping weeds and black ribbons A girl's best friend is a small handgun The question was useless For I could say yes But you've got to ask my army And they are not inclined to grant favours just now



Rant 1

soulless mindless walking sex-drives hearing nothing but their own words reverberating inside their heads so loud they think they fill up the world with their wisdom imaginationless prating slaves corrupt with idleness looking for a quick laugh arrogant feebleminded wankers thinking they're profound and attractively opinionated brilliance skimmed from the back of a book no longer in print two-faced whoring lying expletives shaming their profession self-impressed non-entities taking up space using up air fucking up dreams beautyless soulless mindless walking sex-drives



In Praise Of Cyrano

He had a fault, this is most true But others have faults greater still A noble profile was his rue But many have done greater ill And yet he would not show His love, nor let her know That she was dear Though he was near He dared not tell her so.

Now why was he the only man To see himself not worth his prize? About myself they plot and plan How to find favour in my eyes But never do they guess That I might think them less Than one who chose Due to his nose To love but not confess.



So Many Fools

Is there no such thing as friendship? Is it possible to not slip Past the point of genial with a

Quip implying something more? This is what the young girl wonders As her heartbeat races, thunders, Trying to drown out the grotesque Blunders of a man at war With the fact that he could be Her father twice over and she, A lady of sound mind and body, Was not meant for fools as he.

Must a man be so unthinking? When he sees his ship is sinking Will he always try to grasp the

Wing of one who still can fly? This is what the young girl ponders As she does her vision wanders Trying not to notice how much

Fonder looks the old man's eye Down upon her form and face Believing she might like the chase But knowing still that he has no place As he shows his true disgrace. Will my life be like this ever?
Must I laugh and call them clever
Or else fight and scratch and claw in Fury at so many fools?
This is what the young girl muses
As she battles shame and loses
Leaving nothing but so many Bruises made by unseen tools
Wielded by a strengthless hand
Which could not hope to understand
How quickly it kills, though unplanned,
Turning spirit into sand.



The Ballad of Mushroom Down

There was a land I once heard tell 'Twas christened Mushroom Down The folk who lived there loved it well And never left their town

They stayed there from the hour of birth Until the day they died They never cared for any earth Except their Mushroom pride

They made their homes beneath the caps Of fungi wide and tall And when time came for tea perhaps A neighbor came to call

And while they sat in shade serene And offered cream and cakes They talked of things they'd never seen Beyond the Mushroom lakes

They did not wish to journey there They were contented so But past the mossy banks somewhere Lie what they did not know More curious they grew by day And still more so by night They wondered if there were away To take a Mushroom flight

Tormented by this new desire More restless they became And many began to conspire On blueprints for a frame

A brilliant flying vehicle Of mushroom caps and string One gent proved astronautical And built the very thing

And so the day arrived at last On which the plane should board The celebration went far past What they could best afford

But they were folks of merry ways And when the kegs were drained In unison arose their gaze And on the stroke --- it rained Now in the hist'ry of the town No soul had ever seen A flood the likes of which poured down Upon the Mushroom Green

A gathering was held betwixt The elders late that night And even *their* votes were unmixed: "We must postpone the flight!"

The disappointment through the land Was more than some could bear For their own world, once thought so grand, They did no longer care

To say the least it was a shame To see the people act As though they'd lost their hope, their flame When their poor plans were sacked

But still the rain continued on For more than fifty days Their mushroom store was almost gone They dreamt of sunshine rays And that's when they began to cease Their thoughts of other towns If only this storm would decrease They'd cherish Mushroom Downs

That night was spent in blackness deep No star was seen to shine But when the morning broke their sleep They saw a sight divine

The rain was nowhere to be found The sky was fresh and clear Hurrahs of joy for miles around Were all that one could hear

And what is more, the earth had sprung New mushrooms overnight And many hymns of praise were sung And no one spoke of flight

And so at last the ballad ends With happiness sublime And so the story goes, my friends That is, until next time...



The One

Who danced with me before now Who joined me at the ship's bow Who held my frightened form still And now you say that you will But in the years behind me Who ever cared to find me Who stayed me when the tears ran And now you say that you can Forgive my sad suspicion But hear my admonition None yet have hoped for rescue And now you say that you do Oh how I've wished past caring That one might be so daring And sail me to the next star I almost think you are



Space

We look to the sky Diamonds swimming in squid's ink Tilting back our heads Until we cannot close our mouths We try to count but lose our place And shiver Not because it is cold But because we are afraid of falling



Alas (the knight)

Alas, my love, if I could make you live And from the page step forth and sit beside me Or better still, bestride the steed I gave you Wrapped close within the cloak I lent to hide thee Perhaps I'd venture forth to ask thy name Since while thou liest underneath my pen That honour given which the poorest claim Unjustly was withheld. But if again I held thee captive as I did ere now Stalling to pass my fingers through the last Of midnight tendrils, or peruse thy brow In fear of sending off what heaven cast Too early for my insufficient mind To grasp the fullest detail and retain The presence that your image left behind That thou in all thy glory should remain I fear my oversight I would not mend For now upon reflection I confess That secretly I never did intend With title long or surname rich to bless But rather let in my imagination Run wild the thoughts of who perhaps you were Before your soul demanded your creation And deigned my mind and willing heart to stir
For such a noble and impassioned face

Could well be but newborn unto this sphere But sure among a distant beauteous race

Thou hast known more than all who dwelleth here And could tell much of places thou hast seen

And battles fought for honours won and lost And how each service done a faerie Queen

Becomes a brighter jewel than it cost The ladies of your world, you may impart

Desire to be neither over-graced Nor underrepresented in the art

Of living, where their lips were meant to taste A sort of feline stealth they wear about them

And while a flame of innocence they hold In forests dark you fear to be without them

For knights of maler kinds are ne'er so bold Yes, in thy orb a maid may be a knight

(Thou knew'st a friend would make upon this news) Without a whisper loud or censure slight

For lords are not afeared their stock to lose Where no stock may be taken or be kept

No property be granted, nor no bride No maiden may be stolen while she slept Nor robbed of her freedom to decide What suits her best. No county's law is needed To cut the weed of violence from the stem No danger for the law to go unheeded

For acts as these do not occur to them The gentlemen you raise are rarer still

For in their eyes, as in the depths of thine, Such soft and thrilling mysteries fulfill

The darkest corners of their heart's design Their arrows, much like those I gave to thee

Could not but graze the flank of yonder cow Without making him laugh. 'Tis much to see

Them tickling their prey. I know not how They ever do encapture what they eat

Save that perhaps their bright unfettered brains Have learned that what grows underneath their feet

And in the trees above better sustains A life intent on living well tomorrow.

But how, I ask thee, most endearing fiend Do lords and ladies love where is no sorrow

No strife to overcome, no soul uncleaned Of crushing ardor long worn out its stay, Betrothal to a mortal less divine Than that who stole thy blushing breath away, No hot forbidden kisses for to pine, No heart affixed to age where heart is young,

No ill intentioned suitors to evade? "Still madam! Would'st thou kindly hold thy tongue" Thou sayest. "Your mistake has rash been made

In living long in combat with your kind

Thou see'st no other obstacle but these Thy hands are careworn that have yet to find

The hands that first should hold them. Yet to please The hierarchy which you serve unwitting

Thou dost believe that love in fighting grows That happiness in love is not befitting

But in thy sadness thou mak'st light of woes For even were there ne'er a cloudy day

No tempest to divide what love had bound The galley which the moon holds in her sway

Could not but stir the peace it finally found The wound is deeper than the sea about thee

The stars upon my doublet you have drawn May light my homeward path, but how, without me

Wilt thou escape the fate thou tremblest on?" And in this way and more my paper spoke

O, fierce, savage, gentle beauty bright Thou who I've given breath my soul has broke You had authority but not the right Could I but see the lips that dare not breathe

They are so beautiful and pressing sweet Could I but touch the wings that underneath

Are made so soft thy heart forgets to beat Perhaps I should have more for which to strive

You came to my domain and brought despair For though I be the chastest heart alive

The realm you speak of will not take me there Have you no pity? Can'st thou not perceive

That I, a blinded beast, had but the eyes To see where I would love? Dost thou believe

That ere you came I was but vain disguise? I know the murmur of music reveals

The things no human heart could comprehend I render'st thou for all that torment feels

And longed to be thy lordship's faithful friend Yea, quiet as a mushroom did I wait

I willed to thee my form to overtake I shivered at each passing horse's gait

And so I slept to suddenly awake Alas, my love, wilt thou kiss me goodbye

The lingering night will aid thee on thy travels I'll craft but one thing more, a crow to fly Before to tell me how thy tale unravels I say, thou art complete and free to go

What holds thee here save one who lives no longer For I have given thee the life you know

The weaker I become thou art the stronger And in your antique words your clear intent

Was that once thou art gone I should dismay. Quothe thee, "Your thought mistook me for I meant

To leave thee not but offerest to stay For true I never did in my own realm

Partake of that pure love of which I told thee But be my guide and with me at the helm

And I shall in the cloak you wrought enfold thee And journey to the ends of all the earth

For thou hast proved more generous and wise Than all we faeries, moons and stars are worth

For live we not but living in your eyes." Dear nameless knight, if thou would'st be mine own

And leave thy dragons for a while thou may'st Find in these arms within which thou hast grown

A better reason than the which thou say'st But with your hand you pointeth; swear I so

And 'tis not plain to me, though I did draw it Which way thou dost intend for us to go Sure in the mind it is of she who saw it Yet still perhaps I made thee to discover

What one would do if one were asked to choose 'Tween back and forwards. Be thee friend or lover Perhaps you were to be my favorite muse Thou feel'st thy armor; fight but when you must Thou see'st the blade of truth below thy knee Use arrows against all whom you mistrust But when thou ride'st my way aim one at me Your world is yours as ere it was before Your time beneath my busy hand well spent I've made a thing I love; I ask no more And never shall redeem the heart I lent Me in my world and thyself in thine Two petals on the same and silent flower And evermore I'll welcome thee in mine Your dear creation was my finest hour





Precious thing I long for nothing more Than to be your friend But I am not good As you are For I think Where I should feel And I am not innocent As you would think For I try To turn your head And I never stop And I see you happy And I wish you well But in my wish Is my invitation To a different dream And I wonder If I care for you at all Not to leave you alone Where you are Content And I long for nothing more Than to be your friend

But if you accept my gift You will ruin it And I will not give you What I promised Because I can't But I will always Offer And I will always Deny it Because I have a most convenient Guise Of friendship Should you slip I should slay you Like all the others And still I rain And say walk my way Because I adore Where I have no right But I ask you to become Worse than you are And neglect to mention That I adore the part of you That does not love me

For I long for nothing more Than to be your friend Yet I long for everything Friends will never be I think I may be Cruel But if I harm none I am only Evil And it hurts not to know if I am Terrible Or only

In love



A Plea To The Dying

So that's it then all there is you've moved on without me you do not suffer as I do it is so clear what can I do and yet I will reach you somehow with my mind all I have I will invade your dreams I will not ask if it is right I do not care you must see me time is running out no I cannot touch you but I will reach beyond dimension beyond realm beyond memory to touch you in some small way and tell

you beg you to stop

stop

and think what you are doing is it what you want is it what you think you are supposed to want is it the only comfort you have ever known and you feel safe well you are right to want this and I am wrong to want to stop you but you need not make this move what who says you must if you love if she loves why ask the world to take notice just let it be and go on loving out of choice not duty am I so blind what do I not see when I look at her that you do why do you not know that everything you ever wished for everything you were afraid to say out loud everything you hate and desire and will never understand lies in one who would never be brave enough to tell you can you but open your eyes for one single shining moment and see yourself in the light that I do can you not see that you are the answer to all my fears I could feel safe with you and yes I have my daggers and scars

and everything that would keep you back but if you make this move you close a door you can never reopen and I will not pass through it anymore and I can tell you that a life lived in waiting for what never comes is far better than a life content in the knowledge of what is certain never to be

can you not wait

can you not be brave and see beyond this moment beyond this sense of comfort you feel see your life open before you trusting in things to come believing they will be worth the wait and thrilling in the thought that you have no idea what the next dream will bring you now I am here with you see my eyes as you have so many times before see the way I look at you see what you always felt but never dared to show believe in your power to get the thing you dream of even when it is the very thing you fear the thing no other man can hope to attain look into your heart and see written there the name of her you love who is it that fascinates you who is it that knows you better than you yourself who is it that will be waiting when it all ends at the end of the path

with a smirk and a sarcastic comment and a kiss on the neck don't leave me



Close

I had you so close And you didn't even know I cherished every turn of your voice And thrilled when you laughed And died at each offered word Which meant you didn't long to leave And I tried not to seem Too happy You seem at home In my darkness And I love you Because I know it isn't easy And you are so kind Because you make me feel Worthy of pinching



Dreams

I saw you No one else

When I closed my eyes

You saw me

Only me

In my dreams



Everybody's Girl

Before a thousand grasping hands In a glaring light she stands Trying hard to meet demands Everybody's girl

Defenseless more and more each time Desecration is their crime Vandalizing every rhyme Everybody's pet

Becoming someone else outside Hoping to protect and hide What they smile at, then deride Everybody's fool

Awaiting still some unknown sign When she'll use her chance to shine How should she her life define? "No one's woman yet."



Empty

This empty space cannot be filled Your kind words bleed right through me And I could cry but I'd only lose my tears Just another form of release Release what – I'm empty You could pass your hand right through my body And touch the wall behind me But who, for all my emptiness, Who would have the strength to lift me up? My faith in mortal man is badly bruised The gods have proven to be deaf Or else they have a perverse sense of humor Apparently these are European gods For there is nothing funnier than a fat man in a tutu.



Homesick Sonnets

Sonnet I

In times of warmth when love and comfort dear Have cast their blindless light upon my star, How is it that I wish to disappear And find myself again back where you are? Is it that home is only home with you? And how then did you earn your house that name When judged by years it's relatively new? My home is not my home here just the same. And so I will be happy as I must Although without you sugar tastes as dust.

Sonnet II

What sweetened torture I endure each day When hour after hour passes by And still I feel so very far away From that which I desire - yes, thee and I Yet rosey is my sadness, for ere now, I never had pined after someone's touch Nor eyes, nor lips, nor hands, nor raven brow And here I am missing almost too much. My paradox is that I weep at this While being glad I have a love to miss.

Sonnet III

Heartsick I have been this long, long day Heavy is my disposition, yet I smile and try my best to hide away The pain, the life, the love I can't forget Sorry am I for the ones I fool They ask for nothing save my company And yet I cannot seem to break the rule That sayeth once I love twice bound I'll be Alas, I often slip and to them show

That far away my heart desires to go.

Sonnet IV

It seems only a moment past I listened to the dulcet tone Of thy too far off voice at last But now I find myself alone Yet, my eyes closed, I am not so For underneath my fingertips I feel your flesh, caressing slow, And hold thy tongue between my lips Past caring how forlorn it seems I'll sleep to meet you in my dreams.

${\tt Sonnet} \ V$

A cold wind ravages my mind As though I were a blade of grass Which, rained upon, has been made blind And waits now for the storm to pass But, strange, the closer cometh I To travel's end and your embrace The darker seems to go the sky The further off seemeth your face 'Tis trying, when in pain, to rhyme 'Tis harder still to measure Time.



Rant 2

What is feeling if it can be smashed so easily? Have I built up anything in the course of a happy day that cannot be torn down by tomorrow's inevitable sorrows? Am I so fragile that a word from the outside of the transparent orb that encloses my physical self, being said, pricks the invisible dome and leaves me utterly defenseless against the onslaught of everyday realities? And what is to be said for rebuilding that shell? Will it provide me anything more than a few short hours of divine oblivion? Ah, but what can be accomplished in a few short hours? Many great things and these things, if carefully constructed, may perhaps furnish a sort of hospital waiting room wherein, when I am next divested of my orb, I might pass the time in slightly more comfortable surroundings than had I been rushed directly to the operating table.



Little Boy

Little boy why did you have to chase me so hard didn't your mother show you what to do didn't your father tell you not to push Little boy we could have been great friends but you frightened me to death you see you made a rabbit out of me and now we can't go back to being anything perhaps I ought to thank you for you took my innocence away and made me cruel how did you know I'd need that later on you taught me to hide and you taught me to lie and to tremble at the telephone to scream but never cry surely you were wise beyond your years for you planted in me unknown fears that since I've met time and again I wish I could have known it then I might have been grateful for the experience rather than for the darkness so useful to the hunted deer who doesn't know the way

but really I would not have known into how many arms a girl will let herself be thrown just to escape the one who wants her most better to dance with ten who won't remember her name than to be asked by one who can't forget it Little boy you made me feel guilt that day which never fully went away you told the world you hated me and that's when I began to see how much it must have hurt to have dressed up in your first clean shirt and hope like hell she'd understand the things you felt, and take your hand but damn you little boy I never had a chance you couldn't see I wasn't ready for what you monsters call romance Little boy you never looked at me the same as though you didn't know my name and in the end you made me hate myself for hurting you but no one ever stopped to tell me what I ought to do

Little boy

maybe someday you'll walk my way and listen to the song I play and if you're still fond of passing notes perhaps we'll shed our children's coats and talk an hour or two of what's become of us and why that finally we might say hello, forgive, and say goodbye.



Smirking Girl

If you turn the pages of the past you'll often find a story without an ending no 'Amen' to say it's over all you have is a name you would rather forget but it isn't over yet not when you've built your castle out of barricades to guard against the fools you beat so long ago long before you even knew they were fools but even longer since you saw a god in anyone and for such an independent soul you sure wanted to believe in someone else can you blame them that you hate them smirking girl, you ask too much who said anyone would show you the way who said anyone would care what you'll do someday You're all alone here you can't buy what isn't there You're all alone here you can't change what isn't fair how obstinate you are you can't forgive them all they did was make you cry on every day that passed you by how wise they were to know you didn't like them how foolish they should have to ask you why

Gry Mby Best

I'm gonna try my best to love him Don't know why I want him so Yeah I'll try and keep him by my side I won't ever let him go Oh I've learned too much in my poor life To laugh at humor I can't see It's sad I know that I can't show My love, but I won't set him free So I'm gonna try my best to love him Even if it takes all night long Even if this feeling hurts me I've heard pain can make you strong And I know that I'm not his girl Really never thought I'd care But to see him in your arms That's the one thing I can't bear If you said I had no heart Well I hardly think I'd cry 'Cause there ain't one thing you know 'bout me That I'd bother to deny And it's not that I don't find him sweet I know too well his voice, his touch His eyes, and often underneath I wonder that I try this much

Still it would be a shameful lie To say I love this boy, this man But I am fond and he is fine So in the end perhaps I can I agree this child deserves A better friend and lover too But I'm gonna try my best to love him Just to keep him far from you



Nearer Than You

How can a woman tell when love is gone From love that merely sleeps but deep inside Has still the root the stem and flower grow on And so dreams not to die but sleeps to hide

Perhaps when the clouds drifting by make more noise Than amorous whispers you aimlessly breathe And croakings of paddocks speak with greater poise Than lilypad speeches with nothing beneath And so I'll confess what I know to be true That bullfrogs have more eloquence than do you

When days are longer than they used to be And nights are maddening eternity With only forced sighs to interrupt The same repose your lips would once corrupt

I'll steal me away so your soul shall not wake Though more than my absence to rouse it would take Across from the meadow and down to the pond To sink myself up to the waist then beyond For water knows better in love what to do And plays with its prey with more passion than you In dreaming one may oft' release his grasp On what to conscious minds is naught but clear That once the time of questioning is near Chance there is none to hide the fatal asp

Who follows me silently onto the shore Where I learn to cherish my new solitude And feel with precision what ere had been rude Yes I shall return to thy bed nevermore Born was I with one heart I ask not for two When rushes and lilies press nearer than you



The Muse

Your eyes are raised to heaven When I'm sitting on the floor At your feet. What am I for?

Do I create or just translate Between you and your mind The art you'll never find

And when your pen runs out of ink You'll close the book and with me Leave behind your memory

Are you brilliant? Are you blind? Would you have nothing more to say If I ever flew away

In the end is it you is it me Do I have anything? What am I for? But when I walk out that door

Your prayers are plenty when you have An empty page before you And still I may adore you For you take dictation better Than most poets true compose Your lines far surpass those

You pray for what you know will come Your confidence is flattering But still it's quite another thing

Compelled to inspire when to dream Is all you really understand The letters from your hand

Will never quite belong to you And even then I only pray That when I leave you'll softly say

Goodbye



The Music & Heard Once

The music I heard once Was louder than it is now I can no longer distinguish Pained cries from shouts of joy Perhaps my ears are deaf Or the interference too great Still the order I remember Has given way to discord And while running wild was exciting It was so only for a moment Fleeting as a note Leaving an even more transparent impression The music I recall Was different than it is now For the new makes the old seem older than it is To think from that We grew into a new age Suggests that ages past Were not enough for adventuring souls For stars too bright to be concealed In a dark but beauteous night

We will paste upon the curled pages words Like charming and romantic and sentimental Forgetting that charming is witchcraft Romantic is love And sentiment is what makes us human



If Gou Could Only Know

If you could only know The hurt I feel each time I think of you, you might Begin to understand What makes a faerie cry You couldn't quite believe The reasons I would give If you asked to be told The nature of my tears And so I told you why If you could only know How many times each day I picture in my mind The look upon your face When you begin to laugh Or how your eyes look sad The softness of your hair The beauty of your soul And whatever I am You are the other half

I cannot comprehend How I could recognize The one I've waited for The instant that we met And have known since that day While you are truly fond And care I do believe But would not take the chance That alters suns and moons And gave your heart away If you could only know How precious you've become How all that I create You still inspire so You may begin to see That I might be the one For whom you were brought back But if you never know The chance will pass us by And love will never be



Funny How Things Change

Never wanted anyone Now somebody's here Never missed his kisses Now I need him near Never felt this happy Never felt this strange Funny how things change Funny how things change

Lived my life in starlight Never saw the sun Thought that I was heartless Now my heart's been won Thought that I was happy Thought that love was strange Funny how things change Funny how things change

Walked into the fire Smiled at the pain Then when I had healed myself I ran out in the rain Thought that I was crazy Thought that I was strange Now I know I'm normal Funny how things change Now I know I'm human Funny how things change



I Didn't Mean Hou

I've spent my whole life Telling everyone to leave me alone Don't touch Don't look too close But I didn't mean you And now you're gone Because you saw the forbidden sign Above my head And you didn't know I didn't mean you You went to an open door Instead of knocking harder at mine I would have let you in But you didn't know That I didn't mean you You didn't see that I cleared the path And left the walkway free For I told myself That I'll only be tread on by you But now I look with love upon someone And no one else matters but him But still you fool you think I didn't mean you


If I had a mystery I'd spoil the surprise Giving it away to you To see it through your eyes If I had a song to sing I'd name it after you So that each time it was heard Everybody knew That no one mattered anymore And no one ever would That I would stop the spinning earth If only music could And if I had a purer heart I think that I could be Something that you'll someday need If only that were me For if I look inside myself At what I hide away I find my heart will never be The reason that you stay



lisinns

Bits of conversation fill my head Tangling with words we haven't said Glimpses of a movement you once made Knowing I could live but dream instead

Wondering if you saw the part I played Whether I'm the reason that you stayed Only half believing it could be Well aware I want what I forbade

Questioning my own reality Doubting in my mind the things I see Altering perception fast as light Do you know for years you've haunted me?

Speaking words you never could recite Giving bliss as if to test my flight

All is but illusion, this I know Yet more felt than objects in my sight

The world may see my skin but just below Simmers what I think but never show

Lifetimes lived with you but more than this, Guessing where in your sweet dreams you go Do you drown in memory's abyss? Is there music in a voice you miss?

When you close your eyes do you relive Each averted glance, aborted kiss?

Do you harbor what you should forgive? Search for signs in every narrative? Or repel all company save one, Who is not cure but palliative?

While it's possible these things you've done, All too likely I'm the only one And upon this thought my vision fled So I end back where I had begun

Nothing but the present fills your head Forgetting more than half the things I've said Shadows of a sacrifice you made Knowing you could dream but live instead.



By The Sword

'Days of Old' I tell my restless mind Searching mountains, fields, and meadows green What is it my heart can hope to find All I long for I have never seen Tales of glory written in the dust Tapestries of deepest purple gold Legends carved in stone tell me I must Journey through the mist and bitter cold Seeking in the corners of the earth My companions I have never known Blindly running forth – Is honor worth Endless hours of silence spent alone? But in this brotherhood I still believe And for the time we've lost my soul will grieve Yet through the world I wander for somewhere I'll find my brothers - By the sword I swear

In my memory awakening

Like a dream too sweet to cast away Shadows of the past begin to sing Calling to me in their gallant way: Come away with us brother in arms Through the seas of silver, fields of gold Join us as we battle he who harms And fight with valour as in days of old Rescue damsels fine and maidens fair

Free the noble who have done no wrong Though it seems the world may little care

Some are left that to the Round belong For in this brotherhood we still believe And for the time we've lost our souls will grieve

Yet through the world we wander for somewhere We'll find our brothers – By the sword we swear



Didn't

I didn't want the details Of your pathetic life How you wished for a lover And wouldn't mind a wife I didn't want to picture A man so sad and weak I cherished my illusions Until I heard you speak I didn't want to ponder The reasons you confessed Your torrid past relations I never would have guessed That I would seek my refuge For that I'm angry still I didn't want to know you And now I never will



If Gfou Feel Better

If you feel better telling me I'm cruel saying I'm unfeeling I don't mind if it's necessary if it helps you out crying that I'm heartless it's alright well i'm sorry to cause you so much pain but it occurs to me you're acting like a ten year old so glad you're still in touch with your inner child all the same what can you really hope to gain from complaining I could apologize for all the things I've never done but how much fun would that be so no I won't do that but if you feel better telling me I'm cruel saying I'm unfeeling I don't mind

if it's necessary if it helps you out crying that I'm heartless it's alright won't make me sorry 'cause I'm cruel won't hurt my feelings 'cause I don't have any won't break my heart 'cause it's not there to break if you feel better my mistake I don't need to hear you love me when it's clear I'm on your mind all these thoughts you're thinking of me how have I been so unkind but oh I see it's been a losing battle all along so if you feel better go ahead and say I'm wrong



Two Masks

Two masks One a princess one a witch Both ridiculous and painted and blind My eyes Would fill the empty spaces And bring about a total transformation Artifice is the true realism Deceit lives in the flesh And will not show its face to any man But give us a mask And we will tell you the truth I could not choose So I will wear them both The witch next to my skin The princess next to yours Which will you see first?



What Right Have I

What right have I? You are not mine Nor will you ever be

I need not try To read your sign You don't belong to me

I should not care How you behave What difference does it make?

Perhaps someday You will grow brave And from this sleep awake

But when you do It will not then Be caused by what I say

But by one who, Like other men, Holds you within her sway And as I claim No place within The life you choose to live

I'll stay the same As I have been And all your faults forgive

Perhaps I own The privileged place For worry I need not

I may condone, Reprove with grace, And still remain unfraught

With jealousies And petty cares And all that love demands

So as you please I'll save my prayers And better use my hands But why all this? As I have said, It matters not to me

What right have I? You are not mine Nor will you ever be

WÇM SN [>]

Witches and Satanists we have been named Over the years we've been murdered and maimed Mothers and daughters and sisters and wives All have the power - we gave you your lives Nothing can ever reverse what's been done (but we'll try with the birth of each daughter and son)

*One of my first poems, written as a ridiculously serious child...



I Cried For Sou

I cried for you because you said goodnight When you really should have said you'll stay I cried for you because you took your light And left me, though you know I've lost my way I cried for you for though you're thinking of me You hide it, saying you don't know me well I cried for you because I know you love me I cried for you because You'll never tell



Rapunzel Sonnets

Sonnet I

Dreaming from my tower in the air Higher than the trees surrounding close Wondering if men would find me fair, Footsteps down below break my repose The mist about my window hinders me From viewing who would enter in my court But so few visitors I chance to see, Intent I am on making my report And tuning my sweet song towards the earth, I'll change my fate, which left me here since birth.

Sonnet II

Six notes only had I sounded when

The footsteps came nearer my prison wall Trembled I, yet sounded them again

And from what seemed the pit of earth heard call A voice quite different from those I had heard

Though I could count that number on one hand My lips too dry to speak a single word,

I wondered why I had not better planned And tried in vain to step back from the sill For something held my hair and kept me still.

Sonnet III

I tried to scream but sound I could not make My frightened wit had robbed me of my speech I thought of how my tresses I might break, But spied the scissors just beyond my reach Frantically I fumbled through my skirts, Searching for my dagger in the fold The same I used for tearing linen shirts And as I knew not what of me had hold, To sacrifice my braids I raised my knife Too late! I now must kill to save my life.

Sonnet IV

My point directed at the stranger's chin, No time was left for severing his rope But shall I murder him or let him in? I was too stunned at what I saw to hope For some salvation. I knew I was lost Whichever was my choice it mattered not The mist had cleared, my innocence the cost And for one endless moment I was wrought Of human flesh and human cares and fears The fantasy of fables read for years.

Sonnet V

A face it was, yea, had it lips and eyes,

But unlike that which greets me in the glass In its twin orbs I saw no less surprise

And so we stood, two statues made of brass I gazing in his eyes and he in mine

As though we might have read each other's thoughts He smiled slowly as one drunk with wine

When suddenly the forest rang with shots The hunters oft' before had come too near, And so I bid adieu to all my fear.

Sonnet VI

Hardly knowing half of what I did

But well aware the half I knew was mad, I grasped his arms as virtue may forbid

And pulled the creature with what strength I had Into the chamber. To the floor we fell,

Then scrambled I to my poniard retrieve And asked him now, at death's third door to tell

Why cam'st he hence, and bade him not deceive For if he should be false, despite his beauty, Though I be fooled, my dagger knew its duty.

Sonnet VII

His lips then moved but not a sound was heard I saw them as two petals from a rose When finally he was fit to say a word, I was content examining his nose He made some mention of a songbird's tune I was not listening but o'erlooked his brow He claimed he would have climbed up to the moon I wished to give him peace but knew not how He had not thought his rope a maiden's hair Upon my life, I found the creature fair!

Sonnet VIII

The deed explained, he begged of me my name "Rapunzel" I replied. "A man thou art?" "I am" the creature laughed, "The very same How long hast thou been kept from life apart?" I told him how, for one and twenty years, My home had been the walls he saw around me How no amount of pleading, nor no tears

Have gained a visitor until he found me But when I think upon it I recall, For staring, he did not hear me at all.

Sonnet IX

It seemed to me we may as well not speak His eyes had gone as cloudy as the day He asked if he might come again that week And I knew he must soon be gone away He took my hands and pressed them in his own As if by doing so he should stay longer He told me of the world I might have known,

Vowing to return and slay my wronger Then promising no harm, his head he bent And kissed my lips, then out the sill he went.

Sonnet X

Lowering himself as he had come,

Through the mist my creature disappeared, Riding back to all that he was from And all that I could never be I feared And yet what raven locks fell round his face What gentle eyes as gray as seagulls wings A voice so soft my words cannot replace The memory of a thousand lovely things And so I'll dream again of arms more sweet

The dagger I had dropped lies at my feet.



Never Tasted Tears

I've never tasted tears like these before And though they are the saddest I have known Their simple cause is none but one of joy For now it seems I may not be alone Upon this earth as I have been 'til now A truly unexpected twist of fate For I had given up on everyone Especially myself, and thought it late Too late for any soul to cast a line His hook would hit the ice and snap in two But someone blew a kiss and with his breath Unfroze what ne'er a roaring fire could do An angel now is mine and from the start I knew that I was bound to let him in But while I smile I weep because I know That something ends so that this can begin God, what a fool am I, or am I wise? For years have I kept hidden in my heart The name of one who never had been more But whom I wrote about and set apart From other men, though never did I tell My feelings, nay, but used him as a muse An inspiration, something to adore But rarely did I think on what I'd lose

If ever my affections were replaced

By someone living, breathing, warm and real For while I pledged my life to him in song

The same for me I knew he did not feel If I could tell the truth, I'd say I planned

To go on in this fashion for all time I didn't care he couldn't care for me

As long as I could own him in each rhyme And have someone to think about each night

When torment after torment wracked my soul To writhe in sorrow, bathe in pain's delight

To fill my pages was my only goal Until the day I dared to call it love

For this love was the only I had known And somehow I could keep the rest away

For in my mind I never was alone And being thus in love, though with a specter, I never did expect, nor wish, nor care

To take another in that holy place

Though in my mind I knew no one was there Yay, in my mind, but not so in my soul

I loved, I swear I loved, else why this pain When of my will I opened up the door

And swept the space where I swore he'd remain

And something dies within me as I sweep As something new is born in every tear Past years of memories I long to keep

A future that I both long for and fear There really was no question when it came

This shooting star, both fire and gentleness Who never gave me time to make my choice

But made my will his own with each caress For once and only once I did not think

Where I should feel and for that I was proud But it was one thing to enact the part

And something else to say the word aloud For once I had, I felt a shadow fade

Which over me had hung for all these years And no true loss in all the world could match

The sense of someone passing with my tears I hadn't known 'til then how lost I was

Enveloped in this mist of my design So much of me my muse had thus become

That in my eyes no star was seen to shine Unless it bore some of my phantom's light

Or carried strains of music in the beams Until my soul was open to the view

No man could enter, except in my dreams

It's over now and I am not afraid

I know full well what I am meant to do But late at night when I recall my muse

I cry for us as though he ever knew That I had waited years to hear my name

Once spoken as it should have always been I'd wait there still but someone real appeared

And stole the heart no man could hope to win If to my muse I'd ever said hello

It might not hurt this much to say goodbye But there is something tragic in this scene

Which may appear as joyous to the eye Of anyone who witnesses myself

Bound in the arms and lips of my new friend Completed in a way I've never been

And healing wounds I thought would never mend The truth that shattered my reality

The soul I dreamed but never thought I'd meet And now I don't look back except in dreams

Yet when I do the pain is always sweet For only pain can show me who I was

And from that girl to me how much I've grown I've never tasted tears like these before

And yes, they are the saddest I have known



Aump The Track

In this light the dust is visible Glowing golden atmosphere Even the air I breathe is full of memories Shades of others bathe my skin And since I am alone I wonder Who on earth would ever know If I slipped into the other side Without making a sound Without blinking an eye Without slowing down at all I could jump the track Still the wheels are turning Landscapes echo in my mind Flying past my windows How could anyone fear this place And since I am alone I wonder Who on earth would ever guess If I crossed this fragile strand that binds Without making a noise Without skipping a beat Without slowing down at all I could jump the track And what were specters now have faces Casting light in darkened places

Those that I have loved are with me Never gone but ever drifting Through the threads of my existence Courses running side by side Paths entwining realigning Meeting past the great divide In the realm where phantoms hide Sanctified Occupied And since I am alone I wonder Who on earth would ever care If I slipped away before my time Without saying a word Without praying to god Without slowing down at all I could jump the track I could jump the track I could jump...



On Artistic Integrity

I toe the line of self-indulgence Every time I place my pen Upon the page and form the words I felt but couldn't show 'til then And to myself I beg the question Why do I thus masquerade As one to one and to another Someone else? If I, afraid Of what the consequence of stating Openly my cause might be, When I rant and rhyme and reason Do I write for them or me? I believe there is some merit In creating for one's self But why place before the public What is best left on the shelf? Though while I write I do not feel that What I pen is mine alone, Even this could be misguided As are many I have known Who swore, poor souls, that they possessed The key to man's mysterious fate, Succeeded in convincing some, But most could tell they did but prate

On subjects touching something vague Which cannot be unproven, or, In place of content, speak in tongues Yet know not whom they're speaking for. No, I am not deluded so; I do not feel I represent Some force divine, but still I know That I shall never be content To hold my tongue when I would speak Or change my words to suit the hour Or pinch a blush upon my cheek To feign my joy at love gone sour. I do not wish to disappoint The faith that others place in me To lead the way to brighter days, But sometimes dark is all I see. I work for good, I toil for hope, No one can question my intent But even those who listen close Can often mistake what I meant. My fear, I've come to realize, Is mainly this: that I am wrong, That my perception is askew, That I write shyte and call it song.

Perhaps I'll always question thus,

Discount my merits, thoughts, and deeds 'Tis well, long as I still go forth

And see where this, my vision, leads.

Strong is she who knows her mind

And speaks it though she may not please.

Fortunate the audience

That hears such honest thoughts as these.



Manipulation

The time for your escape has come and gone What kept you here save your own curious mind? You say you've seen too much, and yet look on Where chaster souls would run, you glance behind Have you no ministering angels to consult? I have no power to decide your fate The choice was yours, but therein lies the fault: What good is choice when choice is made too late? What good is virtue but a thing to lose? What good are all the saintly attributes? We wear them on and off whene'er we choose To correspond with fashion, end disputes. If you should think to speak, say but a word And weigh it well. No explanation give To those who haven't asked. What has occured Is nothing more than reciprocative Events without a price nor penalty You've nothing lost that I can say I've gained You've acted out your part adorably

And for my part, I hope I've entertained.











ABOUT EMILIE AUTUMN:



Brought up as a concert violinist since age four, and trained in conservatoires as a composer, conductor, and music historian, Emilie's bizarre background manifests itself in her myriad musical and literary creations. Releasing records ranging from classical to gothic rock to her cult-intelligentsia following, EA is also a prolific writer and illustrator, releasing and quickly selling out of her first volume of poetry in 2001. EA is currently putting the finishing touches on the illustrations for her gothic children's book for adults only, "The Alphabet Book of X-Boyfriends," while preparing for the release of her upcoming "victoriandustrial" album, "Opheliac."

Originally from Malibu, California, EA is now a proud Chicagoan, and can most often be found at nightspots such as the Metro and DoubleDoor as well as cavorting around the city's downtown in her Victorian bustle skirt, corset, and combat boots, attracting a ridiculous amount of attention.

Learn more about EA at her official website, www.emilieautumn.com Purchase EA's music at her record label, www.traitor-records.com



www.willowtechhouse.com