

Poetry Series

Cosi Celeste
- poems -

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Cosi Celeste(April 27,1957)

Among The Things I Can Have, But Cannot Keep

You.

I worked so hard to keep you.

I gladly gave my pride away.

I lived my choices through your eyes.

I took the tonic for the pain,

then you walked away.

Cosi Celeste

Apology

Forgive me for not having left her
I wanted to will her to love me
how humiliating.

I decided too late to stand up to her
by then there were no feet to stand upon and even my thighs withered
while I held my shoes in my hand.

Entangled and lost is my identity
I catch a glimpse and whisper of hope
knowing that all tomorrows continue being like today
if i don't do something different from yesterday.

Forgive me for not having left her,
My first love...myself.

Cosi Celeste

Boxes And More Boxes

Small boxes filled with trinkets that tug at the heart...

Medium-sized boxes that hold books inscribed with names I'd rather forget....

Large boxes filled with clothes from a former life...

The movers came today and took away the pain.

I gave them her address....

I'm moving on.

Cosi Celeste

Caught In Transition

There's a space between me and me that won't be closed.
It's who I was and who I am that seems so absurd.
I can't look back, but I feel something remains there that I need.
Part of me pushes forward...curious for what's ahead.
Part of me would just as soon a pillar of salt be.

My mind declares its new direction absent the heart.
How long before the compass spins out of control
leaving me stranded in this space that I've come to fear?
I live knowing that today ends without knowing who I am or who I was.
I live suspended here.

If today you came to me able to fill this gap
I'd pay the ransom glad to leave this hell,
but there's no one coming, so I wait.
I hear say patience is a virtue, so I wait
sitting on these ashes contemplating this fate.

Is it faith or paralyzing indecision that keeps me bound?
Maybe it's hope that there's more to this than I can conceive.
Slowly it passes, time eroding my sanity
cognizant of a different life,
waiting for a moment when all this has passed and the space becomes my
sanctity.

Cosi Celeste

Coffee At Ihop With A Bipolar

I called you to meet me
It's been more than a year.
You talked without noticing me across the table.
My car's in the shop...
My mom's feeling better...
It's because of entropy...
The war in Iraq...
It's Christmas and New Year's...
Did I bring my house key and cell phone?
Business is good...
Target versus Wal-Mart...
Iconic and Doric...
There's no end to cloning...
I need shampoo...
Good and evil...
And on it went for fifteen minutes,
I left wondering, if you knew I'd been there at all.

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Cosi Celeste

Count Your Blessings

A good job...

Good health...

Family...

Money in the bank...

A cat that won't be shooed away...

A boss that thinks you're doing well...

Friends that invite you out...

And all that's left is to live life with blatant disregard for you.

Cosi Celeste

For Hobbes, The Frog

This is for Hobbes...my beautiful miniature schnauzer.

I awoke knowing you were leaving.
For years I'd felt you next to me as we slept,
your body filling the contours of my body
your warmth encouraging my own.

I awoke knowing it would never be the same again.
For a moment I hoped it was a dream.
There might be others,
but none other.

I awoke knowing I would have to watch you go.
To avert my eyes would rob me of your worth.
I had to know the pain of losing you...
To mark the moment when you were last here.

I awoke knowing that while a gift my greatest gift was loving you.
I awoke aware that you'd left me with all you could give me,
and resigned myself to the smile you left on my heart.

Cosi Celeste

For Jethro

I didn't come to right a wrong
I'm well beyond that slight.
I hardly think of you at all
I dream with lucid conscience.

A question posed through well penned prose encountered me this evening.
I wouldn't want to rouse your ire what good would that do?
I came tell you things did change
before I ever met you.

Instead you chose to see through other eyes
believing I would hurt you.
You foolish man I bared my soul...
It wasn't me that night.

And yet I'll carry you around
like something good that's happened.
I'll work and play and laugh and love
supposing you will more(ph) .

Cosi Celeste

Friendship Takes Time And Its Toll

I felt you in my heart today.
I don't want you in my heart.
I want you in my head.
If I think of you and don't feel you,
I can deal with you.
How long does that take?
I'm in a hurry to be your friend.

Cosi Celeste

Infatuation

You crossed my path while still deliberating a different notion.
Charming and precocious you took me by surprise.
Once inside, you took hold of me...something stirred deep within me.
We flirted shamelessly.
For what seemed a moment filled with magic we danced a lover's dance lustful
and unaware.
You held me captive and spellbound neither willing to break free.
Exhausted from our intercourse I slowly let you drift away
as yet another idea crossed my way,
and yet again I felt a new attraction.

Cosi Celeste

It Was You

I notice that when you walk by,
you notice me.

I catch you catching sight of me,
and smile when you smile at me,
then you blush.

When you speak I watch your mouth.

Who cares what you've said?

You notice me watching your mouth...

You notice me not caring about what you've said.

You smile at me...

I smile at you...

You blush...

Cosi Celeste

It's A Whiskey Kind Of Life

It never happens all at once.
It always happens painfully and slowly.
There are words not said,
and silences that scream in voids where love existed.
The day comes when you no longer want to know why,
it's just another truth that cuts.
On the morning when reality crashes in you feel tears roll down your face and
you don't even care to wipe them away.
As the days slip by, the past is all that you think about.
You go to work...others talk to you,
but you don't hear their words.
You drive around and all that matters is that the light just turned green.
Where you're going doesn't matter.
The days add up and weekends are the worse.
You try to find something to hold on to,
but it just breaks down.
You feign plans for the future,
and then watch them fall apart.
At night you sit on your new couch and think.
Your mind tortures your soul and then it laughs out loud.
It's your confidant...it's your worst enemy.

Cosi Celeste

My Gift

Her ears were too big, but she never listened.
Her attitude I was told rivaled that of a Brooklyn whore.
She ignored anyone that didn't feed her.
She took from the blind when they weren't looking.
She pretended to be asleep, so I wouldn't move her.
She snarled at the others who dared to look at her.
She claimed the favorite chair and moved you, if you sat there.
She wasn't very tall, but you always knew she was there.
She died not knowing she had a cat's name.

Cosi Celeste

Not Just Yet

I am such a fool to keep believing that things will change between us.
They won't change.
It's always just more of the same.
More screams, more words, more pain.

Prone on the couch I try to unravel this mess...
The clock ticks on the wall as the minutes turn to pennies ill spent.
The voice that I hear trying to explain is not even mine...
The tears that stream down are the same as every other time.

I'm tired of this burden, but I won't let go...
Stubbornness fueled by fear consumes my flesh.
I wish this would end, but not too soon.
I can't conceive of me beyond you.

Cosi Celeste

Practice Being Happy

There's a newness burning in my pocket that yearns to escape.
I keep ignoring it deferring to the path I've walked instead.
Still I feel its tug when I see the sun emerge, or watch a bird in flight.
I sense its presence heat my thigh when I pass a mirror and catch my smile.
I don't want to yield to it,
but it's constant call debilitates my strength.
Some call it happiness...
I still don't know
There is no precedent by which to judge.
The road I'm on forks just ahead,
to go left...to go right...or just slam into indecision are my choices.
I reach into my pocket for a coin to flip,
but all I find is this newness in my pocket.

Cosi Celeste

Resignation

I give up trying to change helium into hydrogen.
I give up trying to change no to yes.
I give up trying to see without my glasses.
I give up trying to run when I should walk.

I give up trying to fix what's not broken.
I give up trying to find a three legged dog.
I give up trying to sing beyond my voice range.
I give up trying to reap what I've not sown.

Cosi Celeste

Security

Tethered by a string you bounce attracted by every breeze.
All I can do is watch the dance from below
as you move to the left, then down, then straight up into the sun.
The string that connects us grows taut
challenging my grip.
I hold you safe,
suspended in the air.
You look different from here.
You don't seem far, nor near.
Neither distance, nor time matter anymore...
only strength enough to draw you back in,
when you decide to play elsewhere.

Cosi Celeste

So You Took A Wrong Turn

You left, said you were going home.
You wanted peace and happiness...
mornings on the lake.
You left, said you were taking your dog and the guitar.
You wanted mom's home cooking,
and dad's old truck.
I moved on after a moment of pain,
but it's really not about that.
It's about how you have to find your own happiness
now that the lake froze up.
It's about how your mom rides you,
now that the truck broke down.
It's about what's inside you
what moves you
what stirs you.
I'm not responsible for you
and guilt I'm not doing now.
I just wish you could hear you talk about your shitty lot.
I know...I've been there,
but don't stay there...get up!
Your back is a mess...
you quit your job...
your nerves are a wreck,
and the dog's teeth are falling out.
You feel hopeless, you say.
But the answer's within you.
Grab hold of a pen,
and plan your escape...
You did it once,
you can do it again.
I'm not the answer,
you are.

Cosi Celeste

The Light

This Light that fills the senses, but does not blind.

What Light is this?

Some say it's wisdom

others say it's knowledge,

still others say it's joy.

I think about this Light in every context I can imagine,
but the glass is still cloudy and murky.

I'm told that then I shall see clearly.

What or when is then?

Is then a state of mind?

Is then a time to come?

What if then is now free of time and in my mind?

This Light that fills the senses, but does not blind...

I've found it's not a Light you can see.

It's a Light that's felt.

Puppies, kittens and babies feel this Light.

It startles their senses and makes them play.

I don't think it makes them want to win,

It's just there moving them toward the next smile.

This Light that fills the senses, but does not blind...

Cosi Celeste

The Place Where You Live

Lingering just above my head is a thought of you
I won't let it settle on me afraid that it will invade my entire being.
Just beyond my reach is the feel of you
I can't let you next to me afraid that your skin will meld once again to mine.
Just beyond my sight is a vision of you
I refuse to focus afraid that I won't want to take my eyes off of you.
Just inside my heart is where I'll carry you.
Afraid to let you go forever.

Cosi Celeste

The Taqueria (El Molino)

You can taste the cornmeal scent in the air.
Women move back and forth,
their hair in a tight bun,
laughing about last night.

Men shuffle in from the cold,
heads dug deep into the collar of their shirts.
A faint smell of cigarettes and alcohol
residue from last night's revelry.

Some order by the pound,
others only a taco or two.
The hot salsa sears their mouths and nostrils.

It's not just about the food.
It's about the way they know your name,
and what you want.
It's about waking the kids up early,
hair sticking up, as they walk into the store.
It's about the smiles that say hello
and the woman at register one.

When you walk out
you feel better than when you walked in.
You're connected to traditions hundreds of years old.
Suddenly you're not alone.

Cosi Celeste

Cosi Celeste

What's Your Reason?

First cause....

soup....

no.

chance...

no.

perfect timing....

no.

cosmic explosion...

no.

love...

the only one that's ever made sense.

the only reason it is.

that simple.

that difficult.

that strange.

that familiar.

love.

Così Celeste

White Elephant

It wasn't my intention to hurt you,
I was just collecting things.
My cell phone, my job, my apartment,
the things that I so often left.
I tried to find a reason to love you, but I couldn't meet you there.
I changed my mind, but even that was wrong.
It wasn't my intention to hurt you.
I was just afraid to know.
One day I dug through my things,
and there you were among them...
and there I was unable to walk away.
You've got to understand! ! !
It wasn't my intention to hurt you,
I just don't know where to put you.
So here I am and there you are, but
you don't fit anywhere.

Cosi Celeste

White Elephant (Revisited)

On the shelf next to the incense holder...
that's where I finally came to rest.
A conversation piece...
admired and never picked up.
Still not ready...
instead, you call me a sin.

Cosi Celeste

You Said...

You said you wanted to move and I said ok.
You said you'd rather stay and I said ok.
You said you hated your job and I said quit.
You said you loved your job and I said great
You said you liked the city and I said that's good.
You said you hated the city and I said some people do.
You said so many things then you said others.
I finally said this is what we'll do and you said you always get your way.
I think I'll take a nap.

Cosi Celeste