

Poetry Series

Leria Hawkins
- poems -

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Leria Hawkins(39 forever)

Not much to say. Love to read poetry although I must admit, much of it is over my head. Tried my hand at writing poetry a few years back and although my writing have little artistic value, I've grown to love it just the same. I hope you'll take the time to read a few and post any comments you may have. Thanks.

24 Karat

You're the custodian of my sleep
The keeper of my dreams
You're the master of my musings
The director of its themes
You are the one and only
A heart above the rest
You're the merry music maker
The hum beneath my breast
You are a candy coating
As sweet as you can be
A bright and shining trinket
Atop my Christmas tree
You're the bananas in my corn flakes
And the cream that tops my pie
You're the yummy in my tummy
The apple of my eye
You are the fire that burns me
The flame I can't forget
The honey to my bunny
My favorite perfect pet
I know that you'll be with me
Although we've grown apart
You are that golden memory
That lives within my heart

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Leria Hawkins

A Cardinal Bright

Locked away and rarely fed
A cardinal bright in beauty red
Sings in spite the rusted cage
Woven round by fire and rage

Forever bound to love's duress
Silver stains her feathered dress
Yet in her weary soulful cries
Still is heard, love's lullaby

The rustle of her tattered wings
Like a harp with golden strings
She whispers in the perfect measure
Spilling secrets of a treasure

Standing firm she hides the pain
Trilling verses just the same
Searching for the shooting star
That holds the passion of her heart

Held like diamonds in her dreams
The soothing taste of honeyed cream
Tomorrow's dawn so far away
She recollects the thrill today

A wink of what life used to be
Carried on in memories
Tucked away beneath her wings
All the while...she sings, she sings

Leria Hawkins

A Chat With My Heart

A Chat With My Heart

Date: January 19,2012

I sat down lonely on the floor
Turned the key
Unlocked the door
I let the passion flood my view
I hoped some light
Would filter through
I asked my heart
To seek what's real
To dig down deep to what it feels
I begged to know the reasons why
It clings like life, to alibies
And while chained to my attention
I had to know of it's pretension
To understand why it defends
And acts so blind, that it pretends
Yet, no matter what I say
A heart should never
Act this way
It's stubborn to my dying breath
I still don't know the answers yet

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Leria Hawkins

A Clear And Certain Fate

A Clear and Certain Fate

Date: March 3,2015

Your life so fixed
You cannot see
That golden tread
In your tapestry
And so much living
Afraid to feel
Has left you cold
A heart of steel
The path so narrow
Your arrow straight
No room to chance
A leap of faith
Too many years
Locked in a game
Of wasted whispers
And hidden shame
No time to breathe
No hope to feel
Your path is set
Your fate is sealed

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Leria Hawkins

A Day Or Two

A Day Or Two

Date: January 13,2016

The lights have gone down, the curtain closed
The stage is set for another show
Oh, how I miss the fire, of whispered lines
They never warned me of our love's demise

It's such a waste, so many years
Our passions stifled by our fears
I remember when we burned so bright
Never dreamt that fate would snuff the light

I guess this is how it's supposed to be
It's you with you, and me with me
But, I never thought we'd end this way
Nothing left to hold, but yesterdays

The miles between us, so close, yet far
Like a roadmap drawn in our scars
I've faced the facts, what's done is done
But my heart still feels so cold and numb

What comes next, only time will tell
Will it stop this spinning carousel?
Where I struggle at night in barren dreams
I wake still broken by silent screams

Memories haunt my nights and days
I can't rise above this muddled haze
We started what was doomed to end
We made a mess we couldn't mend

While all the truths, I've longed to know
Were buried where they wouldn't show
Instead you besieged my heart with fire
Blinding me by my own desires

Can you end our song with honesty?

When you held my heart, what did you see?
Did you ever feel the way I do?
Did you love at least a day or two?

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Leria Hawkins

A Deeper Shade Of Gray

A Deeper Shade Of Gray

Date: January 12,2012

With every piece you take away
I paint a deeper shade of gray
Someday the canvas will be filled
My voice unheard, my passion stilled

Locked away in caverns deep
The embers glow, in twilight sleep
Never once to breathe the air
Nor dream to life, what isn't there

The flames are stifled by abuse
Though I fight, there is no use
Too many days, I've wondered why
To chase so hard, what you deny

But I won't plead or beg of you
I made a vow, I'll keep it true
And when you look into my eyes
What you'll see, is clear and dry

Cause, I see through the flattery
Falling snow cannot touch me
You shut me out, and left me cold
I'll find some other hand to hold

My emotions, you picked apart
Came picking, picking at my heart
Until I had no more to give
Your hurtful games, I won't relive

As, I know there is no magic here
Behind the cunning puppeteer
And hidden in the songs you sing
Are candied words, wrapped in strings

I'll stand no more, filled with doubt

I've locked it down, won't let it out
And in those deepening shades of gray
My fond desire fades away...

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Leria Hawkins

A Graveside Service

I asked him, "Do you love me? "
His tongue crumbled like cold ash
Eyes faded and blew away
He cleared his throat twice
Trying hard to free the stones
His death mask whispered, assaulting me
Screeching...loud as nails on a chalkboard
And I sat there, pooling in a July drip
Numbly, awaiting the snowstorm

But, before he could recover
I asked him "Could you have loved me? ? "
And watched as gray bled from him
Dripped from his eyes, off his chin
He stumbled over and over on the flowers of our grave
Tried, but couldn't cough up the rock lodged in his gut
He couldn't stroke the petals, or inhale the perfume.
I had my answer, my vision is 20/20
My rose colored glasses tossed aside, forgotten
I had the answer...

I closed my eyes and crawled back into my grave
Pulled the dirt in around me
And waited patiently to die...

Leria Hawkins

A Late Night (Adult) Swim

Up one night with bloodshot eyes
Who wants a shake, who wants some fries
I surfed the waves, stopped to swim
The light was on, but now it's dim

A talking meatball, nitwit shake
Contentious fries, all in my face
Mindless droning of rusted gears
Drilling holes between my ears

Where's a awl, where's a knife
Someone please, poke out my eyes
Loose me from this garish spell
A wine induced living hell

Give me a hammer, NO! A rock
Something to slay the screeching box
Give me strength to fight the fool
Else a bucket, to catch the drool

All logic is wasted, as I slip
Down the drain, a steady drip
Mindless, gutless babbling dolt
Too dense to run, too slow to bolt

Caught between the haze and hell
Falling deeper in the well
I close my eyes to stop the pain
The steady slipping of my brain

Wake me, wake me, wake me please
Life's too short for this disease
Prod me till my senses wake
Free me now, before I break

Up one night, with bloodshot eyes
Please...no more shakes and no more fries
The light is on, but quickly dims
I'd rather drown, than chance to swim

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Leria Hawkins

A Long Way Down

A Long Way Down

Date: May 6,2015

What is there to say
Or think, or do
When there's nothing in my head
And even less in my heart
I do not care for politics
Or religion, or pop-flash celebrity
I am lost in this world
Finding it harder everyday
To breathe the air
Or remember the fifty new passwords
That drill deep dark holes
Into my fading sanity
I don't care if I'm fat
Or dense, or poor for that matter
There is nothing left of me
I'm only here to feed the rich
To eke out one more day
Of thinly veiled clarity
Before I slip and fall over the edge
...off the ledge
With gun in hand
If only I had guts enough
To pull the trigger
I'd put an end
To this fruitless beginning...

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Leria Hawkins

A Love Song To The Unnamed

A Love Song To The Unnamed

Date: April 15,2014

You are to me as flowers, and dew drops and gentle breezes
And my heart grows rich and full with each passing day
I am bursting at the seams with the passion of loving you
Lost to all others is my heart, my desires, my weakness
As I am forever bound to the flavors of your smile
You spark in me a fire, a vehement temper
Of flash and flame and lust-soaked reverie
That holds me breathless and alive
Yearning for the next touch, the taste, the smell of you
And I beg to never awaken from the sweetest dreams
Where you are the moon and the starlit skies
Flaming my passion in the full blaze of your glory
I am lost in the depths of you
Swimming in the boundless seas of your clear blue eyes
I am bewitched, enamored by the rise and fall of your persuasion
You...the stranger that enraptured my heart, my soul
And I am forever your willing captive
You are a bright red apple to stave my hunger
The rhythm of my unwritten songs
Stirring in me unfamiliar passions and fervent desires
And I bathe in the warmth of your favor
When winter winds blow cold and I am weary
Your whispers spill over into my psyche
Lifting me from dark waters and bringing me into the light
You are a ray of sunshine penetrating my frozen heart
And should I walk this world alone, I am not alone
As you will be with me, your fire, your spirit
And I will carry it inside of me, through sunshine, through rain
I will carry it with me to my dying day
Until my eyes grow tired and I cannot see
Until I cannot hear or feel or know...
Until my final breath, I will carry you
In the treasure trove of my deepest desires
I will carry you forever...my fire, my flame
The undying passion...the unspoken name

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Leria Hawkins

A Mistress To Her Lover

I see you in my rear view, as you settle to make the call
Covering the delay, with a well-worn blanket of lies...

What is it? ...ten seconds out the door
You've a hand on the phone, and a foot on the floor
Just ten seconds more, I'll be out of sight
You've revved the engine, for a hasty flight

You scrub the shine from your cheek
Check the mirror...a cool critique
Hand press those wrinkles across your chest
Better hurry now, and look your best

You skillfully disguise the walk of shame
She's yet to learn your cheating games
Run...comb your hair, brush your teeth
Quick...rinse your mouth, before you speak

Your dinner's ready, it's had to wait
She patiently lingers to warm your plate
It looks divine, it smells delish
But you've done had your favorite dish

You groan and grumble about your day
It's work, work, work...no time for play
She's blind to the guilt that rings your eyes
The fading stains, the half-zipped fly

She can't read your thoughts, or your wicked mind
In her world, the stars are still aligned
She doesn't fret or call you out
She oblivious to how you troll about

You're careful to keep her in the dark
She's a stranger to the lascivious shark
She's your only fish, as far as she can see
She doesn't know about you...(or me)

She'll wash and rinse while you retire

Happy to be, your maid for hire
Who wants her life, all things considered
I'd much rather see you...in my rear view mirror

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Leria Hawkins

A Rainbow Waits

The future holds a blinding grief
A day that shatters all belief
Stripped of fire and lustful thought
Midnight dreams, burned to naught

A day when I no longer care
Have nothing left to give, or share
When your fire no longer burns
When my heart no longer yearns

Creeping like a deadly bane
A poison seeping through my brain
Bringing light to weary eyes
Stripping bear the thin disguise

When at last I choose to see
All the reasons assaulting me
A jolt to wake the sleeping lamb
A day to remember who I am

One day my heart will cease to crave
Will lay the passion to the grave
Time, a salve to help me heal
My soul will learn again to feel

So many years, I gave to waste
A decade that I can't replace
Loving you, my greatest sin
I should have known from where I've been

So close now, I see the signs
My heart has read between the lines
There's nothing left of you in me
No reason I cannot break free

The day of reckoning, is at my door
Dark clouds gather on the shore
A storm that rips you from my soul
And leaves behind a gaping hole

I'll hold my breath until tomorrow
The clouds will pass, as will the sorrow
And with the sun and cleansing tide
My rainbow waits, the other side

Leria Hawkins

A Rose For All Seasons

A Rose For All Seasons

Date: January 15,2012

This I compare to the raging vein
When spring gives birth to renewing rain
For never was a bloom so rare
As the golden treasures growing there
For soon the summer skies burn down
Yet still the blush, comes furling round
The cardinals' cage alive, entwined
By a single rose, from thorn-less vine
A breath and then the summer slows
The bud inside the cage still grows
Though winds rise up to bring a change
For autumn's hues to rearrange
Yet, in the caverns waning light
The embers glow to warm the night
No frost or snow could fail or fade
This ever growing serenade
For love plants deep the tender seed
A winter bloom that waits for spring

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Leria Hawkins

A Sacrifice Of Honey

A Sacrifice of Honey

Date: August 30,2011

There was a raging fountain
Gushing sticky sweet
A menagerie of flavors
Dripping at your feet
A need but for a moment
To stop and taste the wine
There were no poison apples
Just honey sweet, benign
Cast off the pleas and whispers
And quick to turn a cheek
When all it took was passion
To keep the honey sweet
Fire it seems, is fickle
It can't be bought or sold
Denied the flames of passion
It turns from hot to cold
Love laid upon the altar
Left as a dying flame
A sacrifice of honey
Was paid to play your game

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Leria Hawkins

A Spoonful Of Sugar

Once and often, my mother said
Don't let flattery fill your head
A spoon of sugar is scarce enough
To give for free, such special stuff

Words are words, and nothing more
No reason to unhinge the door
Take heed and never give in haste
Else passion wilts and goes to waste

Day by day and night by night
Arriving with the speed of light
Slather spills across the wires
A rage contrived to flame the fires

But fire's just fire and flame just flame
If nothing more than foolish games
And nothing aches more than the burn
Of a heart aflame, and left to yearn

Once bitten, and snared as prey
It's very hard to break away
And when the fire turns cold as ice
Too late to run, you'll pay the price

So listen close, and very well
Some words are just a magic spell
To draw you in with no intent
But steal your fire, and leave you spent

Once and often, my mother said
Don't let flattery fill your head...
A spoon of sugar, while honey sweet
Is sometime laced with cold deceit

Leria Hawkins

A Thousand Miles

A Thousand Miles

Date: September 19,2012

I thought we were at home
Under the roof we share
I totally missed the signals
I thought that you were there
I didn't see you whisper
Or turn your heart away
I was so busy, being busy
That I thought we were okay
I thought the bed we shared
Was home enough for you
I didn't see the struggle
That you were going through
You say I leave you lonely
Those words still break my heart
Because, I thought we were at home
Not a thousand miles apart

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Leria Hawkins

A Week Or Two

A Week Or Two

Date: January 28,2016

How long's it been...a week or two?
Not long enough to shake the blues
I stumble on...pen in hand
Rewriting all my wishful plans

It seems like only yesterday
In love with all the dreams I'd made
It's funny how the winds can change
To turn it all from sincere to strange

Whispers, kisses, a fiery touch
From unwanted lips don't mean as much
The flames that seared me, through and through
Feel like a stranger, I only thought I knew

But, I must admit, it pains my heart
The wasted years, trapped in the dark
While all the passion, all the fire
Were figments of my own desire

I guess it's just my needy heart
Creating fire from pseudo sparks
And whispers, really just the wind
A siren song, of my pretend

It seems so long, a week or two
Accepting the truth of me and you
Trying to turn from all we've been
While fire still rages beneath my skin

I've lived so long on borrowed time
Spending someone else's dime
I guess the flames, the tempting hues
Just served to obscure my point of view

Like a stretch of sand, I'll never reach

On some foreign shore, deserted beach
The distance paints my heartache blue
Seems, love don't fade...in a week or two

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Leria Hawkins

Anatomy Of A Player

Anatomy of a Player

Date: April 19,2012

He walks a path, yet opts to shy
Turns away his yearning eye
Steals by night, the sighing breath
Feigning innocence at the theft

Looting dreams, and hoarding fire
Bottles up the fond desires
Then makes haste to overwrite
The whispers of her futile plight

A heartless beast, wearing skin
Malice cloaked beneath a grin
Killing time, by spewing flames
Born of the lust that fuels the game

Baits the hook for prey to taunt
Into dreams, his whispers haunt
Spinning webs of cool deceit
Leaving naught in his retreat

Every move is calculated
To keep his needy head inflated
Bleeding secrets from her soul
Just to fill the empty holes

Thirsty for his choice of wine
All but the best, he will decline
Too many fishes in the seas
Too many flowers left to tease

A rabid hungry, heart of greed
Hoes a row for planting seed
But once the field is cultivated
He walks away, his rage deflated

So many souls he leaves to grieve
Tears of loss brushed off his sleeve
Not an ounce of pity for the weak
He just shrugs and turns a cheek

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Leria Hawkins

And Yet, I Love You Still

And Yet I Love You Still

Date: November 29,2007

Answers remain hidden deep in the shadows of your heart
No spark illuminates the garden path that leads to your soul
Darkness shrouds the entry into this forbidden sanctuary

Yearning for the rapture of your touch on my wanton skin
Eagerly I've consumed the wine dripping from your honeyed lips
Tirelessly I've waited with patience and care for your affection

I've been blinded from reality by the wonderment of your charms

Love still passes me by...time and again I've felt the disappointment
Over and over I have endured the sting of heartache
Vexed in the sweet surrender of your liquid song
Entangled in your web of pretension and false hope

Yet you hold me captive, enthralled by your mere proximity
Obliviously ignoring the warnings that ring clearly in my mind
Undauntedly you've turned cheek to my valiant efforts to escape your snare

Selfishly, you hold tight to what is not yours
Teasing and stroking my desires with effortless pleasure
Insensitive as I plead for mercy from your relentless assault
Loyal only to yourself; your needs...your desires...
Love you cannot give, and yet, I love you still...

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Leria Hawkins

Anne, Oh Anne

Anne, oh Anne how you bleed
Your veins scream of rain
Confessions fading on the leaf
Your pain spilt on the grain
Candy from their little jars
Inebriates your muse
Dark and light stirred inside
Your breath exhaled, confused
In your room, dark and cold
A blade held to your soul
Carves the niche of memories
That walls could never hold
Voices drip in cold thin lines
Crawling slow to death
Maggots eat away the will
To steal your final breath
Vapors warm and black as night
Seep in to snuff the flame
And lays to rest the whispering winds
That you tried so hard to tame

Leria Hawkins

Anomalies

Anomalies

Date: December 8,2011

Moonbeams light the walls of this castle
Washing pale the hallways of memory
Dust lay heavy on the bindings of yesterdays
Jackets...time worn and threadbare
Betray years of labored use

Many a seeker has roamed these halls
Searching for the chalice of desires
Words that bring meaning to the raging vein
Lullabies to define love's true intent

Here...passion free falls from the lips of seduction
To be captured, bottled and thrown to sea
Words scribed, confined to the drying leaf
Secrets...whispered a thousand times over

From these shadows, a strange sentiment stirs
Rain threatens the most demanding eye
Fire simmers between the lines in whispered disclosure
And rivers flow in a briny tide of desperation

Love songs seek refuge, hiding between the folds
Storms brew, and bleed out in voiceless vindication
Intimacy...carved on stone, is inked from the blood of the master
Traps are set and whispers snared
Confessions spilt to the eyes of the unknown

Behind the drapery of wicked desires
The perfume of lust still lingers
Moans rise, pleading for their final breath
Seeking escape from long held morality

Ghost lovers waltz to the rhythm of fire
Spirits bow in homage to ancient history
And night winds croon to the bones of the dead
All praying for their final flight into unity

Climb to the attic, up the rickety stairs of oppression
Past caverns, as black-filled and ominous as death
Scale the massive oak, wrapped and smothered in strings
Binding forever this life of illusion

Speak softly to the night man, he is the salvation
Turn and face the judgment of a soul forgotten
Stand silent at the crypt, if you dare...confess, accept, and forgive
The pain of this life will wash you clean

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Leria Hawkins

Apollo's Kiss

Date: September 1,2009

I have found little to paint my life
As exquisitely as your song
For the sun did not shine on my bearing
Or grant me shelter from the rain

I am but an ordinary creature
Of no flair or finesse to circumvent
My gifts are not of beauty or brilliance
My breath a mere intrusion on your journey

You see...the seasons failed to transform
That which knows no glory
And the canvas remains ill-favored
Powerless to rise above well-heeled judgment

And just as a seedling with no light
Will not age in splendor to greet the heavens
A soul deafened to life's symphony
Will never truly learn to sing out in jubilee

Tw'as only in the sweetness of Apollo's kiss
That I dared to dream of places beyond my horizon
And for a flitting, I stood barefoot in the garden
And felt full the majesty of Elysium

I welcomed the offerings, my book flung wide
Inviting fate to ink the pages of my journal
Welcoming the stain left on my heart, and my life
Cherishing the makings of bittersweet memories

But oh how fleetingly those treasured moments passed
And I woke from my reverie to find myself alone
Imprisoned still, in the concrete of my reality
My tender heart reeling from the loss

Yet...I do not rue the passing of your shadow over mine
Nor will I forget the elation of sunshine on my flesh

And though the fire sparked but for a twinkling
I will long remember the warmth of the flame

For, I have found little to paint my life
As exquisitely as your song, my love
And I will carry breathless, your lullaby
Captured forever...in my heart

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Leria Hawkins

Beast

Beast

Date: February 26,2013

He comes to life with raging breath
The stench of whisky and unclaimed death
Rising from his secret place
The crux of hunger lines his face

Greed and lust defines his name
With no restraint, he knows no shame
Bitter in his growing need
Driven forth to spread his seed

The taste of blood lines his lips
Crusted black, his fingertips
The beast inside his belly grows
With eyes transfixed, his breathing slows

Impaled by his mien and burning glare
I'm laid to waste, beneath his stare
No strength to move, to run away
A hasty death...sufferance I pray

Moving swift, he's closer still
I beg for strength, restore my will
Lost in his eyes, I'm doomed to hell
Depraved and brazened by his spell

His bed, a slab, as cold as ice
Yet, I beg to pay his asking price
Chilled and exposed upon the stone
My heart, my soul, this savage owns

This need for him, I can't explain
He offers pleasure, he promises pain
His torture is my vice...my fate
Forever tainted...I wait, I wait

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Leria Hawkins

Beauty And The Beast

Beauty And The Beast

Date: February 16,2012

Callous...self-centered

Like a rat, scampering from some darkened sewer
To gobble up the last vestiges of honey
Dripping from the cup

I watch as you make a meal
Of the meager offerings
Then twitch and yawn, your eyes greedy
Searching, already hungry for more

Easing from your comfort zone
Nervous to be seen by the sun's gold rays
You make haste to plunder the reserves
Taking, as long as the haul is free and unspoiled by obligation

You crow, while I struggle...haunted by whispers I cannot discern
I find myself searching, searching in swamps of regurgitated bile
Dipping my cup to drink, then retching at the taste
Repulsed by the frenzy of my own obsessions

I am incensed at my powerlessness to stand straight
And lash out, in a candy coated storm
My rage distilled by sugary purrs of undying love
And ill-fated missiles doomed to miss their mark

In my effort, I take up arms and blast away
Aiming to pierce the heart of the sleeping beast
Hoping the venom of bitterness sinks in
And delivers me to the wretched land of contempt

I loathe not the rat, oh no, not even the man
But myself, for the utter nonsense of my will
I search to place blame for my entrapment
Banging my head against rusty bars of a self-made prison

I pray in the blackness of shadows

Willing myself to hate the air that he breathes
For it reeks of old scars, heartburn
And births a cold bitterness layered decades deep

But my mind, still split and skewered to the spit
Suffocates on fumes of mockery
I scold myself...berating my heart
For undoing a package so neatly bound

I claim that it is love that keeps me here
With plate in hand, arms outstretched
Offering cream to the fat bastard
Who cannot see beyond his own appetite

Yet, I keep bending to taste the same old poison
Circling, circling...like a vulture
Seeking a free lunch along empty highways
Unconcerned with the quality of the meal

It's funny how the eyes can be tricked to see beauty
Where there is none
Or perhaps it's my warped view of beauty that is the beast
Either way....for the life of me...I cannot turn my eyes away

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Leria Hawkins

Before The Wild Winds

Before the Wild Winds

Date: March 16,2012

I wish that I had met you far from your becoming
In those tender moments stilled by innocence
Long before your winds blew wild
And carnal mangle rained down to claim your soul

Was there softness on your pillow then?
Or did you dream in a rage of sex and lustful intent
I can only surmise of your passions back then
Oh, how I adored you...in full fancy of my own suppositions

But I ask you now...was there peace in the shallows of that world
Or was your history contrived to set you on another path
Twisted around such ironclad authority that you rebelled
Running full-fledged into the arms of decay

Were you led by the nose to the place where you became
Or did you seek it...finding your way via a path of secrets
Did life events drive you...
A cataclysm that sent you screaming from loves' door...?

I cannot fathom what turned you from a fair flavored child
Leaving your shame to stagnate in a pool of indifference
Or what transformed the spring pup to cold blooded wolf
Was there a misfire of constitution...an override of compassion?

I long to know what bore in you such cool calculation
Where the search for fire and flesh is your only master
And matters of the heart fall deaf upon your door
So sad, to have grown into a life of such apathy

It seems to me, a waste to bleed with such fury
While failing to understand the true meaning of its origin
And a tragedy to flame with undying beauty
Yet find it impossible to grab hold with both hands

When I came here to touch you...to love you

I did not know that you were lost, buried in a trove of secrets
Your heart forever deafened to the whispers of love
I did not see our tide, as a briny sea of oppression

I came to walk these shores in awe of what lay ahead
Where whispers of surf on sand, sings lullabies into a velvet night
I came to feel the sensation of fire beneath my breast
And I believed, the rhythm of my heart could rejoice 'neath your persuasion

I regret that I could not touch, or taste, or know the whole of you
Seems fate stepped in to splinter the simplicity of what we were
And sent us spiraling into the arms of no turning back
We came so far, we came so very, very far...only to have lost our way

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Leria Hawkins

Birdbrain

I am but a fool
To love you so
Simply a fool
I should have let go

I am but a fool
A ninny, a nit
I am but a fool
A birdbrain, a twit

I am just a bonehead
A halfwit, a boob
I am but a dimwit
A silly old goose

But I just can't help it...
My heart's made that way
I'll still love tomorrow
What I've loved so today...

Leria Hawkins

Blue Eyes

Blue Eyes

Date: April 3,2013

Sometimes I dream of you
It's something you should know
Sometimes I dream of colors
And relish in the glow
Sometimes I dream of laughter
The way you always tease
You taunt me like the surging
Of a deep and watery sea
Sometimes I dream of forests
With just you and I around
There's no one there to claim us
'Cept the sway of chestnut brown
Sometimes I dream of seashores
With sand beneath our feet
Or I'm lost within a daydream
In the bend and flow of wheat
Sometimes I dream of passion
With my heart, my soul exposed
Where kisses float like butterflies
Or blown petals of a rose
Sometimes I dream of you, dear
It's something you should know
You paint my life with colors
That inebriate my soul...

I dream and dream of you, babe
I'm enraptured by your hues
And when I dream of colors, dear
I hope you're dreaming too!

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Leria Hawkins

Bonjour, Mon Ami

Bonjour, Mon Ami

Date: July 23,2013

It was there...

In third period French

My first taste of neurosis

Spreading like strawberry jam and wild fire

Sweet, but hot on my tongue

Out of nowhere...

As cut and clean as stainless steel

All heat and rakish charm

My spotless hands sullied in a flash of blue

My house burning with unseasoned fire

I stood bravely at the bluff, took a heady dive off the cliff

In a wink...I glimpsed tomorrow's downy dreams

Littered with idiocy and pubescent flames

Where I was a fish...a mindless ogling fish

Boldly pretending not to stare

But, I was wide-eyed, already on the line

Caught...by clever hooks and naïve thinking

An ache piercing the blood of my youth

And like a hairpin turn, curling back upon itself

...a Machiavellian sign, branding me for another time

And, I was game for the bite, was sewn up tight

In strings of make believe

I was floundering with no real might

So I let it fall away, no persuasion, no sway

As I had no reason to fight...no reason, no right

I turned the page, set out on a revolving stage

Only faced my vice, maybe once or twice

Sometimes in a look or in a midnight dream

Always vague, never quite as it seemed

Just a hiccup...a flashback with an echoing theme

And the oak grew tall, from spring to fall
...the French was long forgotten
Then it came again, in a whispering wind
With fervor raging within, searing my skin
It shook my soul, swallowed me whole

This time, it challenged me, called me out...
And I bent, and bent and bent, to its mockery
Until the final straw, broke my fall
And the heart in me, said let it be
What is... "to be...or not to be"?

To this I say...Adieu, Mon Ami...

Leria Hawkins

Brine And Bone

Brine and Bone

Date: January 18,2012

When the current burns the air
Save for me the passion there
Beneath my breast the raging beat
Without your song is incomplete
Lift me from these crashing waves
To be your serf and wanton slave
Tis no finer place I seek
Than locked within your reveries
Hold me soft, from dusk till dawn
Through the night, with diamonds flung
And in the breaking of the day
Hold me closer, in the gray
Should I miss one moment's breath
Besiege my soul a living death
Strike my eyes forever blind
Should you leave my voice behind
For every breath and every verse
Without your charms, would be a curse
I'd be naught, but brine and bone
Should your love, turn to stone

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Leria Hawkins

Broken

Broken

Date: April 4,2013

You've got me locked up in this cage
My mouth full of dirt, my heart full of rage
I've been beggin and pleadin, won't you let me go
The veins so tight, they're gonna blow
You pick me up, then push me down
Hold me under, until I drown
I don't understand the reasons why
You clip my wings, then demand I fly
You've got me nailed to your cross
A load to carry, when I feel so lost
I never know which way to turn
You stoke my flame, then watch me burn
The fare you serve, so sticky sweet
You fill my plate, but won't let me eat
You light a candle, just out of reach
Is there a lesson, you're tryin' to teach?
I don't know why, you love these chains
Like a man on fire, a heart deranged
Bound and gagged, seems the only way
To keep your angry beasts at bay
I'm a prisoner of your wild desires
...Trapped inside a lustful fire
You want to have, but not to hold
I've never felt...a fire as cold
Baby, baby, why can't you see
What this torment does to me
Don't you feel the loss of my decay
I'm a broken sparrow, trapped in a cage

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Leria Hawkins

Broken Branches

Broken Branches

Date: January 24,2011

I've tasted sweet o'hungry lips
And felt thy warm embrace
Though now blinded from my sight
In dreams I know thy grace

Whilst nevermore shall honey sweet
Melt soft against my tongue
It's locked away in melodies
Of all the songs we've sung

So, if I'm cursed to see no more
Beyond these clouds of pain
I'll stand and face the bitter force
And languish in the rain

As bending heart and broken branch
Trap grief beneath my breast
For deep inside the cardinals cage
The passion's laid to rest

But, never was a song as sweet
Nor shined on me as bright
As all the windswept lullabies
That whispered in the night

I close my eyes, to feel again
The fire upon my lips
And in the magic of the flight
I still can taste your kiss

So, I'll not weep for all that's lost
Or hope to find once more
The passion of our yesteryears
Was swept beyond my shore

Life will bring another day

The sun will rise again
And I'll not mend my broken dreams
By searching in the sand

I've tasted sweet o'hungry lips
My soul still wears the stain
In silence I will walk in strife
Until the heartache wanes

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Leria Hawkins

Burn Baby Burn

Burn Baby Burn

Date: January 15,2012

I'm burning myself in the midday sun
While shielding my soul
And pretending to run
Yet, I'm still holding on
When I should let go
It's a strange paradox
So hot, yet so cold

I'm lost in the chant of a cold winter rain
And yet I keep listening
Though it's causing me pain
I keep holding my breath
While waiting to see
If my life will move on
And where it'll take me

I'm so tied to emotions
That I try to forget
But, try as I might
I'm forsaken as yet
Why do I still cling
To this cold barren dream
When it's full of illusions
And cruel heartless schemes

I search for my muse
In the wind and the rain
But my hands are left empty
And my soul is left drained
Seems I can't turn the page
With this hole in my heart
It just doesn't make sense
I still hide in the dark

I keep asking myself
My question the same

Why keep rolling the dice
When I'm losing the game
Why do I continue
To offer my heart
When I know that it's useless
There's no fire in the spark

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Leria Hawkins

Burn Out

Burn Out

Date: December 29,2015

In dreams you are the moon
Rising in a midnight sky
With all the stars in heaven
A 'twinkling by your side
You are my Sunday morning
Warm between the sheets
And lazy afternoons
That leave me full...complete
You are a life long journey, babe
A path that leads me home
You're the fire that stirs my passion
A flame to warm my bones
You're whispers in my coffee
Sweet echoes in my dreams
You're the rage of lustful yearnings
In my silent movie screams
You are that speckled pup
That brings me youthful joy
A candy coated confection
That leaves me wanting more
You're the fire and flame that haunts me
You blind me of my sight
You're everything I long for
The dreams that thrill my nights
You are the secret bower
That captures all my sighs
The keeper of my secrets
A flame I can't deny
You're like a haunting melody
Rewinding in my head
With silent midnight whispers
You keep my passions fed

In dreams you are the moon, love
Rising in my darkened skies
But like a blazing comet

You burn...then pass me by

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Leria Hawkins

Burned Up, Burned Out, I've Let It Go

I know not what it means to be loved
But only to love in vain
I have not held the gentle grace of your words
Or tasted the fiery bloom of regard
You cast me into a cold prison of oppression
Offering only scrapes of charity, lukewarm sentiments
Mere lip service to fuel my heart when passion starts to wane
You are a cold and calculating master
The proverbial 'wolf in sheep's clothing'
Hiding your confessions deep in the recesses of my shame
You baited me with greedy hooks, tripped the snare
And I, fell victim to your frivolity
I believed myself strong enough...and you, man enough
To ride the insatiable waves of my desires
Still leaving fruit for tomorrow's gathering
But you could not give, the same passion that you received
Nor hold in reserve seeds for tomorrow
Instead you burned, and burned, and burned the candle
Flaming both ends, with a rampant wickedness until there was none...
I look upon the ashes with heavy heart
For I cannot bring back what has been used up and discarded in indifference
I cannot look into the light of tomorrow and see the same man
And though I love, it is with a heart as cold and lifeless as your own
I have long buried the passion that once flamed my nights
Commanded my days and held me breathless to your call
I cannot love you, the true...bread and bone of you
My love is a dream, a knight in shining armor wearing an image of your smile
A mere vision that disappears each morn with the breaking of dawn
I have sang your praises, nurtured the dream decades long
But, I will lay no more beneath the cold stone of apathy
You are not worthy of this passion, this fire, or this undying love
My longing for you is but ashes, soot, soil beneath my feet
And I desire you no more...

Leria Hawkins

Burning Bridges

Just a filigree of love's desire
Entangled red-gold threads of fire
Dreams burning 'neath the midnight sun
My moonlit diamonds come unstrung

You're fire by night, and ice by day
Got too many dragons left to slay
Secrets whispered to the wind
Unheard, but by wayward kin

My passion, hanging on the line
Lust infused and steeped in wine
I keep singing for my daily bread
Still hungry for the words unsaid

Mysterious treasures flutter by
Dream ghosts haunt the darkened sky
Memories toss on blackened seas
Twisted in love's filigree

In beautiful madness, my heartache screams
I keep searching for my broken wings
To carry home forgotten glee
A fire that once dwelt inside of me

There's so much lost, such wasted time
Ten thousand lines of useless rhyme
I'm bleeding out, my wounds are deep
My passion's lost in twilight sleep

A decade trying to understand
The demons trapped inside the man
I guess it's just not meant to be
My heart has yet agreed to see

The burning bridge of my desire
The flames are raging higher, higher
I just don't know how to put it out
The flames are fueled by growing doubt

My eyes are stinging, from the smoke
So hard to see...the cruel joke
You had me fooled, I was taken in
The laughs on me, this time you win

Leria Hawkins

Burning Bridges Falling Down

My path is just as straight
My sight, just as clear
There nothing to stand between
The end I see from here
I will not lay in pieces
My heart upon my sleeve
The vultures come a' circling
Can't have their way with me
I took each breath and whisper
And trapped them in a cage
Sifted through the pieces
Turned loose, my hurt and rage
Now, I've patched up all the wounds
And I tried to mend the fences
But the bridges keep on burning
They're fueled by false pretenses
There's nothing left to salvage
But it's fine, I'll be okay
With no bridges left between us
To cross another day

Leria Hawkins

Bury It

My lover gave me sorrow
A deep as drifting snow
Shutting out the rays of hope
That defined him in my soul
My lover gave me sorrow
So bitter was the taste
Showing me that holding on
Is such a foolish waste
My lover gave me sorrow
Wrapped in grand design
Teaching me to understand
To leave it all behind
My lover gave me sorrow
For all the love I gave
He taught me just to walk away
And leave it to the grave...

Leria Hawkins

But I Knew

But I Knew...

Date: November 21,2014

For me...love never fades quickly...

And when I see a heart that's breaking
I am sadly reminded of you
Bringing fresh my own perpetual ache

But I'm letting go, sweetheart
Letting go the only way I know how
...with time and torment
with patience and everyday battles with my heart

I scrawl line, after line, after line...
I search the lost and lonely corners of my mind
Looking for the epiphany that will lead me to "the end"

I cast no fault, nor cling to blame
Because I knew, I knew...I most definitely, certainly knew
But I staunchly denied the truth

It's clearly a case of wishful thinking
A need to believe that time changes minds
...that space alters long held beliefs

Because we are older, because we are wiser
Because life is change
Time, minds, and people change...right?

I sprinted into this self-imposed prison
...this house of mirrors and cruel head games
I pretended to be what I am not
...and daydreamed about living "that" life

But I knew...

It's just one more thing, I strive to forget
But, I'll never forget...

Instead, I push it to the deep recesses of my mind

I'll kept the bottle corked, baby...the secret buried
...and I'll keep the lines blurred
Written far, far away from my troubled eyes
And further still from this weary heart

Be still, my sweet, be silent and still
You have no worries...
...the cat is safely in the bag

But I knew, sweet lover...I always knew
...just as I've always known.

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Leria Hawkins

Buying The Line

Buying The Line

Date: October 10,2014

Pour me a river
As deep as the sea
Fill it with syrup
As thick as can be
Spread it around
Lay it on thick
Sweet cream and honey
Should do the trick
Build me a castle
That leads to the sky
Up to the clouds
A hundred miles high
Fill it with jewels
Shining and bright
Open the windows
To dazzle my eyes
Weave me a blanket
Downy and warm
Line it with passion
To weather the storm
Wrap it around me
Tuck it in tight
Stitch it with dreams
To flavor the night
Sow me a garden
Of bright daffodils
Sunny and yellow
To gladden the hills
Mix in a bluebird
To sing me a song
And a sweet dancing monarch
To spar me along

Tickle my fancy
Flatter my head
But, let me down gently

When your hunger is fed...

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Leria Hawkins

Call It A Truce

Call It A Truce

Date: March 13,2013

Our journey suspended, a dream deferred
The circle is broken, our passions blurred
A road forsaken, was the final chance
To change the course of circumstance

I go this way, you go that
We called it a truce, a tit-for-tat
We laid down the cards, the losing hand
Surrendered the flag, let neither win

My muse rewinds in the shadow of night
Reliving the wrongs, and loathing the right
I've looked for a way to let it all go
Pretending our bond was nothing but show

Sometimes it seems, a cruel twist of fate
A burden to carry, an insufferable weight
Sinful temptations course through our veins
And deep dark desires, bind us in chains

A need that we share, yet we live out a lie
Regretful that passion is passing us by
Doing what's right, but wanting what's wrong
It's a hell of a way, but we keep standing strong

With passion denied, and fervor displaced
There's long hours to fill, and cold empty space
While secret obsessions eat from within
We whisper confessions as a means to an end

Our dreams deferred, the journey cut short
We're burning the wires, our only resort
With hearts beating strong, like a song in the night
We're bathing our wounds in the tears of our plight

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Leria Hawkins

Can I Ask You A Question, Or Two

Can I Ask You A Question, Or Two

Date: August 14,2013

What is there to say, to know
Before the sun and after
Should I stay or should I go
When the sky above has shattered
Can I catch the waning night
Before the stars escape me
Can I hold onto their light
And let the passion shape me
I hear the bells and whistles
And I see the pot of gold
But it is just illusion
To have, but not to hold
How can I defend it
When I don't know what it is
How can I pretend
As I stumble in the mist
Temptation is the test
That binds my heart in chains
I try to do my very best
But my efforts are in vain
One smile and I am broken
Arms wide to risk it all
Then next I am forsaken
Left reeling from the fall
There simply is no promise
Not a single hope to hold
There is no magic potion
To turn ashes into gold

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Leria Hawkins

Circling, Circling

Circling, Circling...

Date: December 5, 2012

Circling back to scene of the crime
Laying it down, repeating the rhyme
Like falling falling, torn from the sky
Still fanning the flame that passed me by

Cloud nine floating just above my head
I keep reaching for the stars instead
It's a grand illusion that can never be
I've blocked it out, I refuse to see

I'm burned up, burned out, I can't admit
Cause I've held too long to call it quits
A fire still burns deep inside
If only a spark, could turn the tide

So I circle back to the scene of the crime
Singing my songs, repeating the rhyme
Beating the drum for all that its worth
Waiting for wishes to move heaven and earth

Cloud nine's waiting for me to grab hold
With a silver lining, that shines like gold
If I'd just let go of the other side
I'd finally be free of my injured pride

I'm burned up, burned out, I can't admit
My heart's refused to consider it
There's just no way that the fire would lie
Could it really be, has the passion died?

I keep circling, circling the scene of the crime
Looking past the grit, ignoring the grime
Breaking promises to the looking glass
Pretending my pain is a thing of the past

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Leria Hawkins

Cold Is My Confession

I felt the darkness creep cold beneath my breast
Trembling as it consumed me, crushing my light, my spirit
I reeled as echoes breathed beyond our clandestine world
Spilling the secrets of our tainted souls

For hidden in a brume of whispers on my pillowslip
Lay the trove of our sordid desires
Lust, passion, wild fantasies...burning in the flames of our depravity
A jangle of twisted rhyme spewing an unwritten song

I listened to the spin and fury of your persuasion
Withering as an animal, broken and ashamed
I was stripped bare in the squalor of finely-honed mockery
My soul sacrificed for pleasures sought in empty promise

For somewhere in the abyss between the truth and a lie
You hid all that is tender, all that is rightful and sincere
And you made haste to obscure the light from my eyes
In an ongoing strike toward my emotional undoing

For only you, came to me in the guise of magic
And without wings, you lifted me high in flight
And only you warmed me, not by love or beauty or grace
But by the fire of my own blinded desires

And just as the poet's pen strikes fury upon the leaf
I bled out in a muddled confusion of truth and fantasy
Winter came and turned the glass on my grand illusions
Leaving me, to stand alone to face a broken reflection

Seems you dallied far too long in the shadows of my soul
Strumming fire from the fragile threads of my heart
But all the while, seeds of doubt thickened beneath my flesh
Growing and ripening to the birth of my enlightenment

Love is too heavy a burden to carry alone, and I am weary
For my dreams have turned to sorrow, and from the ashes
A new emotion is born, one of pain and silent resentment
And I long for freedom from these chains that bind me

The flask is uncorked, spilling forth to drown the fallacy
And flames flicker anew to warm the hollows of my heart
I will not yield to the darkness, nor shall I suffer in cold indifference
My pain burns in defiance, fueled by the rage of self-preservation

And I will to drive out, once and for all, all traces of the illusion
The honey sweetness of your lips, the fiery addiction of your touch
I will cast out the bittersweet remembrance of the many hues that haunt me
Singing breathlessly, alive, wanton, yet oh so weary

But all is not forgotten, as I cling tight to the knife of lessons learned
I endured the searing pain that once and for all dashed the flames
Opening my eyes to the many truths that my heart refused in bitter protest
At last I see the worth of this too long obsession

At last, I've seen the light and found the heart...to let it go

Leria Hawkins

Damp And Dewy

Should I embrace the victim
And lay down tears and woe
The sod gets damp and dewy
Yet still no flowers grow
The sun will rise before me
Why linger in the rain
No sense to keep pretending
With nothing there to gain
Sometimes I smell the flowers
Of passions I once knew
And in those fleeting moments
My thoughts return to you
I breathe the sweet surrender
A moment, then it's gone
Then shake off all the memories
Pickup and carry on
I have no use for victims
They'll be no tears and woe
Through sod, damp and dewy
I'm smiling as I go

Leria Hawkins

Death Must Be Like Dying

Death Must Be Like Dying

Date: March 30,2012

Death must be like dying
A slow swirl circling the drain
Allowing a final release...
Cutting loose the fire I've savored
The passion I've held tight to my heaving breast
It sure feels like dying, whispers steal my dying breathe
Letting go what I've touched and cherished as my own
I've laid down the promise of twilight
Exhausted from the load
I can't climb from this prison anymore
Or stand to see my soul beaten down again, again
God knows I've tried...tried so hard
To release the beast that burdens me
It clings like cancer to my soul
Heavy...like sacks of sand or wet cement
I tremble beneath the weight
Wondering, wondering...
Who can say the truth of this place
Admit the defeat, lay down the stone
Then rise to fly again...

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Leria Hawkins

Dirty Little Secrets

Dirty Little Secrets

Date: January 31,2012

He is a decade long struggle with weakness
A chink in the armor, a stain on my soul
He carved out a hollow, in places sworn to secrecy
And filled it with aching desires

He came whispering into my dreams, unexpected, unexplained
Invading...where he ought not be
He barged in, weapons ready...perfecting his plan
Chip, chip, chipping away, at the naked innocence of my regard

He is my disease, a cruel cold sickness...a private shame
The incurable scourge, aimed like a heat seeking missile
He is a poisonous arrow, bearing down
Holding me under, watching me drown

Slathering on honey, he's sweeter than sugar
Coloring the taste to disguise the waste
Of the drug that he's pushing
He's a shot of confusion, leading me astray
Till I'm lost in the dark...can't find my way

Like a rusty old needle, or dirty crack pipe
He's a demented addiction sucking away at my life
He's a knife to my flesh, a blade at my wrist
A candy coated affliction that I've failed to resist

He whispers of promises that he'll never keep
Mixed with slurs of perversion, cutting me deep
He's so damned clever, he plays it both ways
Assaulting my nights and tormenting my days

He slips in the folds, smoother than silk
Breathing like spiders spinning webs of deceit
I lay down inside his cool calculations
Feeding the fires of my own deprivation

I drank from the river, spiked with disgrace
Languished inside hell's hiding place
Giving my faith to a man with no heart
Denying his nature...to keep from falling apart

Now I whisper at night, to cast out the ghosts
Of too many memories, and too much hurt
I keep begging myself to look toward the light
Cause the darkness around me...is not worth the fight

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Leria Hawkins

Do What's Right

Do What's Right

Date: October 2,2015

Don't let love die unspoken
Trapped within your bones
Fling it far and wide, my love
Let it find a home
And if at first uncertain
'bout where to come to rest
Give it wings to fly, my dear
Trust...to do its best

Don't let us leave, departed
Before we've had the chance
To see if what we started
Could bloom into romance
And if at first uncertain
'bout where it all will lead
Just trust yourself, my darling
Love is always free

Don't whisper words of passion
With nothing in your heart
For lust is just a second
That could never play the part
And if at first uncertain
About how you really feel
Then spare the empty promise
If just to know the thrill

Don't rush to rash decisions
Too quick to make a stand
You know I've waited patiently
For the chance to hold your hand
But if you know for certain
That love will never be
Then do what's right, my precious
And say goodbye to me...

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Leria Hawkins

Don Juannabe

Don Juannabe

Date: February 10,2011

Blowing restless across the globe
Wearing a cold and wintry robe
Biting all that offers love
Growling at the stars above

A fickle flame that cannot thrive
Frozen by inherent pride
Can't reach out to touch the sun
For fear the glory be undone

Deep within, a tempest blows
Offering naught but ice and snow
A raging gale of lust and greed
Trampling love in a stampede

Howling forth with no restraint
Unmindful of the souls to taint
Innards grumbling for the kill
In ruthless pursuit of carnal thrills

The coat of stainless armor shines
Denies the heart and renders blind
Locked down tight, beneath the steel
Numbed to what all others feel

No remorse for loss or pain
The need too great to be restrained
Shrugging at the gaping hole
A cavern now without a soul

Every breath to steal away
Left to spoil, to rot; decay
Deaf to songs that whisper soft
Too smug to even feel the loss

Nips and wounds without shame

Plays a raunchy mindless game
A lothario with a heart of stone
Fills the cup, then moves along

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Leria Hawkins

Driftwood

Driftwood

Date: 9-06-13

I drifted out, like I drifted in
We were never lovers, never friends
Stuck in a place without a name
Both fighting the demons of our shame
Years and years beneath the weight
Trying to change the hand of fate
But no closer now than we were then
The wasted years, I can't defend
I kept telling myself the same old lies
Stories that helped the years go by
I kept wishing and waiting for the day
To find black and white, instead of gray
But I can't change your jaded heart
I failed to reach the tender part
You're too tightly bound by kindred law
To break the chains or scale the wall
Your heart's too cool, too fancy free
To accept the fire that burns in me
We're so very different, yet so alike
Always floundering between, what's wrong, what's right

Night after night I've lain awake
Trying to pretend it's not all fake
Just dreaming with my blinders on
Penning rhymes to right my wrongs
It's so much easier to just pretend
Than admit the truth of where we've been
Or to own the vice that keeps me in chains
It's a destructive force I've failed to rein
Sometimes I wonder why I've cared at all
So tired and weary from stumble to fall
I've picked myself up, time and again
But I'm never quite able to fully stand
We both know, we're past our prime
There's nothing between us but dirty lines
My heart's no longer in the game

But I hold no fault, and I cast no blame
Baby, you know I'll have regrets
We've too much past, to ever forget
But I've drifted out, like I drifted in
We were never lovers...never friends

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Leria Hawkins

Drilling Holes

Drilling Holes

Date: May 6,2012

I crowd into this dungeon
Where chemicals scoop out the rot
From my brain. I lay flat bellied
Drool dripping from the jar
Inside the dream, my curtains are black. They are
Blowing, blowing, blowing, away the whispers from
My dead eyes. Dark stains puddle the carpet
And I laugh, weep, for no particular reason
I took hold the cup and sucked it dry
My mouth is fat and sated
So, I've no need for more thick black tar.
Else my tongue will turn bitter, bitter, bitter
Jealous of the instant coffee steaming from my cup.
It's poured, black, hot, and artificially sweetened
Perfect, to wash down the drone
Of jackhammers squealing false promises to my soul

The cobwebs have grown thick
Across the doors but I still hear the ocean's
Droning kiss through the cold of twilight fog.
It keeps whispering...goodbye, goodbye.

Seems my mouth has
Grown hair and I spit to expel
The poison. I dredge and dredge
Scooping flies from bile filled rivers.
And I lay here...mind swimming against the tide
Blowing thoughts past the window... in and out
In and out of the sunshine. Tidbits curl like lies
To a stranger and I hear the tap, tap, tapping
Of songs...the words long forgotten
La, la, la...whispers like a feather in the dark
Tickling my elbow. Someone's digging
Trying to wake my confessions.

Ghosts wail, behind these walls
Drilling holes two inches apart in my soul
And the wolves are at the door
Hose in hand...ready to siphon away my secrets
They scribble blood stains on their lined white pads
But, I look past them, refuse to unlock the door
Go away, go the hell away
I scream...can't you see my grave
Leave me to my brine and bone
I'd rather be alone. cause I don't want to know
Someone new. There's no new dress to wear
Out there on those empty streets
I'm naked here, and that's how I like it
My flesh is still hot from the iron
Can't you smell it...the heat?
My wounds whisper to you, leave us, leave us
Leave us to suffer in our cold dark vessel

But those damned vulture's just won't fly
Until they pry and pry, to steal away my words
Peck, peck, pecking...always pecking at my eyes
Trying to dig up my depraved soul

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Leria Hawkins

Eulogy At Midnight

Eulogy At Midnight

Date: December 1,2011

Night songs whisper through the air
Wind ghosts comb her twisted hair
With time bent back and furrowed brow
Love vows carved upon her bough

A hundred years of age to show
A splendid sight come rain or snow
With roots entwined beneath the sod
Her arms held high, in praise to God

Moonbeams gloss her rugged skin
She mourns the loss of youth and kin
Across the valleys, timbers fall
Making way for human sprawl

Yesterday majestic, tomorrow bleak
Nothing more to hide or seek
Assailed by winds of seasons past
Her final days loom cold and vast

A sodden veil spreads neath her feet
Time stands still, the silence fleet
No more in pride she staunchly stands
She bends to pled the grace of man

When morning sun glints the east
She'll be condemned, beyond release
A priceless treasure raped by greed
The insatiable heart of man to feed

One last stand beneath her girth
To pray for man, to pray for earth
Why can't we see beyond our lust
And lift our hearts to God in trust

Twisted, torn and thrown as waste
Her healthy hearth slain in haste
No man pays heed to hear her sighs
Or lends an ear as nature cries

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Leria Hawkins

Evergreen

Evergreen

Date: December 11,2013

How evergreen you are to me
Never shall you fade
How evergreen, stamped on my heart
In a joyous serenade
Though seasons come, though seasons go
Yet, love here stays the same
Oh, evergreen this flame for you
My heart, tis sure the blame
I gather you, sweet evergreen
Bound tight in memories
Kept treasures for a lifetime
To fill the need in me
Evergreen, my love, my sweet
Evergreen this fire
Through the years this flame will burn
Evergreen, is my desire....

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Leria Hawkins

Eye Of The Beholder

What so much in beauty lies
But dreamlike visions an' winsome sighs
Then turns to stone with wincing breath
To rear the claws of bitter death

Fad and fashion contrived a plan
To blind the eyes of mortal man
No depth to see beneath the skin
Or seek the treasures buried in

Grace is ruled by shape and size
While essence drowns in glitter eyes
Too clouded by the blushing cheek
To feel the glow of fire beneath

Coal black eyes are led astray
Hypnotized by swank and sway
But often times beyond the curve
Dwells a heart that don't deserve

What so much in beauty lies
When found too late to realize
A bloom you passed without a glance
Was fate deprived by circumstance

Leria Hawkins

Far Away From Me

Far Away From Me

Date: January 14,2015

Faraway darling, far away from me
Rising and falling, a relentless cold sea
Fierce crashing waves, eroding the shore
Wielded by whispers that sting to the core

Far flung adventure just yearning to be
More than a promise on a forbidden tree
Years flying by, out in the storm
Some cold and empty, some snug and warm

Musing of castles, shrouded in mist
Knights on white horses, maidens to kiss
Lost in a world of magical themes
Lofty illusions, not as it seems

Beyond the horizon, hidden from sight
Fueled by fires enflaming the night
Passion fruit hangs just out of reach
A ripe golden apple, with a lesson to teach

The distance is growing, the chasm is vast
Stare into darkness at memories cast
Written in ink, and carved into stone
Whispered betrayals, chill to the bone

Faraway darling, far away from me
Barriers loom, as vast as the sea
I'm sailing this ship, out in the gray
Reliving a dream...just a heartache away

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Leria Hawkins

Feed Me...

Date: March 14,2014

It's funny...
When you were breaking my heart,
I had so much to say
But now I know I've let you go
The fire has burned away
I've learned to quell my longing
I keep the flames at bay
My passion turned to apathy
As desire began to fade
It never was your whispers, dear
That held me to the flames
What kept the fire burning
Was the torture of the game
I've always known your favor
Would come with many strings
And I let you bind me tightly
For the anguish of the sting
Once I dreamed of futures
Standing in your perfect light
But time has offered wisdom
In lines of black and white
There's method to this madness
I'm not a martyr to the blues
It's just another path to insight
A way to feed the muse...

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Leria Hawkins

Firestarter

He is my voice
My beautiful stolen whispers
And I cannot brush aside the wind
That carries him to my door

He speaks with the lips of ashes
Cool and crumbling, soft as snowflakes
He speaks of the fire he once was
The flame that he longs to be

He is a tempest
A hard blowing, snow throwing fury
Assaulting my mind with possibilities
Raining glass into my eyes

He is a drumbeat
A constant droning in my breast
He is a dagger piercing my flesh
Taking my breath, spelling my death

He is an empty journal
Whispering my secrets to the dark
He snickers like a naughty child
He is ink bleeding from my soul

He is a match, a half smoked cigarette
Burning down my house
He hides behind steel curtains
To watch me burn...

Leria Hawkins

Flash And Flame

Flash and Flame

Date: January 17,2012

I'd rather live in this distress
No thoughts revealed or dreams confessed
I'd rather sing in broken rhyme
Than dare reverse the hands of time
No other life could hold as dear
As the fleeting moments when he is near
I'd rather bear this life of pain
Than never taste his lips again
No other soul could sing to me
Those scalding thoughts in reverie
I'd rather wait with heart ablaze
Than fall forever from his gaze
No other flesh can hold as true
The flame that burns me through and through
I'd rather die in a dark abyss
Than be denied his hungry kiss
He won me with his flash and flame
My heart forever, his to tame

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Leria Hawkins

For The Record

For The Record

Date: January 26,2015

Cater not to the whims of love
But to the songs that warm the soul
For it is there, that summer glows
...painting rainbows in the sky
My flesh is here but for a glance
Soon to weather and grow thin
As ashes to ashes, dust to dust
My flame, destined to the wind
I love not for the pleasures of lust
Though guilty of fanciful musing
My mind oft straying to illusion
Where I revel beneath the spell
But, fire alone does not charm me, dear
For the power of wit is as a summer peach
Ripe and tempting to the taste
And I long to know its secrets
There is far, far more beyond the eye
And far less than you presume
I am simple, a mere underling
Naïve to the sins of your hunger
So hold not, your fire to my experience
Lest ye be disillusioned and let down
And do not aim, with reckless abandon
As the arrow will fall far and miserably short
I have not lived to your worldliness
Nor do I mimic your depravity
I have had no need to be twisted
...or consumed by the greed of desire

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Leria Hawkins

Forbidden

Forbidden

Date: June 19,2013

Our eyes meet
We feel the heat
Like strangers on a train
While breathing fast
A forgotten past
The shock we cannot feign
Yet, here again
A long lost friend
The lure, a burning flame
We breathe a sigh
And smile goodbye
There's no need to yearn in vain

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Leria Hawkins

Fury

Fury

Date: September 21,2013

Never my man
But my heart, my muse
Never my lover
But my passion, my ruse
A secret obsession
That binds me in chains
Never to hold
But the maker of pain
Never my friend
But the fire of my dreams
Never the truth
But a weakness it seems
Never my savior
Just a fury that burns
Never to know
But always to yearn

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Leria Hawkins

Games People Play

Games People Play

Date: August 27,2014

Oh fickle flame, is this a game
The fire between you and I
Or is it a bane, to cause me pain
Was your favor just a lie

You burn so hot, and then you're not
In a flash from fire to ice
I'm I insane to bear this stain
Or to pay your asking price

Oh raging need, you plant the seeds
That have ripened in my heart
Is the row you hoe, just for show
Like a piece of treasured art

Your whispers bite, into the night
Of desires as dark as blood
Then you take your flight, in rising light
While I'm drowning in the flood

Oh precious pet, do you have regrets
Of the day you spoke my name
Is the fear so great, a burdens' weight
Does it cause you grief or shame

I'd never chance, a second glance
If your heart is left to bleed
With a soul betrayed, I'd walk away,
To the loss, I would concede

Oh honey sweet, I am incomplete
A corpse without your song
Deep in my soul, there'd be a hole
Where your love and light belong

But, I'll live this way, for all my days

If our flame's not meant to be
Oh fickle flame, is this a game
Is the fire just teasing me

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Leria Hawkins

Get In Line

Get In Line

Date: December 31,2013

I cannot linger by the gate
If only just to stand and wait
If nothing's real, to touch, to feel
I am not made of iron or steel
I cannot be, if just to plea
With you and I, there is no "we"
I cannot stand with outstretched hand
Nor pretend to understand
I cannot stay, to live as prey
I cannot give my soul away
You only pry, to watch me cry
You sting my heart, then flutter by
If you can't see, the fire in me
Then clearly, it's not meant to be

I will not linger by the gate
If only just to stand and wait...

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Leria Hawkins

Glass Houses

Glass Houses

Fast and fierce, powerful and strong
Claiming your rights, while judging my wrongs
Standing stick straight, disguised in a mask
Throwing your stones, without breaking the glass

Trying to hide the kinks in your veins
Afraid of the truth, ashamed of the stains
Living your life, on a wild ego trip
While foolishly letting the dark secrets slip

You're a knight dressed in armor of stainless steel
Believing this farce of a life is for real
But I know the truth, the demons within
And the deep dark obsessions that drive you to sin

Your nature denied, it keeps you on guard
From secrets that teeter, like a house of cards
But the bane still simmers beneath your skin
Threatening exposure...like an evil twin

Yet, you deem me unworthy for the light of day
Only as good as a victim of prey
While exploiting my nature, you gobble in greed
Feigning your virtues, while betraying your creed

You whisper confessions across the lines
Corrosion that seeps from a wicked mind
Then snub your nose like a man of class
Still throwing those stones....from your house of glass!

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Leria Hawkins

Go Home, Sweet Lover, Go Home To Your Wife

She is your mate, your match, your maker
Sewn up and drawn up by indelible ink
A contract worth keeping
She is a wink from across the room, a smile, a first kiss
She is savory on your tongue
A tootsie pop, cherry flavored, that lasts and lasts and lasts
Go home, sweet lover...go home to your wife
Grab hold those apron strings
And lay down on the bed of your making
Reach for her; trace the ivory pillars to her core
Drink milk from the cup of fine bone china,
Painted to ripe rose perfection and gilded by the master
She is your sterling silver; your mother's finest silk
While I am, my love, a notion that flits like moth to flame
Lashing out to seer, should you venture too close
I am the fickleness of fire, the evanescence of steam
But not her...she is solid...steadfast and cool as cucumber sandwiches
She is the epitome of completeness
Molded from the clay of order
Drilled and polished by the cloth of demand
She is the genesis of your dynasty
Bearing blood not once, but twice
Gifting you with life, perfect breathing, kicking life
A perfect set of crown jewels, carbon copies if you will
Progenies that broke through your steel cage
And left you walking with head erect, heart trembling
She walks with ivory palm outstretched to your horizon
Arms enclosing your family tree
She is willing, wanting...to bathe you, to feed you
To tuck you safe into her midnight dreams
Go home, lover...go home to her bed
I cannot offer you obedience, or patience, or perfection
I am just the demons that rage beneath your skin
The cool, dark dreams that steal your comfort
I am water...flowing, flowing, restless to the seas
I am the wind, setting forth to a new destination
But she....she is the mountain, unmoved...unspoiled
Go home, lover...you do not belong here
Your place is there, on the pinnacle

Your secrets locked inside a box
And hidden deep in the caves of consciousness
I have no claim to your treasures
Go home, lover, go home
Make peace with your resolve
Lie in the green outside your window...and never forget
Never forget...where you belong!

Leria Hawkins

Graceless

Graceless

March 15,2016

If I showed you all my sorrow
Would my ramblings then make sense?
Would it cut right through confusion
The pain, as my defense

If my whispered words could reach you
Then perhaps, at last you'd see
Between the lines, you'd find the meaning
Of the fire that burns in me

It seems to me, so senseless
To squander such a flame
When it rages bright and beautiful
When it burns on without a name

But, I guess there is no meaning
In a jaded point of view
There's no love to find redeeming
There's no passion shining through

For years I've loved and kept you
In the sanctum of my heart
But when I searched to find your honor
What I found was cool and dark

You didn't have the heart to love me
Or the regard to keep me warm
And into a sea of doubt I stumbled
Where I've languished in the storm

Hope was like a golden apple
That I've held above the waves
It was my faith, my life preserver
In this dream I've tried to save

But the weigh became too heavy
As years came and went
Till I had no strength to hold it
When the pain would not relent

I never dreamt my heart would take me
To this restless, lonely place
Where I have no faith in promise
And I've given up on grace

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Leria Hawkins

He Speaks To Me At Midnight

When all is still, the potion spills
Soft shadows on the grave
In windswept dreams, where silence screams
Of passion that I crave
Away in flight, on wings of night
Held captive in his snare
He stokes the fires...of my desire
And chains me to his lair
Each night I bend, to whisperings winds
They haunt my midnight skies
He softly sings, into my dreams
Such wicked lullabies
I hold on tight, to his delight
I'm a puppet on a string
He whispers flame, upon my name
In a raging midnight fling

His purchase price, cold as ice
Leaves me fraught...alone
Left searching in the waning night
Wondering where he's gone
Like a kiss of death, my heart bereft
My soul, an empty shell
I face the day, in cold decay
And walk through living hell

With secrets sealed behind a shield
Hard frozen on my lips
I wake to find, my peace of mind
Trapped in a sinking ship
The sky above, a darkened glove
That paints my spirit gray
My heart bemoans, I'm cold as stone
Yearning for the close of day

With evenings flight, into the night
I come alive, restored
As whispers stream into my dreams
To bring him back once more

It's only when, the whispering wind
Breaths warm across my shade
To turn my blight into delight
On a windswept serenade

My soul's replete on twisted sheets
So long the night remains
Until the yawn of coming dawn
Binds tight my heart in chains
As morning creeps into my sleep
Once more I dread the day
When reality shines, between the blinds
To sweep my love away

Leria Hawkins

Head To Toe

Oh, how I love to wander
Along the sylvan trail
Amid a growth of chestnut
I breathe the woodsy air
Across the unbroken plain
Are two amazing pools
Lined with tufts of cattails
In the deepest darkest hues
I find myself enchanted
As I linger near the top
As down below the precipice
Is a sight that makes me stop
A thrill that sends me spinning
Sends tingles to my toes
For, spread upon the landing
Is the most amazing rose
With petals soft as snowflakes
A perfect flaming glow
That fills me with such longing
That makes my passion grow
And out beyond this treasure
Is a dip and sculpted slide
That leads down to a cavern
That I yearn to see inside
I'm sure there is adventure
Stitched beneath the seams
In hues of golden honey
And smooth as whipping cream
Just like a childhood playground
Such games there are in store
Along the hills and valleys
There's so much to explore
I'll glide across the ripples
Before I stop to rest
Then skim across the flatland
To frolic in the nest
There's trees as tall as mountains
They're sheathed in wiry grass
I'll meander to the bend

Along the mountain pass
Then onward to the footing
I'll play among the stones
Then start a sweet ascension
And explore my way back home

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Leria Hawkins

Hemorrhage

Hemorrhage

Date: January 15,2016

Baby...too much time has passed us by
All the passion...I can't revive
You're bound to know I tried my very best
It was up to you, to do the rest

Love can't survive, a one way street
I've waved the flag of my defeat
There's no time left for second chances
It just won't change our circumstances

I'm tired of living with this lonely heart
It's clear we're a million mile apart
You...in your world, me in mine
Not worth the risk, not worth the time

Baby, all the passion, I feel for you
Is something I simply can't undo
But I know it's time to find a way
To live for tomorrow, not yesterday

Fate was never on our side
Too long forsaken, too long denied
You still can't bring yourself to say
Three little words to pave the way

I've tried...but I can't change your heart
I think I knew that from the start
Still...I'd like to think, your heart is kind
That you didn't set out to ruin mine

I truly loved, all that you are
Never dreamed that it would leave me scarred
Please give me back my mundane life
I don't deserve your bloody knife

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Leria Hawkins

Here's To Gracious Endings

You'll never hear the breaking heart
I'll never hold you to the sparks
A fire that only burns in me
Was simply one, that shouldn't be

You never promised me romance
I've always known your circumstance
But in my heart, you sparked a flame
That held me to a foolish game

So many years I've been denied
A simple truth that you disguise
I've asked you, time and time again
To let me go...or let me in

Don't tell me that you want me now
Don't try to claim you care
If there ever was a moment, babe
I've not found it anywhere

Dig down deep, and let it out
You know what I'm talkin' about
Don't' keep holdin' up the lie
I see it buried in your eyes

I'm just not the girl I used to be
There's something hard inside of me
You woke me up, when you shook me down
Then left me hanging out to drown

But, the rain don't hurt me near as much
Cause it can't hurt, what it can't touch
I've locked my heart up in a cage
I've read the lines and turned the page

Don't tell me that you want me now
Don't try to claim you care
If there ever was a moment, babe
I've not found it anywhere

Seems this story had to end
So, let's not look back and claim we're friends
It's easier just to cut the ties
No more pretend, and no more lies

My heart's okay, I'll be just fine
I'll snap right back with a little time
Through it all, I've found relief
I won't be swallowed up by grief

So, here's to you, to what we've been
...And to never looking back again
Here's to life, and to new beginnings
...And too finding strength...in gracious endings

Leria Hawkins

He's A Girlie, Girl...

I lay in peace upon the thread
And he, but just a cover
To keep my standing safe and warm
I feign him as my lover
Bold and strong, both back and arms
The ladies swoon in envy
Green as grass, a summer's day
They scorn the passion in me
Little, do they know the truth
This flame is but a sham
Behind our pomp and circumstance
He's girlie'er than I am...

Leria Hawkins

His Counterfeit Life

His beasts grow hungry
Breaking free, the cages of his soul
Wind spirits breathe the secrets of fire
As naked flesh rises in the stir
She's calling, calling...soft as snowflakes
Coaxing desires from stone cold ash
Voices...thick in whispers, claw at his door
Wisdom succumbs to the licking of flames
Passion...transformed by persuasion,
Laps soft the candied lips of seduction's embrace
Embers rage to the rhythm of night songs
Hot...in the blood red fire of kisses
He is rigid and wanton of the flame
She purrs at him...sweet as a kitten
Then, bearing teeth...sharp as knives
Cuts gashes...deep into the clay
Piercing midnight in screams of rebirth
Her stilettos carve the ivory path...
Bearing blood to the cold heart of their master
Black lipstick paints soot on his dreams
Drowning him in black shadows
Suffocating his pleas for release
He is wicked, but no match
He is wanton, but weak
His beasts, slaughtered at the hands of denial
And then he wakes, cold...unfulfilled
Still holding tight...his counterfeit life.

Leria Hawkins

How Can It Be

How can beauty and beast
Subsist in a package of one
Humming, as angry as bees
Heartache, 'neath a beguiling smile

You came to this place
Demanding of me, what you cannot give
Seeking...what you cannot find
Your heart chilled to the core

And you taught me to suffer
Forever yearning...yet denied
Seething in an ocean of self-contained turmoil
Enduring, as you endure...the secrets that you hide

Where is the empathy, babe
Compassion for the soft of heart?
I thought you'd carry me home, sweetie
Stead of leaving me cold...

What choice is there now?
What reward for the undying flames?
Should I endure such misery
So that you may thrive on my pain?

I am not yours, love
No matter how much I long to be
...I am not yours...

And you, sweetheart...are not mine

Leria Hawkins

How To Train A Snake

How To Train A Snake

Date: August 22,2012

Teach me not to suffer, dear
To rise up from the fall
Teach me to feel the sunshine
And to understand the call

Teach my heart, to be as stone
Numbed against the sting
Teach me how to shed my skin
And never feel a thing

Teach me how to carry on
To close the open doors
Teach me to darken every page
And never yearn for more

Teach me all, you know so well
To search for prey, as you
Teach me how to slither by
Still smiling when I'm through

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Leria Hawkins

Hungry

We stumbled and found each other, hungry
Ravenous for what we'd been denied
Each, too scared of life to live it
Both afraid to 'own' such secret desires

Swooping in, you consumed me, and I you
Unrelenting in our quest to feel and be filled
We pick, pick, picked, until we broke the skin
Leaving us ruined, our souls cold and raw

And though we gorged as if our last meal
There was no substance and we were not appeased
Our yearning grew as our passions waned
And in the absence, our wounds flourished

We raged on, each wielding a sword of silence
Driven on in a fury of self-preservation
Until we were broken and bleeding
Yet hungry still, unsatisfied...

Love it seems, was always the question
But never the answer
We sought only what the other lacked
Neither acknowledging the error of our ways

Whispers...falling sticky sweet from your lips
Are not harbingers of things to come
They're merely fancy...a pie in the sky
No more real than the promise of kisses

And my unending melancholy
Is just a cry for affection's lost or perhaps never known
I'm the squeaky wheel looking for grease
Wearing flattery like a badge of honor

I am not the wildflower you dreamt of, dear
And you are not the white knight I believed in
We are simply two souls, lost and lonely
Captive in a cruel game of grand illusions

We stumbled and found each other, hungry
And where we go from here, I do not know
I only know that I am hungry, you are hungry
And we will one day find our graves, hungry still

Leria Hawkins

I Am Not There

I Am Not There

Date: September 10,2015

What do you see behind the glare
Of summers scorching heat
I am not there, I refuse to be
A rug beneath your feet
As autumns voice takes to flight
On cool and balmy winds
No longer will you find me there
A bower for your sin
I will not bend in winters grip
When days grow long and chilled
I will not offer up my bread
Or concede to bitter pills
For spring is there around the bend
To offer me the chance
To start anew, as flowers do
To bloom with new romance

You'll see me not, in clouds of gray
With rain upon my cheeks
I'll opt to find, some peace of mind
In goodbyes, though bittersweet
As morning wakes another day
In her petticoat of pink
I'll choose to see, a different me
Inside my yawns and blinks
I shan't repeat, or choose the sweets
That fabricates your songs
For there has to be...sincerity
And I've dallied far too long
The truth has dawned a sunny day
But the light won't sting my eyes
For whispers cast, our fruitless past
In a barrage of faithless cries

What do you see behind the glare
Of summers scorching heat

I am not there, I will not be
A pawn to your conceit
I will not play the tawdry games
Or fall victim to your pride
There's more to me than you believe
Why should I bend or hide
The weight of love, upon my heart
Is much more than you deserve
The time is nigh, the price too high
To suffer what you serve
I'll stand no more beneath your shame
No more to be denied
I will not pay with dignity
Instead...with my goodbyes

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Leria Hawkins

I Am Nothing

I Am Nothing

Date: April 25,2013

Who am I, but bits of flesh and flame
No more real than your warped fantasies
Inside, I'm steeled by the stones of bigotry
Outside, I'm the audience for your disease

And...who am I, but a grand and willing illusion
A mouth to sip the wine of your infidelity
A phantasm made of holes
No more than an orifice to indulge your betrayal

Who am I...but a witness to the throb
A landfill for your depravity
I am weathered and worn by indifference
A blank canvas for the dregs of your mind games

I am the catalyst of your poison
A coffer filled with unclean musings and dirty little secrets
I am a salve to soothe the scabs of your abscess
A clever veneer to hide the cancer that eats you alive

Who am I...but a trinket, a troll
I am the scorn of your daylight prejudice
The pretense of your corruption
I am the smoke that conceals your sin

I am the one...the one you hide behind
I wear scars, beneath the chill of timeworn flesh
I am the soul you assault, the spirit you rape
My veins seared over and over by your extremes

And I am absolutely nothing...nothing to you, whatsoever...

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I Cannot Go, I Cannot Stay

I Cannot Go, I Cannot Stay

Date: July 10,2012

I cannot go
I cannot stay
So cruel a heart
To feel this way
Chained and rusted
To the fence
Too tired to stand
In its defense

The vine is twisted
My soul's at risk
A pull so strong
It can't resist
The drumming sound
Of every beat
Has passion spilling
In the ink

Back and forth
The trapeze flies
A rainbow blurring
In my eyes
Set on dreams
Out of reach
Never finding
A moment's peace

Love and hate
Between the lines
Each are looking
For the signs
So cruel a heart
To feel this way
I cannot go
I cannot stay

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Leria Hawkins

I Choose Fire

If you forget the road once traveled
And turn from your desires
I shan't travel with you dear
For my heart still burns with fire

And if you wipe the memories clean
And forsake the whispering wind
The journey you must go alone
For I won't hold your hand

If you give your heart to sorrow
Refusing to see the light
In silence you shall stumble on
As I'll renounce the fight

And if you walk the path alone
Rejecting my warm embrace
Then you have surely made your mind
And I'll give up the chase

If you stand out in the cold
Offering naught but ice and snow
Worry not that I will freeze
For I have let you go

I will never beg you dear
Nor plead for your desires
Though you may choose to go alone
I, my dear...choose fire

Leria Hawkins

I Cling No More

I have arrived...
And I say with some relief
That I do not mourn for you
Or begrudge who you are
You see....I have simply...accepted

I suppose I have hardened my heart
And closed the door
I do not care that you have failed to know me
As my life will surely go on
I am not trapped...or fooled

□

I am okay with who I am
I have chewed and digested
The marrow of my being
I have tasted the sweet sunrise
And swallowed the bitter rain

I do not grieve or ache
I have given up the absurdity
The lullabies of my yearning
Sing on in fine flavors
Echoing softly on the canvas of my dreams

The fire of my passion
Burns on....alive and strong
My fury does not belong to you
And I do not have to forfeit
Or extinguish the flames

You recoiled from my songs
Forsaking the whispers of my soul
And you feared my fire
But it is my essence...
And the nature of who I am

I stand in the middle of this road
Unafraid of what lies ahead
I am freed of the ambiguities

Resolved to live as you live
And cling no more to false promise

Leria Hawkins

I Do Not Know You, Stranger

I Do Not Know You, Stranger

Date: January 23,2015

I do not know you, stranger
Our paths have never crossed
Your smile seems so familiar
Beneath the chilly frost
I do not hear your whispers
Or know the hidden soul
Your voice rings like an echo
From a deep and darkened hole
I do not know your demons, man
Or the fire within your veins
But I suspect their venom
Would sear me just the same
I do not see your passion
There are no tell-tale signs
That hint of your persuasion
Or to draw your heart to mine
I do not feel devotion
To weld me to your flame
There's just a cold suspicion
That says you're playing games
I do not believe in fairy tales
Filled with grand illusions
My heart cannot catch hold
In your whirlwind of confusion
I do not know you, stranger
As I have said before
Your smile seems so familiar
But I don't know it anymore

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Leria Hawkins

I Dreamt, I Dreamt Of Poppies

I dreamt, I dreamt of poppies
Growing wild in yonder field
They were blooming red and wonderful
Like a dancer, laced and frilled

Fluttering in the sunshine
Like waves of autumn grain
Or a rolling sea...majestic
As a queen in summer reign

I dreamt, I dreamt of poppies
What a glorious display
In a blaze that flamed the skyline
Of a desert far away

I couldn't see the reason
Yet, they flourished in the sand
When all around was barren
In this brutal foreign land

I dreamt, I dreamt of poppies
Like a ribbon drawn in blood
A slash on the horizon
In a soulless evil flood

The sky was dark and eerie
And smoke had filled the air
The atmosphere, chaotic
With shouting everywhere

I dreamt, I dreamt of poppies
In a garden by a stream
The blooms were bold, were beautiful
More vibrant than a dream

Aside a marble stone
Where hand to heart I wept
For the soul that lay in slumber
Beneath the sod he slept

Leria Hawkins

I Guess You Never Knew

I Guess You Never Knew

Date: August 12,2012

Just who do you think you are
Should I thank you for these scars
What do you think you offer me?
I'm sorry sweets...I just don't see

It seems to me your gift is pain
Winter clouds of cold hard rain
Nothing warm to soothe my skin
The fire never reached within

I tried and tried, for just a spark
A glint to warm my hungry heart
But all that flamed was my desires
The fire was mine, but never ours

A simple touch, a soothing word
But what I got was cold and blurred
I gave my best, my soul still yearns
Across the page, my heartache burns

I don't know who you think you are
Starting fires and stealing hearts
Biting more than you can chew
Then pretending that, you never knew

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Leria Hawkins

I Have But This

You have gone...
And I am ill in my longing
Writhing; my dreams colliding
In the give and take of you
Each breath holds you
Just out of reach
Each vision flames
With a fire I cannot touch

You are my passion
My torment
Wrapped in the air of refusal
Sealed tight against my persuasion
You are the shadows that dance
Setting flame to my serenity

You are gone from my sky
Gone from my earth, gone from the wind

You have gone...
And I am stone cold in my hunger
You are the spider in a web of illusion
A slow ripple across cool green waters
You are the birds that sing on high
The apple, blood red and ripe for picking

You are my sin
My ruin
Bound by the stings of hypocrisy
Steeled to the songs of my regard
You are the echo of desires
Rewinding through the ash of my dreams

You are gone, gone from my sky
Gone from my earth...

You have gone...
And I have but this...
This heart wrenching, mind splitting ache

I have but this...

Leria Hawkins

I Have No Art

I Have No Art

Date: January 9,2013

I have no art to give you, love
No talent for the brush
My clumsy pen, repeats again
Like echoes of a thrush

I have no words of wisdom, sweet
No grand or brilliant verse
I only have this need to scribe
The whispers of my curse

I have no songs to thrill you, dove
No voice to melt your heart
The tunes I hum, softly drum
My secrets in the dark

I have no shining treasures, dear
No diamonds in the rough
My ink laments of love's torment
For me...it is enough

But if my verse were liquid gold
I'd paint the stars above
And if my voice was fine and pure
I'd sing to you of love

And if my heart could bring to life
Sweet dancing melodies
I'd sing to you a lilting rhyme
Like poppies on a breeze

But this is this, and that is that
The truth is plain to see
I have no art to give you, love
There is no art in me...

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Leria Hawkins

I Hear The Phantom Calling

I Hear The Phantom Calling

Date: February 22,2014

He is my midnight madness
A lover just for dreams
A rewinding case of happenstance
That's never as it seems
Yet still, such lust soaked visions
Fly free into the night
And I refuse to seek the dawning
Unprepared for the light
So lost in moonlit whispers
A forbidden serenade
Where echoes paint the shadows
Like a dream in masquerade
And just as waning slumber
Creeps slow around my door
I resist the rising consciousness
Hungry still for more
I revel in our passion
A frenzy cloaked in black
Such sweet intoxication
No cause for looking back
He is a twilight fancy
A relentless fantasy
A ghost that haunt my stillness
A flame that cannot be

Yet, how I love the falling
The whispers sweet as cream
He's like a phantom calling
But only in my dreams...

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Leria Hawkins

I Hold The Hand

I Hold The Hand

Date: February 14,2015

When my mind is dark
I just can't see
The glaring light
In front of me
I chose to wander
Stumble blind
Across the deserts
Of my mind
I close the door
To right and wrong
I choose to cling
...to linger on
I let the whispers
In the night
Hold the hand
That holds the knife...

When my mind is dark
I just can't see
How another flame
Could ever be
I hang my heart
Out to dry
I close my eyes
And wonder why
Memories deep
Bind me in chains
Keeps me yearning
For the pain
So hot the fire
That seared me whole
Claimed the passion
My very soul...

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Leria Hawkins

I Keep Asking Why

I Keep Asking Why

Date: October 1,2015

Why am I to have this soul
That burns so true and bright
Yet, seeks the call of passion
That only flames at night

To love with such devotion
Defies all common sense
When the gain is just hypocrisy
That leaves me broken, spent

Why do I have this yearning
To hang on every line
When I know that in the dawning
There's nothing there to find

When whispers turn to ashes
They scatter with the wind
As sunrise lights the shadows
It's cold against my skin

Why do I search for castles
Out in the moonlit sky
Where stars rain down like arrows
To cut my hopeful eyes

When moonbeams shine with promise
And night winds softly call
I'm lulled into a fantasy
With no one to break my fall

Why do I have this heart
That beats through thick and thin
Still holding out for sincerity
Still clinging to pretend

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Leria Hawkins

I Know A Secret

Today I heard a whisper
A patient little rhyme
A jingle, just a tingle
Went running down my spine

I'm flooded by its sunshine
So warm against my cheek
From just that little whisper
A buzzing...so to speak!

Today I heard a sigh
A raspy little thing
Like bees upon a breeze
Or the flutter of a wing

I'm taken by its purring
A lilting in my heart
From just that little sigh
Such passion in a spark

Today I heard a secret
Twas breathing soft and low
A mystery cloaked in history
That only we would know

There's comfort in its presence
It's bound with lock and key
I hold that little secret
Deep inside of me...

Leria Hawkins

I Sowed, I Sowed

At the heart of things, I sowed, I sowed
And waited for my gifts to grow
But tender roots could not take hold
In a hardened soul...so dark and cold
Yet inside of me, it thrived, it bloomed
It burned away all doubt and gloom
Now every breath that swells in me
It steady grows, just like a tree...

But inside of you, it could not grow
Was stifled by the falling snow
Unable to embrace the flames
Was satisfied, with fun and games
I gave my heart to make it real
And spread the passion that I feel
But songs of hope, were not enough
To rise above the fangs of lust

There's nothing I can do...or say
Time won't sweep the fire away
You'll yearn for me, as I will you
You can't deny, the fire is true
We'll hold our breath in deep of night
Pretending to be joined in flight
We'll ride the waves in our ascent
Come crashing down, trembling...spent

Echoes scream through my mind
Again, again the scenes rewind
Dreams hold fast the secret fire
Fueled by flames of deep desire
Your loins relive the raging burn
But from the night, you cannot turn
While fighting ghosts on tangled sheets
The fire will rob you of your sleep

Forever connected, our fire entwined
Yet separated by boundary lines
Never will, two wrongs be right

Never will, we share the night
Just two lost souls adrift at sea
To never touch...to never be
At the heart of things, I sowed, I sowed
In a place where love could never grow

Leria Hawkins

I Tell It Like It Is

I Tell It Like It Is

Date: October 15,2012

Again I wake in this retched place
Where the devil glares with grimaced face
Reading my heart, stripping it bare
Savoring the scent of the secrets there
I'm slipping and sliding, the ice too thin
Carefully creeping, lest I fall in
I'm holding on tight with a white knuckle grip
Knowing he waits, for the moment I slip

And just as before, the first time I fell
He stood at the ready, casting a spell
Quick as a wink, he swiftly swooped in
Leading me down his pathway of sin

Dashing and daring, he's handsome and strong
He tied me in strings; then led me along
His clutch was so quick, I had nowhere to run
From the cold calculation, he fancies as fun
He baits a fine trap, with flattery and fawn
Seeking the weak to use as his pawn
Once I was trapped, caught in his snare
I was twisting and turning, gasping for air

He's a devil disguised, with eyes of deep blue
But nothing he says is faithful or true
So ladies beware, he's cold as a snake
And the treasure he offers, is gaudy and fake

But this time I stand strong, I'm adept to his game
Won't be fooled by his charms or bullied by shame
I'm squaring my shoulders, I'm calling his bluff
A lesson hard learned, and enough is enough
I say...bring it on you sly devil, this time you'll be beat
I'm wise to the tricks of a liar, a cheat
You can't take my heart, I've locked it away
Now...I am the slayer and you are the prey

So stare if you must, you'll have no affect
The passion in me, you can't resurrect
Your whispers fall dead, like leaves on a grave
You'll have none of me, or the homage you crave

May you lie there twisting, kicking up dust
With your mind full of soot and your heart full of rust
I've broken the chains that have long held me down
I picked up the mirror and turned it around
So, just look at yourself, you're sordid, unclean
There's nothing to you, behind the smokescreen
Smoke and mirrors together is a dangerous pair
They'll make you believe in what's really not there

The laugh is on you, cause I've learned your game
And the favor you seek, you'll never reclaim
I'm no more the victim, of your wretched deceit
And the armor I wear, you'll never defeat

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Leria Hawkins

I Understand 'Fantasy'

Will there ever be a place in your heart
Or is this thing, just fire and sparks
A burn that's held me, decades long
How can it flame, and still be wrong

If not for love, then just for spite
I'll hold on with my dying might
You cannot rip this love from me
I'll hold it tight, you wait and see

Midnight finds you in the burn
Sleep won't come, you toss and turn
Up at two, you still can't sleep
You fry the wires, instead counting sheep

I'm not angry, won't make demands
I've simply failed to understand
What keeps you coming back for more
When you don't understand what a heart is for

Countless times, I've tried to break free
But your iron clad grips gotta hold on me
Why not just let me slip away
No debt is due, no price to pay

What keeps you tied to my life
When my whispers cut you like a knife
I guess its luck that you can't bleed
Or feel the grief you've given me

No tenderness, no promises made
Why carry on this masquerade
Take off your mask and face the truth
My heart's the only one you use

Baby, I can love, without your songs
I've loved you for so very long
But I understand this fantasy
And that's all this love will ever be

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Leria Hawkins

I Will Let You Go

I Will Let You Go

Date: June 13,2014

I call it respect
You say it's malcontent
What I hold true as love
You consider a torment
While pleasures of the flesh
Keep your fires burning
It's only love and passion
That keep me warm and yearning
You say that love don't matter
That it isn't in your heart
I say it's all that matters
It's the fuel that flames the spark
You say that I am contentious
Always looking for a fight
I say that you're self-serving
And you always think you're right
So see...it's very simple
Let's change the status quo
You give up the chase
And I will let you go

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Leria Hawkins

I Will Rise

I Will Rise / DRAFT

Date: June 27,2012

We have lost the warmth of flames
Stifled by the silence of our secrets
As quietly as we came to touch
We let go the hand that held us

No one knew the flutters of my heart
Or discerned the fever of my desires
Only for you, I spoke in whispers
Only for you, your secrets kept

But as the sun rose on our history
I was burned by the flames of disdain
And as I searched for you, spoke your name aloud
I was answered by the lips of a stranger

I stood brave as the sun melted away before my eyes
Numbing me in the heartbreak of resignation
My hopes dashed as I laid down our whispers
Freeing them to dissolve into your shadow

I am still reeling in bittersweet confusion
Struggling to see the light beyond the clouds
Time, so cruel, has stolen my sighs
Revealing to me, a treasure, no more than fool's gold

I held my breath for you, sang to open fields of silence
I stood alone on the shore to watch you play in the distance
Creeping close, in the veil of secrecy, to speak to you in whispers
My heart hopeful for a chance to understand

But as I stood eye to eye with my undoing
I saw the truth that I refused for a decade long
Dispassionate eyes drilled cold and hard into my soul
I found no lover, no ally, no friend

Your refuse was my treasure, sweetheart

Your plaything...my heart
Though I bleed, I refuse to sink beneath the stones of my sorrow
And I will not allow shallow waters to drown me

I will make my way to the shore, and stand on my own two feet
I will find my voice, my passion, amid the debris
I will gather my fire, and I will sing again...
I will sing again...

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Leria Hawkins

I'LI Leave It Alone

I'll Leave It Alone

Date: February 8,2015

I do not weep in sorrow
As I stand beside the grave
My hope is that tomorrow
Will find me strong and brave

From you, my friend I've severed
The strings that bind my heart
I've taken off the shackles
I've snuffed out all the sparks

I'll take my pride, my passion
The things that cause you fear
And whisper all my secrets
In someone else's ear

I will not let you break me
Or steal my fire and flame
I'll live to rise tomorrow
To play another game

You'll always own my hunger, babe
...the sighs of my desire
But I still own the frenzy
That sets your dreams afire

You've never found me worthy
To linger in your heart
I know there's just no future
Written in our stars...

But, you won't find me crying, dear
For a dream I've never known
At last, I've learned my lesson
I'll leave the fire alone....

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Leria Hawkins

I'll Look To The Sky

I'll Look To The Sky

Date: March 16,2016

Our story has always been complicated
Both light and dark, joyous yet tragically sad
We've weathered many storms in our passing
Many self-made by misrepresentation of our true intent

But, I've always believed that I'd find that part of you
The place where you've hidden kindness and true understanding
Where words are not twisted into reason for anger
And genuine sentiment is not construed as something of grave offense

It seems that the years have turned our hearts away from the prospect of
intimacy
Instead we've devoted our time to the dark side of our true nature
Giving away the chance of real meaning or the kind of tenderness that comes
from the heart
While dwelling far too long on useless banter and superficial rhetoric

Now I look back at our torn and tangled past
A web that closed around us to swallow us whole
We have no choice but to face the finality of it all
As fate bound us to a future far removed from our pretend

It finally sank, my faith, like a rock tossed to the ocean floor
We will never surface to feel the warmth outside our caged existence
Our destiny, to pass as ships on a dark and restless sea
Seeing from a distance but lost as to how to connect in a meaningful way

The years have swept us far, far away from a promise of tomorrow
Like water under a bridge, the dreams of fire and fantasy are long past
We've far too many opportunities lost to misconception and ensuing pain
And there is no light at the end of our tunnel to signify a bright or promising
future

It seems time has silenced our voices and our passions to truly know each other
And we are left with trivial pursuits of little regard to our hearts
My mind screams, begging me to admit this cold and painful truth

To find acceptance and make peace with the life that lay ahead of me

I'll look to the sky and remember you in soft rolling clouds
Forever beautiful to my eyes, my heart and my memories
But achingly out of reach, as much today as yesterday
As much today...as the many, many years before

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Leria Hawkins

I'm Greedy To Know

I'm Greedy To Know

Date: November 20,2015

Oh, how I long for him
That shadow that haunts my dreams
He journeys on the wings of darkness
A stranger, calling to me in whispers
He is a bell chiming just past midnight
Awakening me to the call of his maddening desires
He is fire to boil my blood
An illusion too hot to hold in my naïve reality
He is a flame, a sultry, hot flame,
Burning unspeakable passions into my soul
He exudes a wantonness that's strange to me
Imbuing me with his frenzy,
With his insatiable appetite for things wicked
He is a snake, coiling around my hunger
Strangling my sense of decency and reserve
I am undone, held breathless beneath his persuasion
I am eager to be the vessel, a conduit for his rage
My weaknesses, he woos with lustful intention
And I thirst for the mysteries of his appetite
He is darkness, and carnal proclivities
And I...greedy to know his secrets

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Leria Hawkins

I'M Not Asking For Much

I'm Not Asking For Much

Date: January 25,2015

You've set a fire burning
And I don't know what to do
I would let it burn forever, love
If my dreams were really true
You wash across my memories
A flame to sear my veins
And I could live in this delusion
If it weren't for the pain
I dream in black and blue, dear
To match my tortured heart
I'm on a ship that's slowing sinking
Left swimming with the sharks
I understand your motives, babe
I comprehend the game
But I cannot bear the burden
When you cannot speak my name

My soul you have forsaken
As though I have no right
To a moment of loves veracity
Or a second in the light
You only seek the comfort
Of my shadow in the dark
Avoiding all that's righteous
Or the matters of my heart
You cling to my affection
Like a soul that's set aflame
But I only hear you whisper
Of desires that have no name
You long to know the secrets
Of a heart you will not hold
And you only hint of passion
When you sense it growing cold

You call on your charisma, babe
As a tool to have your way

And with cool deliberation
You keep your wolves at bay
My love has never touched you
You simply cannot feel
So much I have to offer
For you, there's nothing real
I have to let you go, dear
No longer can I stand
To love with such a passion
What I cannot understand
I've loved you since forever
I know I always will
And when I think about you
My heart will love you still

I've made peace with your refusal
I know just where I stand
I'll always hold your interest
As, you're just that kind of man
But, you cannot see my heart, babe
Or understand my pride
But that's okay, my precious
I know...I've been denied
So take your lust, your passion
Your whispers in the night
And give them to your lover
It surely is your right
But, leave me with my memories, dear
A dream to hold me tight
It's the least that you can give me
Given all the tears I've cried

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Leria Hawkins

Impossibilities

Date: January 22,2015

There is a flaw in our stars
That led us to this end
A chronic imperfection
That fate refused to mend

We dreamt of clouds and rainbows
Of nights filled with fantasy
In those warm and lofty moments
We believed that 'we' could be

We danced with eyes wide open, dear
Ignored the right and wrong
And when whispers turned to kisses
We felt like we belonged

But the road we chose to travel
Was paved with treachery
Yet we stayed the course together
As if we didn't see

We rode the highs and lows
On a coaster made of glass
And squandered all our passion
On a dream that couldn't last

Time is our tormentor, dear
A thorn to scratch our eyes
It muddied up the certainty
Of this comfortless goodbye

Please find the road to honor, love
When your memories turn dark
And don't let this separation
Be the chains that bind your heart

As there never was a moment, dear
That we were meant to be

Just a burning...just a yearning
For impossibilities....

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Leria Hawkins

In Dreams

In Dreams

Date: July 31,2015

In dreams...you are the moon
Rising in a midnight sky
With all the stars in heaven
A 'twinkling in your eyes
You are my Sunday morning
Warm between the sheets
And lazy afternoons
That leave me full, complete
You are a life long journey
A path that leads me home
A fire to stir my passion
The only one I've known
You're whispers in my coffee
Sweet echoes are my cream
You're the rage of lustful yearnings
In my silent movie screams
Just like a speckled puppy
You bring me youthful joy
Like a candy coated confection
That leaves me wanting more
You burn with fire and flame
That robs me of my sight
You're everything I long for
An ageless guiding light
You are a timeless vessel, dear
The maker of my sighs
A keeper of my secrets
The flame I can't deny
You are that haunting melody
Rewinding in my head
A bold and tasty morsel
That keeps my hunger fed
In dreams...you are the moon, love
Sweet whispers in the night
You settle on my pillowslip
To make all my wrongs seem right

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Leria Hawkins

In Your Eyes

In Your Eyes

Date: February 27,2013

How can I trust, what I don't believe
How can I stay, when I've been deceived
Oh Baby I'm afraid, of all that I feel
It all seems so right, but I know it's not real

Baby, how can I love, what I cannot touch
How can I dream, when it's never enough
I've tried to let go, and give up the fight
I know it's not real, but it still seems so right

Day after day, the memories rewind
How can I see, when I choose to be blind
Words are just words, when spoken in vain
Oh why do I cling, to the bits that remain

My mind knows the truth, but my heart can't admit
How can I promise, when you can't commit
There's love in my heart, but it suffers the sting
To the bits that remain, oh, why do I cling

I examine the facts, this cruel twist of fate
How can I smile, when I'm ready to break
Seems, year after year, my life rushes by
How can I love, when you haven't tried

Baby, what is the answer, please show me the way
How can I find tomorrow, when I'm so lost today
So much we have shared, was it all just a lie
How can I bear, what I see in your eyes...

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Leria Hawkins

Injuries...Self-Inflicted

Injuries...Self-Inflicted

Date: September 4,2011

And while I swim in rivers
Deep as my desire
The fickle flame that warms me
Cannot sustain my fire
A' clinging to the chalice
To wring out every sip
A poison to my spirit
But ambrosia to my lips
I'm haunted by the flavors
Drip, sweetened from the vine
I relish in the torment
And hunger for the wine
This burden, my obsession
Tears loose in bitter flames
To scald the tender longing
That welds me to this game

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Leria Hawkins

It Failed To Be

And it came to pass...
The last drops
Drip, drip, dripping
Like rain off the rusty barn roof
No bowl to catch or capture
No hands cupped in an effort

So distant from me
Love hangs on the horizon
Blowing like sheets on the clothesline
Waving from that faraway roost
Safe and unyielding
Never close enough to touch
For fear that it might be touched in return

Yes, that's just how it is
It's how it's always been
It cannot be moved, swayed
Or lured to the shore
So beautiful in its simplicity
So cruel in its burning intent

Time was, that I believed
My puzzle could be solved
The missing pieces within reach
Just waiting...to fit and fill the empty spaces
To paint my canvas full and green
And at last, find home

But it is so untrue
My eyes blinded by the smoke of illusion
The wind, blew close enough to taste
Whispering passion light and fresh as spring berries
Teasing me, over and over, as the seasons turned
Oh, how easy it was to stumble and fall

And there it is....my bucket still sits
Yearning to be filled
Naked in its wanton desire to sip

For once, the warm breath of acceptance
Love....so blind...so incredibly blind
That it failed to see...
That it failed to know...
That it failed to be....

Leria Hawkins

It Is Yours

And this is how it is with true love
I invite you into my open spaces
Give free reign to explore and fill my deep dark crevices
Touch me; mold my passion to fit your dreams
I ask nothing in return
Take my fire, my reverence
I give in the spirit of tolerance
And accept the change for what it becomes
I am the clay, the catalyst of your desires
And I'll cherish the bloom of your creation
I'll frame it, hang in on the wall for the world to see
A work of art, a masterpiece, a garden fit for a king
A diamond...flawless, beautifully cut
It is yours...
For the taking, for the making
It is yours...

Leria Hawkins

It Takes Two To Tango

It Takes Two To Tango

Date: January 12,2012

There's a side of you that I had to learn
I didn't see, until I was burned
I refused to hear what others said
Was warming by your fire instead

But, you're just the shadow of a song
Baiting me to sing along
You're always there when I am weak
To hitch a ride on my defeat

You're spewing flames across the wire
I'm a paper doll, catching fire
You set the trap, a Trojan horse
To watched me burn, you've no remorse

You play the game so very well
Obsessions glossed so I can't tell
All wrapped in twine and pretty bows
My heart left buried in the snow

You mesmerize with shiny things
Whilst sporting high, a tarnished ring
A bit that always reins you in
Your song and dance is just pretend

Admissions never cross your mind
You'd dare not speak the truthful kind
For fear to put you on the spot
Confessing all the things you're not

Always sitting high and far above
Never swayed by the pull of love
The years have wrapped your heart in steel
So that you may play, but never feel

A spider's web, a fishers' net

To catch the unsuspecting, yet
When you have me in the snare
I turn around and you're not there

It's a side of you, I had to learn
How to play the game, and cool the burn
So I'll give right back, the fawn and fluff
Then walk away, when I've had enough

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Leria Hawkins

It's A Love, I've Loved In Vain

It's A Love, I've Loved In Vain

Date: November 11,2014

A decade ago, I loved you
Sometimes I love you still
I've loved you since forever
And forever I always will
A year ago, I loved you
At times you're still the one
You've instilled in me such passion
You've seared me like the sun
A month ago, I loved you
Now and then, you're still the rage
Without you, I'm in prison
I'm a songbird in a cage
A week ago I loved you
In dreams you warm my nights
You hold me wild and breathless
In sleep induced delight
A day ago I loved
Most days the fire burns
As I wait in expectation
For the day, I have my turn
An hour ago I loved you
As I search the morning sky
I keep looking for your love, babe
To find me by and by
A minute ago I loved you
So often on my mind
In thoughts of grand illusions
Where at last our stars align
A second ago I loved you
By and large the love remains
It's a love that time can't sever
But a love...I've loved in vain

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Leria Hawkins

It's A Love-Hate Thing

Love...such a fickle, fickle flame
...a fine line...between here and never again

I love you for many, many reasons
For fire and for sex
And for the blue that intrigues me
...and I hate you just the same
Because I am weak and yearn for you
Because I am tired of the seasons between hot and cold
I love you for the musings that prick my brain
For the slight tick, the unconscious clearing of your throat
And for the intensity of your unabashed self-love
...and I hate you, with a blind and bitter rage
Because I fail to enflame you
Because I've sought your shore
Only to drown instead in a pool of my own making
I love you for taste and smell and texture
For the cool thin lines of your persuasion
I love your resolve, your intelligence, your brazen wickedness
...and I hate you just the same
Because I am inebriated by your poison
Addicted to the taste and the smell of it
I love you in all your varying shades of gray
And in the red, red, red of my dreams
There are so many hues...orange, gold, amber
I love them all...
But, let me be perfectly clear...I hate you

Leria Hawkins

It's Just Illusion

I've got to believe
There's something here for me
That somewhere deep inside
There's something that you hide
I've got to be brave
To give up all this rage
To lay down this ancient flame
Give up on silly games
I've got to keep on moving
Tomorrow's another day
There's no time here for brooding
If I plan to find my way
I sure wish things were different
That you could love me to
I guess it's just illusion
As I have no claims on you...

Leria Hawkins

It's My Lie

It's My Lie

Date: July 16,2014

I will not look...I will not look...WILL NOT LOOK

With a heart of desperation

When the sun has slid from my door

When the sky has turned to grey

And I will not yearn...will not yearn

For a dream that leaves me empty

When the wine has turned to acid

When the glass is stained and dry

I will not grieve...I will not grieve

For a love that has no meaning

When the fire is left to smolder

When the flames are left to die

I will not look...I will not look

I...will...not...look!

But again and again...I lie

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It's My Prattle...And I'M Sticking To It

It's My Prattle...And I'm Sticking To It

Date: Unknown

To most, just useless prattle
But I don't mind at all
I rather enjoy it, at least, as well as I enjoy most
And many would not venture here
Or waste their precious time...

But, I too...am guilty...
Of disinterest, of skirting the leaf
Searching for a juicy morsel, something quick; entertaining...
Something to grab my weary mind, or better yet
Something ravenous...to feed the hungry that consumes me

And many may even detest the sing-song ramblings of my rhyme
Finding it gibberish, trite...perhaps timeworn
My words threadbare...my sentiments cliché

But, I do not write to entertain you
Or in search of your applause
I do not vent for accolades
It's just the way the blather falls

I rhyme without a reason
No method to the madness
I write trails to love and laughter
And lines of grief and sadness

There is no claim of talent
No claim to gifts or flair
There's only rhyming chatter
It's all I have to share...

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Leria Hawkins

It's Your Call

It's Your Call

Date: November 11,2013

Like a fire beneath my skin
You, the flame, the wayward wind
And as a hymn denied of sound
You're caged inside this burial ground
A voiceless surging of my mind
Is lost between the blurry lines
My soul's held captive by the call
That whispers of no hope at all

But oh, the thrill I would have missed
Had I refused the urgent kiss
A grand illusion disguised the pain
That's forever bound to offer rain
Was flaming high, and burning fast
I knew that it would never last
You're like a charm I can't forget
Sewn to the chain of my regret

Oh, bittersweet, my fickle love
Your iron fist, your velvet glove
You breathe a fire into my soul
Igniting flames I can't control
And like a ghost that haunts the night
You whisper of your secret plight
Pretending that there's something true
Lost in the lines of me and you

And just when I think, I've paid the bill
Dreams appear to haunt me still
Fluttering from another time
Singing songs in twisted rhyme
The rage of need sears my veins
Burns through me time and time again
It's like a wild and stormy sea
Awash with cold dark memories

You, the fire that flames in me
A vice that leads to my defeat
For every time you look my way
I rise again, to be slain as prey
And like a fire beneath my skin
My heart, your candle in the wind
Fluttering with no hope at all
My soul held captive by your call

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Leria Hawkins

I'Ve Come To Understand

I've Come To Understand

Date: August 14,2015

After so many years,
My heart has calmed
Like the settling of quicksand
Swallowing whole, your lust soaked whispers
A sudden epiphany,
Perhaps more, a revelation
Laying bare the madness
And mysteries of your smile

It's been a decade (and then some)
That I've sidestepped the broken pieces
Picked out splinters that seek to ruin me
I have dodged bullets, flying glass
Dangers...that sought to cut me without cause
There have been too many seasons
Blindly denying both truth and reason
Tortured, in my vain attempts to love you
And there have been too many failures
Tirelessly trying to decode your passion
Darkened by the cold emptiness of silence,
Drowning me in waves of loneliness and despair

Years have flown by, with so many moments,
So very many emotions and blind sentiments
Crushed in a barrage of thoughtless words
And there have been misunderstandings
Brushed off as insignificant, never to be made right
And while I sought the truth of your confessions,
Dreamt of the fire that is your kiss,
And longed for the love that you cannot give
I was held by your standards, far below the rest
My fire extinguished beneath the fury of disdain
My heart deemed unworthy of your favor

But at last, I set out on a storm-less sea
My devotion, tempered by time and torment

It seems peace does not come without a price
But I have at last accepted this hand
I acknowledge that the stars have been unkind
Allowing me to stand beneath their brilliance
Yet denying me the true meaning of their beauty
I have loved and lost, not the first, nor the last
To journey so far, with so little hope
Of finding a place called home...

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Leria Hawkins

Junkie

Junkie

Date: February

I dream only of you...
Breathless, on fire...only of you
My sweet, sweet flame, my one desire
You keep me burning, burning higher
Never was there such a light
To fuel the flames, to sear the nights
In sleep, I feast on sweets and cream
Conjured in my wanton dreams
Then I wake, the world turned gray
As midnight hues, fade away...
Yet that flame, keeps burning true
It lives in fevered dreams of you
I close my eyes and pray for sleep
To reclaim that fire, burning deep
Passion tucked in its hiding place
Hides by day in flawed disgrace
Will never once breathe the air
Or feel the joys of tender care
But dusk rewinds to its whispered call
It hits me like a wrecking ball
But, it's just a dream, a dream indeed
I'm a junkie...with a jones to feed.

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Leria Hawkins

Just As Me...A Halloween Rhyme

Just As Me...A Halloween Rhyme

Date: September 19,2013

Seasons turn, October brings
Golden hues and waning greens
Soon to come, the fateful hour
When demons reign and vampires glower

Dusk is falling, daylight fades
Tree tops whisper serenades
The night air crackles, magic looms
Witches mount their ancient brooms

A pinch of death, a dash of rot
Found bubbling in the cauldron pot
The shaman stirs his deadly brew
Then stoops to taste the rancid stew

Out past the mill, the graveyard looms
Tonight the spirits leave their tombs
One night to rise from their decay
To walk the land in search of prey

Around a crypt, ten cat's meow
Across the hills, werewolves howl
The living dead will celebrate
The time is nigh to seize their fate

Alas, alas...all Hallows eve
You're soon to doubt what you believe
Ghouls and goblins rule this night
Bent on ruin and ghostly fright

Oh Halloween, sweet Halloween
A night of shock and grisly screams
There's no other place I'd rather be
Than among the souls... just as ME

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Leria Hawkins

Just In Time

Just In Time

Date: September 26,2012

Sometimes it takes a fall
To stand on solid ground
Sometimes it takes dissension
To turn it all around
Sometimes we fail to see
The grass outside our door
Sometimes we just don't know
Just what we're looking for
Sometimes we lose ourselves
In our struggles day to day
Sometime so busy looking
That our eyes begin to stray
Sometime we sink so deep
That we lose sight of the shore
Sometimes we think a lie
Is what we're looking for
Sometimes we roll the dice
Forgetting all we know
Sometimes we pay the price
For the seeds of pain we sow
Sometimes we test our fate
To see what we will find
Sometimes a wakeup call
Is answered just in time

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Leria Hawkins

Just One Slip

Just One Slip

Date: June 10,2015

All these nights, spent by myself
To dwell upon my mental health
While in the dark, it's never clear
The truth's held hostage by my fear

I sought to find some peace of mind
But only shadows paint the night
And when the sun begins to rise
All I see, is in disguise

There's just too many cloudy days
The sleepless nights, the long delays
I'm standing on a slippery ledge
Teetering closer to the edge

My heart is tangled, tied in knots
Can't see around the blind spots
Is there a forest beyond the trees
Or am I too blind to really see

I'm bleeding out beneath the skin
Been trying so hard to hold it in
I've always thought there'd be a chance
To move beyond this circumstance

I cling to ghosts of season's past
To pick me up, when I crash
I search the deserts of my mind
For an oasis that I've yet to find

All these nights, spent all alone
Has turned my weary heart to stone
I've tried to keep my beasts at bay
Is there a cure...one slip away?

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Just Stones

From the moment the blue jay spied
My stolen breath could only sigh
And then the clever cunning fox
Made den upon my store of rocks

In the valley wet with dreams
He offered up, sweet cake and cream
Spiced with ginger, steeped in fire
He fed my heart his wild desires

I grew to crave his wind-burned face
Etched with time and lined with grace
His hills and valleys, I explored
I sought the flames beyond the shore

My heart soon nailed to his command
A view my mind can't comprehend
My legs are strong, my back is straight
I'd never bend to such a fate

Beside his tempest shores, I wept
Uncertain where the fire was kept
I searched for fuel to feed my rage
My heart obsessed, my passion caged

Once trapped inside his secret lair
I woke to find he wasn't there
Outside there blows a violent storm
Inside...just stones to keep me warm

Leria Hawkins

Kiss And Tell

Kiss And Tell

Date: April 4,2013

I sing my owns songs
With the breath I stole from you
And wrap my soul in cellophane
To keep it fresh and true
I whisper shattered sentiments
Into dark and troubled waters
Hoping they will find their way
To a place where longing matters
From my mountaintop revival
I shout into the clouds
Trying to unearth the passion
In words to make you proud
I stumble through dark alleys
In search of ancient blood
To smear across the canvas
In a silent raging flood
I have no jewel to offer
Beyond my beating heart
I have no voice of reason
No wonder in my art
I put my mind to paper
To tidy up the space
And though the ink is wasted
It cannot be erased
Sewn into the seams
Of the drum beneath my breast
I've locked away the secrets
And all the dreams professed
But scattered on the iris
Of eyes that cannot see
Lay the true confessions
That burn inside of me

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Leria Hawkins

Lay Down In Ashes

Lay Down in Ashes

Date: February 18,2012

When green flies through the window
And love is on the ground
The morning dew is soundless
The sun cannot be found
When standing in the shadows
In the passing of a day
Whisper sweet my darling
If love can find the way
But if the sod is barren
The clay, cold and dry
My head will bend in sorrow
To see you passing by
Still, let the fire be nameless
The sparks burn to ash
Make haste into the sunshine
No time for looking back

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Leria Hawkins

Let It Rot

Let It Rot

Date: December 29,2015

There is no weakness in your eyes
No long held sentiment in your sighs
There's only hunger roiling deep
Laced with lines of cool deceit

The snow falls down in flurried white
To fade away in dead of night
Whispers sweet, roll off your tongue
False promise of the days to come

Your favor's wrapped, tied in strings
Broken promise wears the ring
That binds so tight, your stony heart
And leaves you prowling in the dark

A truth denied, stings my eyes
To melt away the thin disguise
B`cause love can't warm a frosty heart
That'd rather stay lost in the dark

If wishes were more than fairy tales
There'd be no mountains left to scale
I'd simply wish upon a star
To make as new, my cuts and scars

Depravity is such a malicious thing
The master of your twisted dreams
It blinds your eyes, to what is real
Deprives you of the warmth to feel

But the loss is yours to carry on
Just one more in your bag of bones
Another skeleton to hide away
Another love left to decay

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Let The Sun In

Let The Sun In

Date: January 15,2015

Carry on, oh wayward wind
Carry on, from hearth and kin
Deliver a prayer to foreign lands
Over raging rivers `n burning sands

Hold without harm in thy perfect grace
Shelter from life's long cruel race
Blind our eyes to the greed of man
Steady lift our upturned hand

Let us do as others have
Let us be the balm, let us be the salve
Into the wounds of those who cling
Let us rise to be a voice that sings

Lift the burden on our backs
Give us strength to fill the cracks
To patch the rift that threatens all
Give us strength, before we fall

Let wisdom guide us on our road
Let courage bear the heavy load
Teach our hearts to understand
That we are one...that we are man

Let the guilty stand to wear the stain
Let no religion be defamed
For streets that bleed dark and red
Let us close our eyes and bow our heads

Lift us up, to see the light
To understand the wrong and right
Bring peace to ease our troubled minds
For the greater good of all mankind

And through the voice of charity

Please lift our hearts in solidarity
Let compassion be our rising sun
To lay down our sins and lay down our guns

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Leria Hawkins

Let's Just Try

Let's Just Try

Date: September 19,2012

I'm trying to forgive the hurt
For all you've said and done
I'm trying hard to understand
Though my heart tells me to run

I'm trying hard to find a way
To lay down the grief and doubt
I'm trying hard, so very hard
To chase the demons out

I'm trying still, to turn a cheek
To forget the bitter blows
I'm trying now, with all my might
To rise above the snow

I'm really trying to accept your faults
And understand mine too
I'm really trying to make things right
We've still so much to do

I'm trying, trying to be strong
To bear the crippling weight
Trying hard to make a change
I hope it's not too late

I'll keep on trying, yes I will
As long as you try too
Because for me, it's worth the strife
To keep on loving you

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Leria Hawkins

Let's Pretend

Let's Pretend

Date: June 24,2015

Oh, let me pretend, my love
That I have found solace in your arms
Let me swim in the beauty behind
The dark mystery of your eyes
Be the clay, my sweet
Let me shape you into that dream
That perfect summer dream
Where you are mine, and mine alone
Let me pretend without disruption
Clinging for a lifetime
To the simple rhythm of your sighs
Pretend that you are mine, my sweet
Dance with me beneath moonlit skies
In perfect harmony with your song
Let me pretend that I am the flame
That impassioned, raging flame
That burns eternal in your soul
Let me deceive you, dear
Accept me...consume me as the fire
That warms your home forever
Let me be the bread that sustains you
The river that sates your thirst
Drink from the cup of my yearning, dear
Fall intoxicated into my white hot dreams
Unite with my soul so that we can awaken
As the epitome of your desires
Let me pretend, my love
Pretend that the whispers are all true
And you pretend, babe
Pretend...that you love me too

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Leria Hawkins

Like Diamonds

Like Diamonds

Date: May 14,2013

Holding your hand feels wrong
But loving your heart feels right
I have no claims, no chains, my love
And I know that you are not mine
For surely as the sun rises
And the moon drifts slow into the night
The day will come, and with a blinding sting
You will leave me, blown away, my sweet
Like pollen on a breeze
You will drift far, far away from my eyes
And farther still from my lips
But never ever far from my soul
And never ever far from the memories that console me
Yes...you will leave me, but leave me never
And you will go, but remain forever
Sweet man, sweet, sweet man of my dreams
I will love you forever
And I will release you, never...
Bound and gagged, prisoner of my heart
My secret, my treasure trove of all things precious
And I will shine like gold
In my recollections of your smile
And sparkle like diamonds
When reliving the joys of your kiss
And my smile, will be your smile
And my sighs, your sighs
If only for a while...just a while
Cause holding your hand feels wrong
But loving your heart...is perfect

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Live And Let Die

Alone and weary at the grave
Feeling weak, but acting brave
Saddened that it came to pass
It burned so bright, but didn't last

Love it seems, a fragile thing
Is fraught with thorns and bound to sting
Wrapped in strings, a crushing twist
Yet, can't resist, the enchanting kiss

What happened to seeds we'd sewn?
They're buried deep and cold as stone
The unyielding heart beneath the clay
Rose up to sweep the dream away

I woke to find the winds so harsh
The rain poured down to snuff the spark
No more to warm beside the flame
Yet echoes whisper a forbidden name

I've fought my heart, to let it go
To leave behind the rain and snow
Time, they say will heal the ache
I have to bend, to stop the break

Still...it hurts to watch it fade
I weep beside the looming grave
Then lay to rest the very thing
That gave me light; that made me sing

Leria Hawkins

Live On

Live On

Date: January 30,2015

I want to write a poem so strong
That lesser men fall to their knees
In awe of its raw power
I want to write it with ink
Black as the darkest night
As bold as cherries
Steeped in moonshine
I want it to sing out loud
To the heavens and earth
And to whisper to the depths of every ocean
I want it to make grown men cry
Unabashedly and without fear
I want women to swoon in rapture
And children to laugh with glee
I want it to scream at every retched fallacy
To crown with honor every truth
I want it hold every heartbeat
And crush the cold fingers of death
I want it to roar with the lions
And lay down with lambs
I want it to be peace, and love and harmony
But rage with the full fire of hell and brimstone
I want it to be soft and cool as snowflakes
But hard and strong as steel
I want it to shine with the gold of the sun
And glow with the silver moon
I want it to ride every shooting star
Then implode into an all-consuming black hole
I want it to live, and to breathe
Falling forever from the lips of eternity

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Looking Down

Looking Down

Date: January 7,2016

How can I dig my way out of this grave I'm in
When smothered by thoughts of death and sin
I've searched to find that long lost smile
That's buried beneath the soot and guile
My heart was trembling as I took the fall
I don't know why I risked it all
They say, stupid is...as stupid does
I guess that's all it really was
Just a budding glitch in my sanity
A lifetime of pain waits for me
I gave my spirit to the knife
Then prayed for peace in the after life
My grand illusions have burned to black
With no one here to bring me back
There's naught but I, in this shallow grave
There's nothing here that I care to save
It's all a testament to a shady past
I was born to live, but not to last
So keep the fire that scorched my soul
Because I can't feel it...from inside this hole

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Looking For A Cure

Looking For A Cure

Date: January 21,2016

Stop calling with your senseless chat
I'm sorry, I won't go back to that
With so many goodbyes it all seems clear
That all your claims were insincere

I've tried so hard to quit the game
It's time for you to do the same
I don't know why we held so strong
To intentions that are clearly wrong

I guess I thought the years would find
A path to lead your heart to mine
But you'd rather live with false beliefs
Than to try to see inside of me

You never saw beyond your need
For tasteless trash, it's selfish greed
I never was the reckless kind
Till you stole my heart, and left me blind

I succumbed to your wicked spell
It dragged me to the depths of hell
It left my heart bitter and cold
Matched only by my frozen soul

I have no fight, no energy
To cling to hope or memories
All my passion, your words disgraced
You threw my love back in my face

To know that love wasn't your intent
Has filled my soul with malcontent
I was just a fool, who loved you still
Despite the way you make me feel

It'll take some time to forget the pain

I pray, the lessons will remain
I hope someday the future brings
The day that I don't feel a thing

Someday I'll pass you on the street
And the pain won't cut me near as deep
I'll smile, then look the other way
Cured of the ache feel today

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Looking For A Sign

Looking For A Sign

Date: August 24,2015

When once again I see
That there's no one there but me
Always sifting through the pages
Like I have for what seems ages
I keep looking for the lines
Or for any kind of sign
To keep my heart from sinking
While I wonder what you're thinking
With my thoughts upon a shelf
It's only me and no one else

Do you ever chance to see
Have you ever looked for me
When you need to see the words
Just to know that you've been heard
And to know that someone's near
With a whisper in their ear
Cause, when the whisper is for you
Don't you want to hear it too
Or is that only me
Stuck in endless reverie

Once again I take a peek
For the whispers that I seek
How 'bout a simple "how are you"
Almost anything would do
Oh, it's sure to bring a smile
Make me feel it's all worthwhile
Just to linger here again
Without a care, without a plan
Just waiting for a chance
Maybe find a wee romance

Do you ever search the shore
For a shadow, maybe more
Hoping for a change of scene

To bring to life a distant dream
A chance to hold your lover tight
Whisper all your heart's delight
Then just float away in flames
Leave behind the guilt or shame
Just once...to lay your passions bare
Beneath a sea of chestnut hair

But, when once again I see
That there's no one there but me
And there's just the empty pages
Nothing there for what seems ages
Then I know it's just a game
Though my heart will never change
And I'll keep searching for a sign
That says you've changed your mind
Just a whisper, just a clue
That says...you love me too

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Leria Hawkins

Losing Sleep

Date: July 10,2012

Sighs give way in winter's waste
I've turned to stone and hide in haste
Brushing away the biting chill
A vessel longing to be filled

In black of night when passions stir
Moonstruck thoughts arise, then blur
Memories gather in the mist
Then spiral into a dark abyss

The muse long-suffers for a kill
My burning thirst can taste the thrill
Come bearing down with rusty blade
Then disappears in serenades

The prey is fleet and sure of foot
Leaving naught but ash and soot
The bats are loosed and flying free
Raging wild and mocking me

Time blows cross my windowpane
Brings frozen darts that scream of rain
Lost within my voiceless cries
The fire of passion clings to life

My muse, without a flame to fix
Is cast upon the river Styx
Left tossing, turning in the tide
Still clawing at, a dream denied

Whispers pinned against the wall
Across the leaf, the spiders crawl
Spinning webs to snare the prey
Tidbits for another day

Midnight finds me burning still
A prisoner held against my will

Fighting flames, raging fast
Searing memories of the past

Pen in hand, I've lost the fight
I surrender to the ruthless night
Pull the plug, admit defeat
And pray my mind will let me sleep

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Leria Hawkins

Lost And Found

Lost and Found

Date: July 14,2012

I dug beneath the dusty heap
And found a treasure there
I gathered it into my arms
And gave it tender care
I held it close against my breast
And smoothed the ruffled wings
I gently stroked the twisted notes
Till I could hear it sing

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Leria Hawkins

Love It Or Leave It

Love It Or Leave It

Date: February 2,2011

Come to me forever, love
Or entice me, nevermore
There is no in-between, my dear
The ocean meets the shore

I forsake the useless drivell
If barren of your desire
And decline the bone dry kisses
From lips devoid of fire

I shan't extend a tender hand
When thy heart in greed must hide
Nor will I lie beneath your weight
When my heart is denied

I'll ignore the whispering winds
When smoke obscures my view
And nevermore to search in vain
For stars that shine of you

My breath will cease to speak thy name
Yet inked upon the rhyme
Is passion flaming from the heart
That burns of love sublime

I'll offer firm resistance
To hold my wolves at bay
And turn with a conviction
That flattery cannot sway

I'll beg not for affection
Or pout when you decline
I'll simply turn my heart away
And leave the fire behind

So come to me forever, love

Or free me from this snare
A decade of indecisiveness
Is more than what is fair

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Leria Hawkins

Love Waits The Lonely Skies

Velvet of the darkest night
Soft as winter wind
Sighs to set the soul aflame
A hunger creeping in
Flutters sweet, a lullaby
A breath of midnight blue
Stars that pock the sleepy sky
Let passion trickle through
Sparks kindle fast the secret fire
A burning, no remorse
Tarrying still, the longing heart
For fate to find its course
Hidden safe from prying eyes
Love dwells within the dream
In latent whispers of the heart
Forgotten...so it seems

Leria Hawkins

Loves Me, Loves Me Not

Date: July 18,2013

What of this love, not tender, not true
Like a bag full of stones, some black and some blue
With blows self-inflected; bruising my heart
I'm a fool who keeps playing, but can't play the part

I found...such passion, such deep, dark desires
In a world of illusions, a dreamscape of fire
So caught in the moment, enamored by flames
I was confused by the blunder...the ways of the game

I was blind to the strings, till bound in the snare
I wasn't looking for that, I was caught unaware
The clues now seem clear, but I just couldn't see
I didn't want to admit...my own simplicity

I've gone so long, with my love blinders on
So easily deceived, so defiantly wrong
I was caught in a daydream...a grand fantasy
Where I needed him, and he needed me

And even when sorrow, would drag me down
I'd lie to myself to turn it around
Every time that he whispered, then went on his way
I felt less like me, and more like prey

So what of this love, not tender, not true
Just a heart full of passion...left yearning and blue
I'm a hopeless romantic, just longing to be
Just some of the things...that he is to me

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Leria Hawkins

Man! ...What A Bonehead!

Man...What A Bonehead!

Date: September 11,2012

Now...who's the idiot?

Finally, you've come to know what I've always known

You finally realize...with so much time gone by

And "too" much water under the bridge

What caused the rage in your soul

You played a tired song for year upon year

So fierce and hard you were...talking like a man on fire

Always goading the innocent...stirring the honey pot

Until the bees swarmed up, and you were stung

How predictable...you ran off and hid like a frightened child

Holding tight, the apron stings

You stood there coughing, sputtering...but unable to rewind the song

Or dislodge the slime caught in your throat

Oh, but you savored the flavor to the last drop

Testing, testing...always testing the waters

Until you fell through the ice and drowned yourself

And now you lay there, dead as the proverbial doornail

Holding tight, the limp memories of your desires

And wondering why you threw it all away

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Leria Hawkins

Many Times

Many Times

Date: June 24,2015

I've lived and died
Many times since loving you
Found joy in your persuasion
Sorrow in your uncertainty
I have smiled at passing fancy
Shed tears beneath the weight of shame
You have given me moments of great hope
Mixed equal with unwarranted misery
So much unspoken promise, my love
Mere ripples in the illusive pool called tomorrow
I have savored the highs of loving you
Took comfort in sentiment I'll never know
And I have endured the lows
Felt heartache in the throes of dark despair
I have braved many days, and months, and years of mystery
The question burning, always flaming, always the same
And I have died, my sweet
Yet to be buried in this cold, damp earth
I exist, only to muddle thru this lifetime
A ghost, searching for a reason to push on
I seek only a glimmer, a spark to light my way
My heart has endured, holding steadfast
Patiently yearning for my moment in the sun
I have given my whispers to the wind
Bared my soul to eyes of the night
I have lived for a future I cannot see
Died by the cruel and twisted hand of fate
I have lived with great passion
I have died of cold indifference
Many times...I have loved...
Many times, I have lost...
I have lived and died many, many times
Since loving you...

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Leria Hawkins

Maybe You'll Remember

Maybe You'll Remember

Date: May 8,2017

Maybe you'll remember

The peaceful garden and the green sea

How the tide rose and fell, rose and fell

Swallowing up my tenderness

I walked with you there

Long ago in the youth of my longing

I ran the shore, rushing headlong into the rage

Begging to be swept away in the recklessness of it all

I lay naked in the grass nearby, green as envy

Watched as my dreams poured from another's cup

Hearing my story told in a strangers voice

I waited for the page to turn and for my life to begin

Maybe you'll remember

The warm summer nights and the midnight skies

How the sound of the waves crashed on the shore

Whispering lullabies, soft but somehow bittersweet

I waited for you there

Wearing naught but the heat of my own desires

I bathed in the cool milk of promises

Drank to my fill from the well of certainty

I stood tall at summer's edge, still evergreen

Hopeful in the turning of the seasons

I was forever brave in my convictions

My head high as fall gave way to winter

Maybe you'll remember

The slow turning of the leaves

How the glorious green grew withered and brown

How the first whispers of winter threatened with snow

I surrendered that winter

My faith slipping further and further from the shore
I drowned as the years turned in upon themselves
And winter became my only season

I slowly vanished into darkness
Fading into oblivion, still longing for the truth
I walked with the fate I had long refused
Watched, my heart frozen as the sun set on my dreams

I died a little that winter
Think hard, my love...maybe you'll remember

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Leria Hawkins

Merry Christmas, Baby (A Little Shot Of Reality)

Merry Christmas, Baby (A Little Shot of Reality)

Date: December 27,2015

Merry Christmas, baby
It cuts me to the bone
A day too late, to warm my heart
The sentiment, cold as stone
How dare you even bother?
Like my heart don't mean a thing
Such a cold and thoughtless bastard
But I refuse to feel your sting
I guess you've been too busy
With your closet full of bones
You've too many skeletons to bury
To tend the seeds you've sown
Or perhaps you're just so special
In the kingdom of your mind
And you think that it's my privilege
That I should toe the line
But that's where you're mistaken, dear
I've gone to many years
I'm not that love sick puppy
Who's still wet behind the ears
So keep your lust and whispers
Your hype is just a bore
It's bullshit, cold and twisted
It's not interesting anymore

So Merry Christmas, baby
Here's a shot of reality
You're just a weird obsession
And I've learned to let it be...

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Leria Hawkins

Midnight Kisses

Midnight Kisses

Date: March 12,2011

Breathing slow, breathing deep
'Cross the sea of slumber creep
Mists aglow with hidden fire
Sheets the bed with fresh desire

In the shadows of midnight's keep
The blaze is quickened, in flurried sleep
A haunting breath of flash and flame
Creeping 'round the window pane

Scents that stain the pillow case
On the river of silence race
Swallowed up by raging need
Storms the crown, to plant the seed

Behind the shade of fevered dreams
Piercing truth, in stillness screams
Secrets locked beneath the skin
In visions ripe to trickle in

Broken whispers flutter by
Painting promise on the sky
Naked flesh begins to yearn
As passion flares, the body burns

Trapped in a subconscious mind
The light of day will never find
A fire as hot as is this bliss
Drowning in a midnight kiss

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Leria Hawkins

My Poets' Pen

Now and then
My poets' pen
Moves to scribe
A verdant vibe
In songs so sweet
A dripping feat
Or verse so sour
It spoils the hour

Now and then
My poets' pen
Scrawls a path
Of utter wrath
It sometimes braves
To test the grave
Or breathes the scent
Of malcontent

Now and then
My poets' pen
Walks confused
Without a muse
Spilling ink
That's out of sync
Or testing rhyme
That's past its prime

Now and then
My poets' pen
Lies like death
Out of breathe
And though I try
The ink is dry
But, I'm just too vain
To refrain...

Leria Hawkins

Naked

Naked

Date: December 5,2010

Naked, you are my master
Stilled, my aching bane
You warm my flesh with sunshine
Then chill my heart with rain
You're fire upon my whispers
And snow upon my flames
But naked, you are my master
A blaze I can't explain

Naked, you are delightful
Subdued, a dreadful bore
At times my muse, bewildered
But then a tedious snore
There's magic in your favor
There's tragedy in your song
But naked, you are delightful
My heart still clinging strong

Naked, you are alluring
Disguised, an evil threat
You keep me tied and tangled
Just to watch me sweat
My mind is oft enchanted
So easily you tease
But naked, you are alluring
While underneath, you freeze

Naked, you are my weakness
Reserved, I look for strength
You coil me `round your finger
Then hold my soul at length
My heart is just your play thing
Your affection, a cruel hoax
But naked, you are my weakness
Your passion's just a joke

Naked, you are my master
Stilled, my aching bane
This love, a cruel disaster
This fascination's pain
You whisper soft your secrets
That leave me so confused
But naked, you are my master
A game I'm doomed to lose

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Leria Hawkins

Ninety Seven

Ninety Seven

Date: December 3,2014

I died in ninety seven
With your whispers at my door
I lay down and went to heaven
Hope to find you on the shores
I died in ninety seven
With your hungry lips on mine
In my dreams you held me tightly
Overhead our stars aligned
I died in ninety seven
On the day you spoke my name
My heart and soul elated
Till I saw it caused you shame
I died in ninety seven
Because I couldn't understand
How you could steal my heart
But you wouldn't hold my hand

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Leria Hawkins

No Place To Hang A Hat

Did we make a name, my sweet
Or was it just illusion
Little whispers of heavens grace
Marred by our confusion
Our words fell out of order
Spilt ashes to the ground
The winds rose up to claim them
And blew them round `n round
Passions stirred and altered
Mixed bitter with the sweet
No chance of resurrection
The story's incomplete
The fate, that I was given
Is separate, not the same
No room for indecision
No patience for such games
A decade in the making
A wisp and then it's gone
It slipped right through our fingers
When it couldn't find a home

Leria Hawkins

No Regrets

No Regrets

Date: April 4,2013

I'd rather be hurt by you
Than to have never held your hand
I'd rather feel this heartache
Than fail to understand
Love is only right
When all the stars align
I'd rather hurt, eyes open
Than walk away still blind
Seems fate's a cruel master
But fate, we cannot change
The clock keeps ticking forward
Time can't be rearranged
Our yesterday's deceived us
With the sweetest memories
But we can't live tomorrow
Trapped by ancient reveries
I'd rather be hurt by you
Than to have never known your name
I'd rather live with sorrow
Than to snuff our fickle flame
Too much has gone between us
To put this torch aside
I'll just keep on, keeping on
I'll hold it all inside
Regret won't be my master
I've just this life to live
And I won't live defeated
For what you couldn't give
Time may wave in victory
But I won't be its slave
This flame will go on burning
I'll take it to the grave

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Not Here

You are not here
Only here, and here, and here
And when you are here
I long, and I yearn, and I desire

But you are never here, my sweet
To be, to be...for me
You are only there, and there, and there
While I alone...long, and yearn, and desire

No, you are not here, my love...no, never here
But I am here, and here, I am always here
Waiting, willing, wanting, with heart held true
To be, to be, to be ...for you

Leria Hawkins

Not Today...Or Tomorrow

Not Today...Or Tomorrow

Date: September 29,2012

My fire, my burning lover
Your flames do sear me still
I've writhed beneath the fury
But yet, to claim my fill

Your whisper's sweet, seductive
My veins rage with desire
A spark of your persuasion
I too...am forged of fire

Your lips so bold, so hungry
Such brazen, hawkish need
So greedy, all consuming
Yet, anxious still to feed

One touch, and I am taken
Enraptured...captured...thrilled
In breathless sighs, confessing
My secrets...whispered, spilled

How easily you command me
So sure, you play this game
A thrill takes me to places
That words cannot explain

I'm chained to this obsession
Though fate don't give a wink
How long this passion lingers
How deep in love I sink

Oh, my burning lover
There's so much we failed to say
We'll burn for all eternity
Yet...never for a day

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Leria Hawkins

Not Until I'M Happy

Not Until I'm Happy

Date: February 24,2009

I have no moon or stars with which to dazzle...
Except those that radiate from my heart

I've no silken pillows for you to lay your head
Though I've offered the downy comfort of my breast

And I've no riches to awe or impress the crowds
But I've a treasure trove of affection just for you

I have no motives, no schemes, no candy coating
And I offered only what my heart could carry

Yet, it seems that the shelter of my arms
Has granted you no comfort
As you perceive them as a weapon that binds

And the soft urgency of my kiss
Did not taste sweet, or full of promise
Rather it fell bitter and cold upon your lips

And in my simplicity, I failed to understand this undoing
As my dreams are limpid, my voice honest and sincere
And my songs have always revealed the passion of my heart

So, try as I might I cannot fathom the emptiness inside of you
Or understand the hardness of your lonely soul
For the love I offered was gentle and pliable

I did not come to steal your breath, your happiness, your life
I wanted only to share with you the passion that warms me
As I believed in my heart, that we are kindred spirits and burned of the same fire

And not once, have I held my needs above yours
For I've stood on the outside, season after season
Shivering in the snow, while others snuggled warm by the fire

But the truth rings as I stand now to face a new direction
You have flown, my little bird, so very very far away
Never again to nest in the bosom of my love

I'm left scanning the horizon through shards of glass
Searching for the last vestiges of the fire that once was
For I long to believe that the flames were no delusion

But in the perfect stillness, I know the time has come to move forward
So I'll tarry no more, instead, I'll gather the scattered pieces of my heart
And I'll find the strength to mend what is broken

I'll leave this shore behind me
And search no more for a fleeting glance at the fishes
The warmth of the flame, the rainbows end
I'll simply move on

My spirit is too precious a gift, to lie shattered within the confines of sorrow
I yearn to live again, to breathe again, to soak up the sunshine...

So, I'll cast off this shroud of heartache and lie naked in fields of clover
You see, I won't give up on life and living
I'll persevere, until my soul has healed and I am happy

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Leria Hawkins

Nothing More

Nothing More

Date: April 26,2013

In this love, I've loved alone
Never once, another's known
In this life, I have lived
For return, of what I give
Every song that found its wing
From my lips, in exalt ring
Every flutter, every verse
Poured from me, a poet's curse
Trapped in riddle, lost in rhyme
Some in discord, some in chime
Broken heart and shattered dreams
Passion seized and tied in strings
Bound and gagged, left to wait
By the unyielding hand of fate
Destined for those lonely places
Of phony smiles and poker faces
My love bides by an open door
Just empty space and nothing more

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Leria Hawkins

Nothing But The Truth

Nothing But The Truth

Date: 7/12/17

By: Leria Hawkins

I think I'm finally ready
To let go of our past
To cling no more to memories
Cause ours weren't meant to last

Seems, I loved you too long baby
I gave you all I could
But it never was enough
and you never understood

Too many years, I drowned in darkness
I was forbidden in the light
Still I groveled at your feet
Singing songs with all my might

It seems I lingered there forever
Looking out across the green
While you looked right through the glass
Pretending that you couldn't see

Still, I wanted you so badly, dear
That I ignored the wind and rain
My heart raced on so wildly
Fire seared my veins

But, you couldn't see the diamonds, babe
That trembled in my eyes
Or the trickle of the teardrops
That spoke of our demise

It seems my dreams are made of air
Breathing soft against my skin
Till they slipped right thru my fingers
To be taken by the wind

I still struggle with my heartache
When dreams fire up the night
But I've learned its just illusion
With no cause for me to fight

Love is my tormentor, babe
Pain, my only friend
I've stood so long in shadows
Trying to find a way to mend

But I think I'm finally ready
I think you're ready too
When there's nothing left to say, babe
There's nothing but the truth

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Leria Hawkins

Ode To My Fruitless Dreams

Ode To My Fruitless Dreams

Date: January 6,2016

My pencil rattles, my passions scream
A recurring ode, to my fruitless dreams
Where fire and flames have long endured
Where reckless abandon is never cured

I walk that path, my soles wore thin
Dismissing the truth of all that's been
Forgetting the slights of yesterdays
Resurrecting desire from a pseudo blaze

The night is dark, and filled with trials
Still I venture on, in my denial
Convinced there's more than just a dream
More than a hoax or heartless scheme

A mockingbird sings high in the trees
Feeding the fire that burns in me
His voice rings clear across the land
A ruse to keep me close at hand

Then off he flies, his head held high
Not a second glance as he passes by
To another roost, he'll preen and shine
Forgetting all that he's left behind

I've waited long to know his rage
For the seeds I've sown, to come of age
I've braved the storms and winter's blow
Waiting for a chance, I'll never know

My pencil rattles, my passions scream
To shake me from this fruitless dream
To find the comfort that time destroyed
To find a way to fill the void.

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Leria Hawkins

Ode To My Gumption (Or Lack Thereof)

Ode To My Gumption (Or Lack Thereof)

Date: January 20,2012

I've written more prose, rhyme and drivel than I care to think
I've sang trite ballads of love and loss
Lamented of how you tore me from the sky
Then discarded me like a well smoked butt
And in between
I baked casseroles filled with our passions
Flambéed them with fire and tidbits of doubt
I slathered on oils of flattery, some sweetened, some spiced
Then dressed myself in finery to parade
On the thin ice of yesteryear's dreams
I've stood in blizzards, decades long
Knocking on the door, but knowing damn well
I'd never be asked inside
I've sat down time and again, trying to pull my teeth
Scraping my innards dry in hopes of understanding
The words to the simplest songs
And, time and again, I've come up empty
"Dryer than a popcorn fart", my grand maw would say
I've let the seasons roll on and over me
Cold, like winter rain
Never once putting my foot down
To dropkick the ball back into my court
Crazy, how love jacks the brain
Most of the time it seems a damn sight more torment
Than pleasure
Yet I've chased it like a dog for a bone
In hindsight, I have to ask
Where the hell did I leave my gumption?
Perhaps tied out in the rain, while I blubbered on of a broken heart
After all these years, one thing's for certain
I could darn sure use some now and then

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Of Love And Parting

Of Love And Parting

Date: April 2,2010

For too long,
I have slept in the shadows of the truth
Forever hopeful for a path to the light
For years, I've felt the bitter sting
And suffered the cold hand of disappointment

So, take the breathless whispers,
The laughter, the honey-fused kisses...
I've drank too much bad water
It's left me broken... my spirit torn
I no longer wish to bathe in the well of heartache

Its love me tenderly, sweetheart...or set me free
There is no middle ground, no half measure
There is only my heart...the tender longing of my soul...
And the endless love I feel for you

So, if these gifts disappoint...
If I've failed to live up to your pride or fancy
Then please leave it be, moreover...leave me be
I don't need lustful banter, without the fire of passion
Or a stone cold heart offering but sorrow

The once coveted whispers, fall deaf upon my ears
And the night winds do little to soften the soul of a non-believer
Yesterday's flattery creeps like a slow poison
Leaving me overwrought and uneasy
While the renderings of today rain down on me, bitter and raw

My flesh has grown cold in the want for your touch
And my heart....hard... without the balm of love
Endless promises have offered only a vast emptiness
And have served to drive the cleave but deeper
Severing the vessel of my long held faith

We've ventured far on the wings of my desire...

Only to find ourselves at the end of our journey
Saddened to part...not as friends or as lovers
But as strangers, two ships, adrift on a lonely sea
Each running headlong to the point of no return

The fire has dwindled and burns low on the horizon
The night's have grown silent, no longer echoing soft your name
And while moonlit skies sparkle bright with bittersweet longing
The occasional shooting star streaks forth to remind me
Of a fire that burned fierce but died too soon

We've come to the end of this chapter
A crusade fraught with love, with passion...and with loss
Yet my history book would be flawed, imperfect without it
This passage, forever sacred to my heart is burned deep into memory
And as I lift the quill to pen the verses of a new tomorrow
I'll accept today's heartache as a lesson learned

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Leria Hawkins

Old Habits

Old Habits

Date: December 30,2013

I searched for you today
And today, and today...and tomorrow
...rewinding yesterdays
And the day before, and the day before that...

If I had a dime for all the moments spent searching
Or for all the times I've read and reread the lines
Scanning verse after verse for emotion to define us

I yearn for a clue to enlighten me
A hint of true meaning...the cold hard truth of you and I
I long for a tell-tale sign, something that speaks...
Small but significant, to dream of tomorrow

And I've tried to make sense of old habits
Tried to justify this need to cling
When passion, long past its prime
Is exhausted in lines of useless rhyme

And just as the endless prattle holds no flame
I find no spark to ignite hope into my heart
No compassion to warm me on cold nights
While I dream restless and alone...

It's just an old habit, a secret obsession...a vice!
That's all it is...all it's fated to be
Just a fire that burns me!
Burns in me, but fails to warm beyond my own weary heart

A fire that rages on...
Useless, yet unfaltering
Sometimes smoldering, sometimes flames
But always useless, always in vain

It's a fire, more torture than joy
More cruel than kind

A fire that cares not of consequences
Sees not...the pain of its tyranny

A fire that leaves me searching
Today...and today and tomorrow
...rewinding yesterdays
A torment, a sorrow...

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Leria Hawkins

Old Wood

My poet's pen has no rage
No magic ink to grace the page
Tis more so just a tedious tap
To line the page, with useless scrap
My poet's mind has no flair
Beyond the scribbles sprawling there
Tis rubbish of the typical kind
Leaking from an arid mind
My poet's eyes are full of glass
Too long troubled by the past
Laboring just to find a way
To rise above what others say
My poet's ears are made of stone
Too deaf to hear the robins song
Too cold to recognize decay
While grace and harmony drifts away
My poet's heart is kept in chains
Is poorly nourished, fraught with stains
There are no treasures buried here
Just my muse...my puppeteer

Leria Hawkins

On Whose Wings Did You Fly

On Whose Wings Did You Fly?

Date: May 5,2015

Oh how I've missed you these many months
Your winds have slipped from my window
Spiraling wayward into a blackened sky
I have ached for your whispers, love
Those hot, sweet intrusions on my midnight dreams

Oh sweet bandit of the night, where have you flown?
My tears, like rivulets on my window
Rain down with the loneliness of your retreat
Your kiss still burns bright on my hungry lips
Your taste...sweet confection, lingers endless on my tongue

Oh how I yearn for your fire...your passion
You...the white hot rage of my deepest desires
You...the embers that burn me to my very core
Searing me, branding me with your flames
You...a tattoo inked forever on my soul

Whose wings have lifted you to a new horizon, dear?
Whose songs have swayed you to another shore?
I waited; forever it seems, to lie in rays of your sunshine
...to frolic in the tides of your reckless seas
Who, my love, has stolen the stars from my skies?

And how did I miss them, my sweet...
The cool whispers that spoke of your fading
My eyes burn wild in the glare of stunned confusion
My heart stings from the barrage of unanswered questions
Why have you turned from the arms that adore you, love?

And why, why, why have you flown so far...

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Once I Believed

Once I Believed

Date: February 7,2015

Once I believed that a perfect smile
Could make a rainy day worthwhile
Could wrap my heart in sunny rays
And warm my soul days and days

Once I believed that a perfect man
Could steal my heart and hold my hand
Could accept my love, with head held high
...have courage to look me in the eye

Once I believed that the perfect love
Held promise that could rise above
All the selfish, and petty things
Was more than talk...n'false offerings

Once I believed that perfect thing
Wasn't wrapped in doubt or tied in strings
Until it bound me, held me down
Beneath the waves, it watched me drown

Once I believed in perfect hearts
Passion spiced...with fiery sparks
I believed that fairy tales come true
I had faith in me, and I had faith in you

Once I believed in many things
Before I fell, and felt the sting
Before the fire seared my soul
Back in the day...when I was whole

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Leria Hawkins

Once Upon A Stony Heart

Once Upon A Stony Heart

Date: August 25,2014

...and I am hungry
for so much more than the scant offerings
flung unrestrained into the midnight sun.
But I sip the wine, bitter on my tongue,
and chew the stale lines of hypocrisy,
pretending it all, a meal of grand design.

But, my thirst yearns for the cool waters of intimacy,
for the honey sweetness borne of righteousness.

Who's to say why I cling in this self-deprivation,
or why I choose to swim in the muddy tide.

I do not know myself, nor do I recall what led me to this place of sorrow.
I squawk like a caged bird, hostage behind iron bars of sacrifice,
wings clipped, my song stolen by the thief of hearts.

In darkness, I endure to feed on pretense
clinging as a life- line to the rhythm of false promise
But, there is no happily ever after to conclude this tale,
no beacon of light that leads to a sun-drenched shore...
There is only the hollow of death...
an ending born and steeped in the gutters of iniquity,
a grave looming large and inevitable

I have grown cold in this world of make-believe
A corpse unable to escape the pain of injustice,
I am bound to the spit, circling from light to dark, from fire to ice.
My only companion in this travesty is the book of dark desires,
haunting memoirs of unrequited love and insurmountable loss,
where every story begins the same...

Once upon a stony heart...

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Leria Hawkins

One More Time

One More Time

Date: April 18,2014

I'll always want to see you
One more time again
To feast my eyes upon you
To resurrect our sin
I'll always yearn to know
The secrets in your eyes
To tap into your psyche
To burn with such desire
I'll always taste your kisses
Every now and then
A sweet and perfect memory
That lingers deep within
I'll always hear the whispers
Fluttering in the night
Come breathing `cross my pillowslip□
Till morning brings the light
I'll always know the passion
The essence of your need
A scent that smells of fire
A rush is guaranteed...□
There simply is no other
To sear my heart in flames
I'll always want to see you
Just one more time again...

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Leria Hawkins

Only You

Only You

Date: December 9,2011

Only your words
Can set the pace
Growing strong
Finding grace
Only your smile
Buying time
Feigning courage
Drinking wine
Only your pride
Can cast aside
Embrace the passion
Trapped inside
Only your spirit
Will feel the loss
Reeling from
The excessive cost
Only your love
Can pave the way
To rise above
Your doubts today

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Leria Hawkins

Only You, Only Me

Only You, Only Me

Date: October 4,2015

When I loved you first

I cannot say

So long ago

...another day

When I saw you smile

I stumbled fast

I fell too hard

Forgot the past

I'd hoped the sun

This time could mend

The aching heart

I held within

The raging flame

You never knew

Now burned in me

And burned in you

When I loved you first

In seasons past

I knew back then

It couldn't last

I knew that love

Could never be

There was only you

And only me...

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Leria Hawkins

Oops, A Thousand Two

Oops, A Thousand Two

Date: October 15,2015

I guess I've searched a thousand times, oops, a thousand one
Wishing, dreaming for a sign as I have always done
I've held this torch so many years, as seasons passed me by
Trying to seize, the perfect breeze, while snow gets in my eyes
I gave my heart so willingly, it didn't stand a chance
Too blind to see, that obviously, I'd never find romance

But I've found no joy in other men, no magic in their touch
Nameless whispers in night, could never mean as much
The tireless flame that burns in me will never cease to be
It rages to my very core, defies my earnest pleas
I've tried so hard to snuff it out, to lay the flame to rest
Seems no matter what I try, my heart still fails the test

I long to hear his whispered sighs, to taste his urgent kiss
And oh, the powers in his eyes are more than I can list
My heart keeps playing tricks on me; the game so very cruel
To kept me hanging on the line, to use me like a fool
I've held so long to promises, tightly bound in strings
Yet, denied to me, a tender touch, instead I feel the sting

I resist the urge to voice his name, refuse to make the call
I will not supply the armament that nails me to the wall
Instead my heart drifts aimlessly, lost on distant seas
Trying to make some sense of it, trying to let it be
Hours, days, then weeks go by without a single word
Each time I break a little more, I know it sounds absurd

I rise to greet the sun each day, still trying to forget
All the things he means to me, my efforts vain, as yet
The memories, tormenting me, bring him back to life
It's a shame, a heartless game, to watch him twist the knife
If I could change our history, if time could be undone
The moment I laid eyes on him, I'd turn around and run

But, my heart keeps turning back to him, still looking for a clue

I guess I've searched a thousand times...oops, a thousand two

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Leria Hawkins

Paint It Red

Paint It Red

Date: March 18,2013

Some sit high on their glory throne
Livin' out lies and tossin' out stones
Upping their nose to the likes of me
Pretending they're all that they ought to be

They push through the crowd, aflashin' their cash
Turning their cheek on us poor white trash
They rollin' their eyes like I wasn't there
And if I speak to loud, I'll be gettin' their stare

They keep spyin' at me, a'wonderin' how
I keep smilin' in spite the sweat on my brow
They whisper `round like I ain't paid my dues
But they couldn't stand a day in my shoes

I hear'em fuss, `bout how hard they work
With a sideways glance and an uppity smirk
Discounting my grind, like it has no worth
Like I was defined as defeated from birth

But looks ain't always as they appears
They sippin their wine, while I'm drinkin my beer
Still....a drink is a drink and a vice is a vice
The only difference here...is the asking price

They dressed all demure, but my color is red
From my scuffed up heels, to the top of my head
And the clothes that I wear, don't mean I'm brash
My eyes they sparkle just as bright as their flash

What's really important, their money can't buy
I ain't got a penny, but you don't see me cry
My success ain't measured by what's in the bank
I ain't prayin' for favors when I bow to give thanks

They can keep their cars, their diamonds, the fluff

Cause I'm living just fine, and for me it's enough
I still have my fun, when the weekend comes round
I'll be struttin my stuff; I'll be paintin' the town

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Leria Hawkins

Play It Again, Sam

Play It Again, Sam

Date: September 25,2013

I think of him, rewinding. Heart hammering a worn-out song. It's a score that's always in his favor. Distant drums drive a sick avidity into my brain. I listen without pause (and certainly, most certainly...without cause) . Behind blurred lines of well-versed servility, I hear the all too familiar sound. Rusting blades scrapping, scrapping bare the walls of my conviction. I know and well-remember the woody smell of his hair...and no doubt, the bawdy nature of his pretense. Yet without fail, I find myself searching for a slow sip of his disgrace. Like moth to flame, hell-bent on a suicide flight straight into fire. I know damn well the burn, the stinging pain, the insanity, plain and simple. Yet, like a slow sweet song set to rewind, I circle back, eager to please. Eager to replay, relive, and re-die in the torture of this obsession. I am weak to his persuasion. Willing to risk it one last time (and time...and time, time, time again) . Weak indeed (although not entirely without sensibilities) . I am prepared, I know the score, I've danced the dance (many, many times) . I stand at ready for the breathless, wingless, free-fall into gut wrenching sorrow. And there's one thing for sure...he never disappoints. It's a hot-cold spiral, a perpetual pot that simmers but never quite boils. He stirs, I sputter...hot, hot, hot then cold...ice cold. Madness I know....yet I'm always ready to cook the grits...just...one...more...time.

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Leria Hawkins

Pulling Out The Shards

Pulling Out The Shards

Date: May 23,2011

I covet his sweet hungry lips
Cling fast to the fire
I can't forsake the memories
The need of him...desire

I yearn to revel in the heat
Embrace it long and tight
I can't put out the eager flames
That warm me through the night

I know it's wrong to hanker on
In envy of such prize
But I can't train my rambling heart
Or tame my wandering eye

I hear him on the whispering winds
And taste him in the rain
He fulfills such simple joys
A need...I can't explain

I'll never touch his shielded soul
My heart deterred no less
For midnight dreams keep burning bright
And never let it rest

Still I go, in blinding snow
And lay down with the knife
To cut myself, time and again
Forever clinging tight

Fate has dealt a losing hand
But still I hold it fast
And stand each day in bitter rain
That falls like broken glass

I rise each morn, in spite of pain

In search of his regard
And end each day, the same old way
Still pulling out the shards

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Leria Hawkins

Ramblings Of The Broken Hearted

Ramblings Of The Broken Hearted

Date: January 8,2016

It never tore you apart
Never crippled your spirit, broke your heart
You moved right on without a blink
Unconcerned with what I think
But I still hear the whispering sighs
They sing to me like lullabies
You turned a cheek, forgot my name
I haven't been able to do the same
Dreams rewinding in my head
Midnight whispers haunt my bed
I just can't seem to turn the page
Or forget the fire...or the rage
I've searched for you a thousand times
Screamed my pain in muddled rhyme
I guess I'm not as cool as you
I can't walk away, the way you do
I'll always yearn to hold your hand
It's something you can't understand
We're different people, you and I
You're quick to leave, I stay and cry
I tried my best to understand
Why you can't love, why I can
I guess I placed you on a shelf
Much higher than I did myself
You saw me in your looking glass
Always seeing second class
And just as I have always known
I turned around and you were gone
I often sit and wonder why
I search for stars that pass me by
I've made this bed of my mistakes
I live the burden of all that aches
I know you'll never fall apart
You don't have that kind of heart
I should have seen it long ago
I guess I didn't want to know

It seems I'll always know this pain
When midnight whispers call your name

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Leria Hawkins

Rest In Peace...or Not!

Rest In Peace...Or Not!

Date: December 14,2012

What can be done, when the strings come unstrung
And there's no light at the end of the path
When the wind blows cold and the truth takes hold
And the only warmth is the fire borne of wrath
What can be said, when you're faced with the dead
When the joy of the flame fades away
Or when standing alone, neath the weight of a stone
With the heart of your home in decay
What can you do, when there's no one but you
And the gloom comes to swallow you whole
When there's no more to say, and it's your turn to pay
And you've barely escaped with our soul
What do you hear, at the end of your tears
When the river at last has ran dry
There's a stain on your cheek, when at last you can speak
The sad strains of a doleful goodbye
Where can you run, when you've run out of fun
And the bed that you've made is a tangle
There's nowhere to hide, from the demons inside
And no one to hear while you wrangle

Well, all I can say is at the end of the day...
You'll live with the mess that you've made
So take my advice, and think on it twice
And don't shit in the bed where you lay

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Leria Hawkins

Roll Call

I will not go gentle
As many `tempt to do
Nor in screaming hardship
My spirit dark with rue

I will not go easy
To calmly fade away
Nor end it all a 'frantic
While searching out the grave

I will not admit defeat
Or wave a loser's flag
Nor will I claim victory
Or stand aloft to brag

I'll take the middle ground, my friend
As those of average means
I have no use for flourish
Or gaudy pompous scenes

Just let me go in sunshine, dear
On a day that's bright and clear
To drift into the heavens'
Miles and miles from here

Leria Hawkins

Run, I Run, I Dare Not Slow

Run, I Run, I Dare Not Slow

Date: June 15,2016

Running past the poison tree
Dare I stop to look for thee?
Run, I run...I dare not slow
To linger here, where heartache grows

Thru the valley, across the hills
Where I once dallied just for thrills
Now I dash, a cheetahs pace
Swift and sure, to leave this place

I won't be lulled by whispering winds
As fate has been a faithless friend
And time has held me but a slave
Worn and shackled to the grave

Onward, onward, I won't look back
What's left behind is blue and black
My head held low, I dare not speak
Nor raise my eyes to have a peek

I can't be swayed if I hold strong
Refuse the bait, and move along
I'll tarry not to take in the scene
These fields are swift, not evergreen

There is no hope in barren lands
Where credence fades in shifting sands
Where downy dreams of yesteryears
Were washed away in briny tears

Though my vision blurs from time to time
It promises of a world sublime
But I must resist the tempting sway
That pulls me close, then demands I pay

Run, I run from the looming dark

Where daggers wait to pierce my heart
But I know I'll find true light someday
If I can keep...the wolves at bay

I'm running past the poison tree
I dare not stop to look for thee
My freedom now, so close at hand
I'll not turn back to this never-land

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Leria Hawkins

Same Old Story

Same Old Story

Date: December 28,2015

I'd write a brand new story
To keep you off my mind
But I know that you'd still haunt me
In the space between the lines

I'd rearranged our secrets, babe
Until it all makes sense
Then use the ruse of romance
To claim as my defense

I'd sing sweet songs of passion
Pretend that you are mine
If only just to hold you
To my whispers one more time

I'd dream of milk and honey
Sweet candies in the night
Held breathless b`neath the passion
A flame that burns just right

I'd write a brand new story, babe
If it would change our fate
If once to see a future
Instead of just this ache

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Leria Hawkins

Satisfaction...guaranteed!

Satisfaction...Guaranteed

Date: January 22,2016

Baby, I love the way you move
Your body fits my every groove
Sparks fly, when you come near
Your touch is fire, your kisses sear

Your flames burn me fast and hot
They hold me breathless, hit the spot
Your taste, like honey on my lips
Keeps me aching for a sip

The hungry kisses I know so well
Holds me shackled to your spell
I'm thirsting baby for your kiss
Just don't deny, and I won't resist...

Your passions fit me like a glove
You're all the things my body loves
Such wicked thoughts rule my mind
You're the dish where I long to dine

Baby, let's take a little time
Hurry now...don't change your mind
Tonight's it's only me and you
Let's do the things you love to do

We'll tease all night, unwrap the kinks
Who gives a damn, what others think
Let's take a chance, explore the dark
Just throw away your question marks

Baby please...don't be afraid
We've too much fire to run away
I want your mind, your body, your soul
Let's let our hunger take control

Be the man, you long to be
We've waited for what seems, an eternity
Don't we deserve to enjoy the fire?
The very essence of our desires

Baby, I love the way you move
We fit together, tongue-n-groove
Raging lust and burning need
Its satisfaction, guaranteed!

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Leria Hawkins

Shake It Off

Shake It Off

Date: February 21,2012

No worries, sweetheart...
When your whispers have blown
To a greener shore
When your eyes seek only
New blossoms in spring
I will not wilt and fade
Into last night's din
Nor crawl beaten and torn
Into the plowed fields of yesterdays
No, no...I will stand straight
As proud and tall as the shining today
I will fling wide the sash
And embrace the cleansing dawn
You will not find my pillow stained
My sensibilities shamed
Oh no...I will be smiling...and in good polish
Romancing the new grass `round my feet
I'll be trimming the hedges, waxing the floors
Courting the warmth of a brand new day
I will dress to the nines, drink and dine
Living as if there's no tomorrow
I will have long forgotten yesterdays
I will have long forgotten YOU.

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Leria Hawkins

Sharks Teeth

Sharks Teeth

Date: February 21,2012

You gathered me in shadows
Spurned me in the light
At noon, your teeth sharpened
At dusk, you're taking sight
Caught between the crosshairs
A victim...aye, the prey
My heart, an easy target
A simple lot to slay

A meal of easy pickings
Like rabbit in a snare
Your rage is fired upon me
A shot to burn the air
A moment then it's over
Your motives met the mark
You feast upon your victory
Circling like a shark

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Leria Hawkins

She Is My Disease

She Is My Disease

Date: September 5,2014

I do not understand this disease
That crawls in my month like maggots
My lips flaming a tune of delusion
Confessions escape their cage
Dripping puddles on the floor

There's a monkey on my back, no a swine
And she's screaming...
Throwing shit at the beasts inside my head
While I claw and fight for reason

Why my mind turned on me, I cannot say
Logic slipping like water down the drain
Slithering, a black bellied snake
To hide in the bushes outside my door

What cowardice my heart
My trusting, bleeding, pitiful heart
Leaching sorrow line by line by line
In a rash of pure unadulterated nonsense

I am not in love, not even in lust
There is no need for either
There is simply a need to feel
...A want to be wanted
...A desire to be desired

I am not the almighty fire, the raging flame
I'm just a pretender...a phony, a fake
Nothing burns in my heart
Cept the frenzy of my own bent desires

I am slave to the muse, no more, no less
A red hot poker stabbing holes in my head
She my master and I her girl
She milks my heart to do her bidding

Driving deep her sword
To scream vengeance in the heat of my blood

I seek only in the name of her greed
Listen only to feed her desires
And such desires she craves...
An appetite seething of lust and rage
She is the other woman
...and I the jilted wife

I do not understand this disease...
This disease...this disease
That's eating me alive...

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Leria Hawkins

Sipping Secrets

Sipping Secrets

Date: February 5,2012

I inhaled the splendor of his song
Drank the secrets capped with foam
Reveled in a fleeting breeze
To sip the nectar of his tease

I harbored hope, when there was none
Joined the games, just for fun
But soon I felt, trapped and tied
Prisoner to the fire inside

Forever hard to let it go
While warming by the golden glow
My heart is prone to giving in
Lured by passion to his sin

A bad boy dressed in stainless steel
Never allowed to see or feel
Living by another's creed
Still trying to find what he believes

The nights so cold, they froze my soul
Tied me to his whipping pole
And fire alone just seems to chill
With nothing more to haunt or thrill

So many seasons pass me by
But I won't fret, or waste a cry
Mistakes I've made are all my own
I've always known where I belong

The passion warms, while it last
A moment's fun, in the past
I know ahead, the dawn awaits
But, still the sun...won't see me break

I'll keep the whispers of his song

All the memories, I still own
No one can take my dreams away
They'll see me through the shades of gray

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Leria Hawkins

Skin Deep

Who would think a rose so sweet
Would dry and crumble at my feet
And blooms that scent my night and day
Would steal my heart, then fade away

With petals soft and fondly red
Sweet essence fills my addled head
Then turns to dust before my eyes
Leaving naught, but my surprise

Who would think such thorny vine
Could lift a blossom as divine
And by the stem on which it stands
Could so wrong my offered hand

Such strength and beauty is rarely true
A blessing owned by very few
As 'neath the soil, in winters keep
There sleeps a rose to tear my cheek

Who would think that perfect bloom
Could be a bane, a curse of doom
So fine a sight, yet in disguise
A rose to prick and blind my eyes

Leria Hawkins

Slighted

Slighted

Date: December 3,2014

I loved in spite of summers grip
With a perpetual ache to taste your lips
Through brutal days and sweltering nights
I dreamt of flames and false delights
I loved in spite of autumn rain
Come pouring cold upon the pane
Reflections blurred on frosty glass
Bringing visions of an ancient past
I loved in spite of the bitter blow
Of raging wind and winter snow
A pure white blanket veils the shame
Of fervor born without a name
I loved in spite of coming spring
Another year to know the sting
To watch the season burst with life
While I alone, feel the slight

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Leria Hawkins

Some Spit, Some Swallow

Some Spit, Some Swallow

Date: April 30,2012

I've way too much fury
Welled up inside that cramped dark hole
The rooms are small and empty
Except for the crashing waves

My soft brown thighs burn for the man
The one over there, with the fake smile and lying eyes
That door to door salesman, knocking on Saturday mornings
Selling gadgets that nobody needs

The poor cheap bastard
He'll never know how I steal his goods
Sucking down his every breath while he stands there ogling
I smile, and then vomit the bile of my own disgust

Yesterday, I rode out on a freshly painted dinghy
Ready to let the fish have a go at my heart
But, ha! I will have the last bitter laugh
As he gags on my gluttoned remains

As I am full of rot, and steaming pestilence
Spilling my flesh like a boil in summer's heat
Festered and ripe as the midday sun
All hot, puss filled and angry

So I say, come now if you dare
Take your chances and drink to have your fill
Eat, feast and be merry in the moment
As it is his grave that I dig...not mine

And when he stumbles and falls
I will be the only one to crawl from the decay
Prize in hand, smiling like tomorrow's sunshine
The holder of his best kept secrets

I will roll them around in a red velvet box

Then turn them loose for the world to see
And the world, will chew the cud and wonder of the taste
Some may spit, but most will swallow

I'll tell ya...it's all that fury, building up, year after year
That spoon feeds fire to the blind mouse
I watch him in his squirming, screaming orgasm
Then laugh as he scurries away in daylight fright

He has not left me weak or hungry
As I've binged on the potential of his fear
I light up another cigarette, breathe in the salt of his distress
Then, as the smoke curls from my cold red lips, I leave him...

With his pants down and the lights on

Leria Hawkins

Stay Here Forever

Stay Here Forever

Date: November 18,2012

I will remember you in soft pink dreams
Savoring you like honey, sweet and warm on my tongue
And I'll taste the fullness of your fiery lips melting on mine
To the depths of my soul, I'll thrill to the songs of your feathered touch
And with each midnight turning, I'll lay twisting, yearning
Trembling as you steal away my dreams to claim as your own

Never leave me, my love...to battle the nights alone
Never, ever cease to spread your wings to shield me from life's cruel clutch
Live here, die here...in me! Scream, scream your songs forever into my
consciousness, my memories
For if you fade, I will cease to dream, to breathe, to understand
If you turn your eyes away, my essence will wither into a cold and utter darkness

I relive you in my heart each and every day, my darling, my dancing ember
You rage in me, like a sea of flames scorching my soul
So lustful, your whispered intent, my love, so wanton your desire
I listen in stone silence, straining to hear the lick, the burning secrets of your fire

I long...I dream of the perfect rhythm of your fevered sighs
Rewinding in sweet agony, the precious heat borne of your flesh on mine

Never turn from me, never my love, never...
Do not break the hold that binds my heart in chains
You are the magic, the key, the makings of my weakness, my fire, my flame
And I will perish in a cold oblivion without the glow of your favor
Never leave me stranded, dear, never leave me to shiver in a desert of despair
Stay with me forever, stay here, right here...forever in my heart.

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Leria Hawkins

Susan, Susan...I Must Confess

Susan, Susan...I Must Confess

Date: April 27,2016

Susan, Susan...I must confess
I want to wear your fancy dress
I'd walk for miles in your shoes
If just to sing the way you do
I want to speak your honest vibe
The way you bring the words alive
Reverence burns into my brain
With every line, with each refrain
It seems the fire comes naturally
Why can't I find that rage in me?
I read your prose through eyes of green
Oh, how your words, paint a scene
How did you fuel that fickle flame?
To keep it burning through wind and rain
I hope one day to scribe a rhyme
Without a muse that isn't mine

I want your song, I want your style
Can you lend it, for a while?
I want my ink to form a stain
That paints with joy, instead of pain
I want to say the things you say
Collect my thoughts in such a way
That brings a smile, or a tear
With lyric ringing, strong and clear
I want your pulse, the rhythmic flow
The magic that imbues the soul
I want so badly, to pen a rhyme
One that lives the test of time
Can you spare your inspiration?
I need a cure for my frustration
Will you lend, the polished words
Ones that others haven't heard

Susan, Susan...can you spare a dime
To turn this drivel into rhyme

The way your pages sing and dance
Some of sorrow, some romance
Have you advice, I implore
Please leave it sitting by the door
A simple verse, a lasting song
Not too short, and not too long
I want your voice, to tint my lips
To drive my thoughts, my fingertips
Like a bird, you sing with grace
I want that song to fill my space
With passion oozing from the heart
Just once to carve a piece of art
I want to write, the way you do
Can you please spare, a line or two...

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Leria Hawkins

Sweet And Sweet And Sweet

Sweet and Sweet and Sweet

Date: June 28,2012

Ah, sweet, and sweet and sweet
Lemon ice on a hot day
Melting, cool on the tongue
A slide into quicksand
Sinking, sinking, in weightless frenzy
Just sweet, and sweet and sweet
Silver-blue lightning strikes
Limbs climb skyward, rain quenched
I praise to Eros
A flash of light, the smell of flame
So sweet, and sweet and sweet
A sigh caught and caged
The current swells and falls
Swells and falls...in concert
Rushing toward the shore
It's sweet, and sweet and sweet
Sticky, warm and welcome
Hot peppermint on a cat's tail
Painting abstract portraits on the horizon
A masterpiece...flawless

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Leria Hawkins

Sweet Dreams

Sweet Dreams

Date: August 11,2012

Do not suffer as I sleep
When `cross my lips, a stillness creeps
As I will pass this way again
I have not died, I'm here my friend
Whispers of a passing breeze
Will bring to life sweet memories
And butterflies that softly land
Will be as I, to kiss your hand
Sweet as berries from the vine
You'll recall these lips of mine
I have not gone away in death
I did not breathe my final breath
Deep in your heart I shall remain
A joyful spark, an endless flame
So do not grieve when I have gone
I would not leave your heart alone
Spare the tears and sad goodbyes
As, I'll be here, when you close your eyes

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Leria Hawkins

Sweet Sighs

Sweet Sighs

Date: January 31,2015

Souls embroidered with sweet sighs of passion
Musing of nights in lace and white satin
On a vista of flesh, flushed with desire
Riding the flames on a passage of fire

The beating of drums, commanding the night
To the rhythm of hearts, passion ignites
Wrapped in immortal flames of the sun
Burning together, two become one

Flesh upon flesh, a spirited dance
Welded by whispers of love, of romance
Temperatures rise in a fever of lust
Stoking the flames, thrust after thrust

Riding the swell, in a race to the shore
Try to repress, but needing it more
Virtue be damned in the rage of desire
Flames rise in hunger, higher n' higher

Charging the crest, temperance slips
Drawing the reins in a white knuckle grip
Crashing of waves unleashes the flood
Quaking the heart, and searing the blood

Spewing of flames in the crash of the tide
In a warm sheen of sweat, fervor subsides
Energy spent in the throes of release
Collapsing together, the story complete

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Leria Hawkins

Tacks And Glue

Tacks and Glue

Date: June 3,2015

The years flew by
While I
Squandered the treasures
Of a perfect fit
While wistfully trying
To mold myself into the shape
Of something new
With tacks and glue
Thinking that I'd somehow fit
In the thick of it
A decade has passed
In just a blink
And it kills me to think
Of all the wasted days
And the multitude of ways
That I sought to change
The little things
In an effort to be
Something more than me
I've lived my days
Braving the rain
With nothing more to gain
But a flame
That I can't control
It's dampened my soul
Left a hole
A gaping reminder
That while some were meant to love
Others were meant to ache
So I bend and I bend
As not to break
I alone, carry this burden
On my back
I took it home, made it my own
I fancied it a dream
A thin disguise

To hide the truth, cover the lies
That I choose to tell myself
Now bound and caged
Wrapped in strings
It's transformed my rage
Stained the page
In the blood of my confessions

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Leria Hawkins

Take The Fire

Take The Fire

Date: January 17,2012

Take the fire away from me
Never more again to see
There's no spirit to rouse and warm
Only smoke, my eyes to burn
The beauty of a snow white swan
Is smothered by the flaunt and fawn
Tarnished kisses charge the air
To whisper false of grand affairs
A bright red rose, wrapped in thorns
Defies the passion, vowed and sworn
So take the fire, I have no need
It burns of lust, it burns of greed

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Leria Hawkins

Tell Me So

If I only knew, there was a place
Just a small...unimposing space
If I only knew, that I was there
Just a hint of me...just an air
If deep inside the hollow part
There was a glow, a single spark
Then, I would give it all away
I'd sacrifice this earthly clay
I'd push aside the daily rush
To gather in the precious blush
And live forever in the glow
If you could only tell me so...

Leria Hawkins

The Damage Is Done

The Damage Is Done

Date: January 28,2016

Please don't sing that vulgar song
I'm just too weary to play along
Stop the insults...think a minute
You live your life without me in it

Truth be told, you don't give a damn
About my heart, or who I am
When I turned away, your big concern
Was who to call, when your demons burn

In fact, my heart never crossed your mind
You've clearly not the selfless kind
I merely served as a secret vice
My heart, so easily sacrificed

For years, I hung on every line
Thinking your grace would change with time
Now, there's a book written on my heart
The pages bleeding from light to dark

My passion for you, too hot to tame
Kept me tethered to your game
Now, I long for the time to mend
From the cruel joke of just pretend

After all these years, at last I see
The big charade, and the joke's on me
Who knew you were, an ugly stain
With depravity surging through your veins

I once gave my heart with pure intent
Never dreamed I'd feel so cold and spent
I was so naïve in my beliefs
Of a future that spoke of you and me

Back then, I thought we'd never tire

With so much passion, and so much fire
But now the ashes, fill my lungs
The game is over...the damage done

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Leria Hawkins

The Day Our Hearts Went Still

Today our hearts went still
We went completely numb
Knowing we've still to face
The pain that's yet to come
When nothing can console us
For who can find the sense
In something so horrendous
When it's all beyond defense
The angels now have gathered
To take the children home
On a path that leads to heaven
Onward they have flown
And we will wake tomorrow
A knife still in our breast
We'll mourn the little children
As we lay them down to rest

We whisper thoughts and prayers
For those who've yet to breathe
Too stunned and shocked and shattered
Too numb as yet to grieve
A nation comes together
Hand in hand we pray
To understand the atrocity
That takes our breath away
There's so much useless violence
Our streets are paved in red
And the epitome of our innocence
Lays silent among the dead
We're bathed in fear and horror
For what the future holds
When children become the victims
Of a world that's grown too cold

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Leria Hawkins

The Extra Mile

The Extra Mile

Date: July 13,2012

My longing remains unclaimed
Flustered by the winds of change
Whipped around and tossed awry
Leaving me to wonder why

The perfect match, would set aflame
A perfect love, not silly games
A fire that burns without remorse
Not some hoax or Trojan horse

A passion true, would never hide
Would walk ahead and push aside
If mountains high, obscure the path
Come tumbling down, beneath its wrath

A love that life allows to be
Would not be swayed by trickery
Would have no need for tricks or guile
Would always go the extra mile

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Leria Hawkins

The Green, Green Grass

While I tiptoe across the notes
Caress the lines, the muse once wrote
I stroke the petals of a rose
Three lines above its final close

I search amid the jagged verse
To decipher meaning of the curse
There's pain and heartache littered there
Waiting for someone to care

Across a sea of brilliant blue
Floats a vessel filled with clues
A message I've refused to see
The ships adrift, the laugh's on me

There is no passion buried deep
Somewhere below the flaming heap
There's just a fire to warm my skin
But it never finds the heart within

So many times, the story's told
A blurred line between hot and cold
Time and again we test our fate
Searching for the perfect mate

Some have said they've found the key
To the other half of harmony
And some will search forevermore
But never find their rightful shore

I for one, have lived my days
Stumbling through a muddled maze
Always looking for the chance
To circumvent my circumstance

While holding fast to make believe
My heart's the only thing deceived
I've felt the bitter wicked wind
It cuts me time and time again

Over, over, I've felt the burn
My weary heart will always yearn
For grass that grows on yonder hill
My eyes will never have their fill

But I've carried on, in my belief
That time's the keeper of the key
Someday the wind will know defeat
And I'll feel that grass beneath my feet

Leria Hawkins

The Indelible Word

The Indelible Word

Date: March 29,2012

I'll travel into tomorrow
With two poems in my pocket
And a cold beer in my hand
Knowing, as I've always known
That you cannot love
Yet, I cling fast to keep my muse alive

It is not "you" that I love so doggedly
It is the pain of your denial that wrings my heart
And drives me to your door time and time again
Groveling for words that scorch my soul

It is not your lips, your hair, your taste
That fuels the passion trapped within
It is merely your indifference that sends me frantic
To the inbox for one more insult
One more chance to fire up the furnace and fling venom across the lines

Love was never in the cards for us
Lust...definitely was, but never love...even in the simplest form
You are far too hard, and I, too wary for such as that
You enjoy the cold steel of the blade and I...the cut
Both gleaning a selfish pleasure from the pain

So remember my dear, with your final smear
You cannot scar me; or bleed me out beneath your shame
Never, will I break...beyond the retaliation of words
Where I will have the last laugh...the final indelible verse
With your secrets spilt to the world

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Leria Hawkins

The Shadows Of My Doubt

The Shadows Of My Doubt

Date: July 28,2015

I saw you in the shadows
Hiding in your favorite place
Between my heart and someplace darker
Where you steal my breathing space
You scrutinize with cunning
Lust flaming in your eyes
You want me tied and cornered
Enamored by your guise
Yet, I gave you my umbrella
To keep you warm and dry
And I whispered all my secrets
Your thirst to satisfy
You hungered for my passion
Fed upon my flame
Then left me cold and haunted
Trying to hide my hurt and shame
You linger in the shadows
Silenced by the light of day
Like a man who cannot whisper
Until the skies above are gray
Then you croon about sweet nothings
Spark fire beneath my skin
Singing oh, sweet promises
That lure my heart to sin
You whisper of a future
Where you can speak my name
Enticing me with lullabies
To keep my heart aflame
You flow through me like lava
You sear me to the core
Then as the dawn is breaking
You disappear once more
I saw you in the shadows, dear
Hiding in your favorite place
Between my heart and someplace darker
In dreams of fire and lace

I'm haunted by the memories
Of a heart I cannot touch
I'm addicted to a fantasy
I struggle in its clutch
You are my rage and passion
A crush that is a lie
You're a brazen, grand illusion
A heartbreak, then goodbye

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Leria Hawkins

The Soul In Me

The Soul In Me

Date: September 16,2015

He is the soul in me
Secret and silent in his affections
My heart flutters when I see him
My blood swells at the hunger of his touch
I wear his interest like a warm winter coat
Reveling in the heat of his regard
He is an obsession, a resilient fixation
And like moth to flame, I cannot turn away
He is daydreams of long forgotten desires
Passion...raging like a summer storm
He is the rise and fall of my ocean
A pulse, crashing against the shores of forever
He is art, and fireworks and whispered wickedness
He is the genesis of my yearning, an elixir to sate my thirst
I will cradle him against my heart until I am no more
He is the soul in me, the flame of my life
And I will love him to the end

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Leria Hawkins

The Space Between Us

The Space Between Us

Date: October 2,2015

There's just this space between us
More distant every day
Seems all the love I feel for you
Can never win your grace
Your love is just a fantasy
That's kept me holding fast
A self-made grand illusion
A dream from season's past
I've waited for your whispers
More than you will ever know
Holding on to fancy
When I should let it go
You're exactly where you want to be
A fact that's crystal clear
I'm just the nice diversion
A whisper in your ear

After all these years of holding on
I think I've earned the right
To say just what I want to say
Sometimes to pick a fight
So if it's just not worth it
And you want to let it end
Have no fear my darling
I'll take it on the chin
I am your darkest hours
A discomfort in the day
A trinket just to toy with
To waste the hours away
For me it seems a tragedy
A slow and painful death
To love from a distance
The one who steals my breath

There's just this space between us
The fissure's deep and dark

It started as a whisper
Then stormed into my heart
Your confessions leave me flustered
Crushed beneath the ruse
Of excuse and innuendo
That leaves me feeling used
My rope is thin and twisted
I'm hanging at the end
With no one there to catch me
I've neither foe nor friend
All the years I've wasted
Hanging on the line
Waiting for sincerity
That never will be mine

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Leria Hawkins

The Wall

I'm sorry, but I cannot see beyond the wall. The stones are thick, solid. I have surveyed the edges, searched for a crevice to grab hold. But there are no fissures, no gaps, no footholds, just a smooth blank surface, insurmountable. It looms before me like a mountain, bold, hard, invincible. I cannot scale its vertical or traverse its horizon. I've tried...and failed miserably so very many times. But oh, how I long to see the other side, to know its secrets, to explore what's hidden there. I've imaged what it must be like...all warm and sunny, brightly filled with golden rays. A symphony perhaps, a kaleidoscope of light, color and sound. I imagine that it's happy there too, a place called home. But sadly, I remain behind the wall, far off and isolated by layers of stone and steel. And from where I stand, it seems untouchable. I'm sorry, but I cannot see beyond to wall. You see...I do not know its master.

Leria Hawkins

Then Comes The Chill

Then Comes The Chill

Date: May 25,2012

When you write my eulogy
As I know you will...
As is inevitable and the one sure thing
That grows like grass between us

Do so gently, love, do so gently...

When at last, you blow out the candles
Snuffing the flames that burn
Hold tight, the heat of our affinity

And as the last ember stutters to silence
Releasing in death its final breath
Make peace with the slow hard chill of our demise

Bury deep, my love...once and for all
The treasure trove of secrets
Leave only ash behind as a legacy
A sooty reminder, of a fire that blazed
Then dwindled in the arms of disparity

Love it seems, both master and slave
Was vainly manipulated by the same hand
And our passion...a storybook romance
That, while intriguing, was fleet of foot
And destined to stumble and fall

But in those waning seasons
I danced with all my heart for you
Breathless and hopeful in my desires
And I pirouetted in a waltz of midnight whispers
Only to lay down cold and raw in my sorrow

And I sang my best for you, sweet flame
Flinging hearts and flowers, across the lines
Trying to bridge the gap between your fields and mine

I gushed my fancies, and stood naked in my confessions
I fed my soul to the whirl of a roulette wheel
All for a chance to frolic in your sight

I waited, fevered with need...mad in my hunger
My heart flaming for you
But you turned away, refusing to hear
Unwilling to know me...afraid of what you might see
And sadly...more afraid, of what you might feel

So swallow soft my sighs, my sweet
So that they may live forever
In that darkened place of doomed desires

Remember my love, only what is true
What is real...what is solid
And let go...what is not

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Leria Hawkins

There And Back

There and Back

Date: February 26,2013

Where is the justice
In a mind gone mad...

I'm satisfied on my pity pot, staring into a cold black sea of anger
Happy...crying onto the wires, drowning in a cup of tea
Seems, I've waited and waited and waited for answers to come
But truth is, I just don't care to know...or hear

I'd rather ponder...consider when it all fell apart
Dwell...on exactly when life picked up and left me behind
When exactly did I become this rotting corpse, a torn envelope?
So frail the paper walls of my sanity
So thin my rational
Honestly, I don't know, or care...
I just woke up one day to find myself sleeping
Trapped forever in an instant replay
Everything there is fluid and life is distorted and sad
So I sit and try my best to fade away
My eyes closed to the words dancing before me
My mind twisting the meaning...
My consciousness pretends to want the truth
But my heart has no stomach for it

I prefer lost, empty...alone
Like a tadpole swimming upstream headlong into a void of blackness
I long for the caves of cool dark oblivion
Yes...I welcome it...
So here I sit, locked in a closet, lights out
Pouting like a spoiled child
And I wallow in the slow slide of my resistance
Desperately trying to stamp out the desire to stand up
I think only of how easy it would be to slip away
To give up, give in...just slowly slip away

But there's something here, like a pirate in the night
Some rude intrusion in my desert

It's damned annoying, you know...that whisper, the damned incessant hum
And I don't know why...but it nudges, nudges, relentlessly nudges
I want it out...out of my mind, so cruel it is to invade on my misery
I want to scream at it, chase it far from my coffin
Pen it down and stomp the life out of it
But in spite of my hatred, my loathing
It keeps nudging, nudging, nudging...relentlessly nudging me
Pushing with utter disregard for my torment
Bossing me, screaming...pushing me....
Back into the light...

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Leria Hawkins

There Is No Over, There's Only An End

There Is No Over, There's Only An End

Date: May 2,2016

I love you...

Your deep and lonely places

In the spaces where you hide your darkest desires

And I love you in spite of the differences

The distance

The insurmountable impossibilities

I love you still...

As, there is no "over" between us

There is never an "over" in a heart that cannot mend

There is only an end to the here and now

I suffer no fantasies, no grand illusions

We have reached our end...

We stand at the passage where fate turned us in a new direction

I walk alone in the face of this sad and certain finality

Pushing on...past my sadness, past despair

Past demons that threaten to swallow me

I push on, to the place of surrender

Resolving myself to this faithful truth

Though...we have reached our end

There is no over...

I cannot touch you, or see, or hear you

But there is a flame that burns on...

Flickering softly in my deep and lonely places

Steadily in the spaces where I hide my darkest desires

Love resides in that flame

Burning eternal in those places and spaces inside me

And it warms me in the sanctuary of midnight dreams

I live on...tormented by this cruel certainty

That while there is no "over", my love

There is an end.

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Leria Hawkins

There's No Fight Left

Date: February 1,2012

He is a decade long struggle with weakness
A chink in the armor, a stain on my soul
He carved out a hollow, in places sworn to secrecy
And filled it with aching desires

He came whispering into dreams, unexpected, unexplained
Invading...where he ought not to be
He barged in, cold steel polished...plans perfected
Chip, chip, chipping away, at the naked innocence of my regard

He is my disease, a cruel cold sickness...a private shame
The incurable scourge, aimed like a heat seeking missile
He is a poisonous arrow, launched and bearing down
Piercing my heart, when no one's around

He slathers on honey, sweeter than sunshine
To color the taste, disguising the waste, of the drug that he's pushing
He's a shot of confusion, a predatory illusion
Leading me astray, till all is lost and I can't find my way

Like a rusty old needle, or dirty crack pipe
He's a demented addiction unhinging my life
A knife to my flesh, a blade to my wrist
A candy coated affliction that I've yet to resist

He whispers of promises that he'll never keep
Mixed with slurs of perversion, the scorn cutting deep
He's so damned clever, how he plays it both ways
Assaulting my nights, tormenting my days

He slips in the folds when he's ready to eat
Breathing like spiders spinning webs of deceit
I lay in the arms of his cool calculations
Hungry to feed my own deprivation

I drank from the river, spiked with disgrace
Languished in fire of hell's hiding place

Gave my faith to a man with a passionless heart
Denied his true nature...to keep from falling apart

Now I whisper at night, to cast out the ghosts
Of too many memories, and too much hurt
I keep begging myself to look toward the light
Cause the darkness inside him, is not worth the fight

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Leria Hawkins

These Things And More

These Things And More

Date: July 9,2015

I loved with a love not meant to be
I've swam in a wild and relentless sea
I lingered long to taste the fruit
I'm bound by strings of the family root
I lay down in ashes of a burning past
I've lived with the scars of broken glass
I'm stained by the sin that never fades
I held too close, the razor blade
I've dreamed with hope that never dies
I carry the weight of a thousand lies
I've drowned in acid of a faithless pledge
I chanced to walk a slippery ledge
All these things, I did or do
All these things, because of you

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Leria Hawkins

Thick

Thick

Date: January 20,2013

In all the world to understand
The simple lines drawn by man
Across the river filled with dreams
Soaked in perils and risky schemes
Up and down the cadence flies
Colliding with my sand burned eyes
Around the corner, past the trees
The fire is lost inside of me
Again, again I chew the page
Trying to fill the empty cage
But the clouds keep closing in
Again I fail to understand
Like a monkey on my back
I'm brooding in my sleepless rack
Words ignite, go round n' round
Screaming but without a sound
The dog outside, it barks and barks
Circling like a hungry shark
My muse begs for a little taste
Before the passion goes to waste
If only I could make some sense
But ignorance is my best defense
I try to see as others see
But I simply don't, for the life of me

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Leria Hawkins

Thread Lightly As You Go

Thread Lightly As You Go

Date: February 26,2012

Tread lightly on my heart, sweetheart
Speak soft, and gently go
For locked behind the walls of steel
The pain of sorrow grows

Locked within a rusty cage
A dream in pieces lies
Like diamonds of a moonlit night
Torn from the midnight skies

Whilst round and round, the whispers
Float gentle in the gloom
Just memories in a garden
Where once our passion bloomed

Time has laid to rest, my love
The blooming of my heart
In cold and lifeless slumber
It perished in the dark

Tread lightly, love...tread lightly
So fragile is the glass
Tis fraught with many fractures
And wounds of seasons past

The wind outside is ruthless
The days...so long and cold
A thief of bright tomorrow's
Stepped in to steal our gold

Like a puzzle left unfinished
A poem without an end
My passion's loosed and fraying
No soul to help it mend

Thread lightly, dear...thread lightly
Speak soft, and gently go
Leave only care and mercy
To tend the seeds you sowed

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Leria Hawkins

Throwing Rocks

Oh how I wish to love you
Like the winds of season's past
To recapture precious moments
Now shattered, broken glass

And how I long to hold you
Up close against my breast
To feel the steady rhythm
Now stilled and laid to rest

Sweet sunshine once warmed me
On cold and wintry days
But now the winds cut through me
No more to feel the rays

And all the happy seasons
Have blurred beyond my sight
I struggle in this darkness
Still searching for the light

Oh, how I wish to touch you, dear
To feel your passion flare
Like days and days from yesteryears
When each day I'd find you there

Oh, how I wish to kiss you, love
To feel your lips on mine
I'd dream only of tomorrow's
And leave today's behind

Night winds once sang to me
In warm and soft refrains
But now they howl so bitter
And bring me sorrow, pain

Years and years of yearning
Have melted in the snow
My heart was left deflated
Without a place to grow

Oh how I wish to love you, dear
Like I did in younger days
Before the stones of certainty
Swept the flames away...

Leria Hawkins

Time Can'T Change This Heart O'Mine

Time does not erase the wind
Alight my windowpane
No more than time to chase the clouds
Or stop the winter's rain
The midday tide can't wash away
The remnants of this dream
No more than midnights rushing waves
Can change its youthful themes
The burning of my very core
Still flames with love no doubt
And yet the years go rushing by
While I still do without
A twinkling in the moonlit skies
My mind it tarries still
Thinking of my long lost love
Of this, it always will

Leria Hawkins

Tin Man

Tin Man

Date: August 6,2014

It was winter when I found you
Rusting by the well
One sip and I was taken
To a place beneath your spell
I feigned a cool indifference
Unaffected by your charms
Believed that I was prudent
Was certain, there's no harm
A chat is just a chat, you see
On the road to nowhere fast
And a wink is just a wink
When it isn't meant to last
Yet, days turned into months
Months rolled into years
And with the passing seasons
The lines no longer clear
You held me to a fire
That kept me burning bright
With promise cloaked in shadows
And whispers in the night
You knew my depth of passion
Was more than you could stand
Yet you clung so tightly
To my heart, but not my hand
You reveled in adulation
Born of my deep desires
But failed to share the fury
That kept me on the wire
You wallowed in the honey
You hung on every word
But I did all the singing
While you remained unheard

It was winter when I found you, dear
Rusting by the well
And in winter I will leave you

To the hollow of your shell...

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Leria Hawkins

Tinsel Tease

All the gold, a tinsel tease
No treasure neath the shine
All the fire burning bright
Was never yours, but mine
All the passion, born of rage
Lay trapped within a dream
Whispers of a budding rose
Were never yours it seems
All the heart, it takes to love
Was twisted in a storm
All the fawn and flattery
Will never keep me warm
All the sparks that rise to fly
Were stifled by deceit
All the doubt imprisoned here
Has left me incomplete

Leria Hawkins

To Have, But Not To Own

To Have, But Not To Own

Date: March 3,2015

Where have you been lately
I need to know what's real
The man behind the secrets
What you think, n' what you feel
I need to hear the whispers
That once held fast my dreams
The lilt of soulful sighs
The lustful, burning scenes
I need to taste the honey
Still sweet upon my lips
The fire that singed my body
The fury of your kiss
I long to wake tomorrow
Tucked in nice n' warm
Enflamed with such desire
Held breathless by your charm
I need to know that someday
You'll reach out to take my hand
And promise me forever
To know...I'll understand
I need the rage and fervor
That only you inspire
It keeps me hot and hungry
My heart and soul afire
I need to hear "I Love You"
To know I'm not alone
I understand our secret's
To have, but not to own

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Leria Hawkins

To You, To You

To You, To You

Date: March 13,2011

I give my heart, my soul, my world
To you, to you, to you
All of me, my everything
I give to you, to you

Whispers blowing in the wind
The skies of striking blue
All the fire that burns in me
I give to you, to you

The passion of my tender heart
Burns fast, and fierce and true
All the flames that I embrace
I give to you, to you

I give my words, my song, my verse
To you, to you, to you
All the magic of my dreams
I give to you, to you

Take my voice, my thoughts, my sighs
I give them all to you
Please harbor safe, my precious dove
This love I give to you

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Leria Hawkins

Treat It Well, Sweet Lover

Breathe me in, my precious
Swim free beneath my skin
Hold tight the reigns of passion
Our hearts forever kin

Reach in and kiss my soul, sweet love
Offer yours upon my tongue
I long to sip in twilights' bliss
The taste of brine and bone

Lay peace upon my shoulders, sweet
Accept my hand with grace
Together we will meld as one
The lines of doubt erased

I close my eyes, fair angel
So that I may breathe you too
I offer just my heart, my soul
Our flame, still burning true

Listen for my whispers, love
My secrets spilt with dawn
A wind of warm temptations
For dreams to feed upon

Breathe in; breathe out, this burning need
Accept us as a whole
The portrait of our passions
Is colored by our souls

Let us be as one, my flame
To quiver b'neath the sun
Let go the chains that bind you
Our inhibitions be undone

I offer just myself, sweetheart
Wield me as you will
Please take care, my darling
Else the passion spills

I am but yours to conquer
My soul lies at your feet
Treat it well, sweet lover
And yours, I'm sure to be

I'll only know of sorrow, love
If silence claims your song
So sing, sing sweet, my passion
Sing sweet...forever long

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Leria Hawkins

Trying To Convince Myself

I will not look, I will not
No more to search in vain
I will not care, I will not
To do would be my shame

I will not scan the vacant night
Nor in the day go chasing
I will not wait with bated breathe
Be still o' heart from racing

I will not waste a single blink
Scanning for a shadow
I will not hold to useless hope
For never has it mattered

I will not yearn, I will not
No more to count my sorrow
I will not cling, I will not
To passion that was borrowed

I will not listen to the wind
As whispers tell me lies
I will not turn the crashing waves
Into senseless sighs

I will not turn the other cheek
From lessons that I've learned
I will not seek to touch the flame
When clearly it has burned

I will not wish, I will not
To change the hand of fate
I will not brood, I will not
For that, it's much too late

Leria Hawkins

Up And Down

I know what it's like to sing
Just as well, a bitter sting
I've rejoiced, there is no doubt
I've received and done without
And the whispers on the streets
Have had their share of me
Some in truth and some in lies
Some I lived and some surmised
I've had my cake and ate it too
I've been denied when I was due
I've been segregated, I've been a part
I know the weight of a heavy heart
Just as the rose has felt the rain
I've seen beauty and I've known pain
As rise and fall, the river flows
It's sometimes high, and sometimes low
Such is life, a coaster ride
I've braved the winds, I've rode the tide
And so it goes, I've been around
Sometimes up, sometimes down...

Leria Hawkins

Up And Up

Up and Up

Date: December 16,2012

A bird came down, to hop around
He stood but for a wink
Then fluttered past, to rolling grass
Twas gone in just a blink

Out to yonder field I saw
A 'settled in the haw
Picking berries from the stem,
Twas hopping to and fro

Beady eyes and painted breast
His wing as black as night
Regal in his rigid stance
My...a wondrous sight

Then up and up he flew again
On to distant fields
Up and up, away he flew
His voice a distant peal

A bird came down, to dance around
I reveled in his song
He came to me, for just a pause
And then he moved along

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Leria Hawkins

Up, Up And Away

I've tried so hard to say goodbye
To let you go, oh how I've tried
I told you that I couldn't stay
But you keep standing in my way

Your kind of love is just a joke
A silly game, a cruel hoax
It's all just fluff and flattery
You aimed right at the heart of me

I loved you to the very core
Through the years I've loved you more
I never stopped to consider why
I never even had to try

It just came, a welcome breeze
A passion washing over me
All it took was just your smile
Ya know...you had me all the while

I thought we'd grown, beyond the touch
Believed your heart was close enough
But what I found was wrapped in strings
Too tightly bound to feel a thing

So now I try to run and hide
It's funny but, I haven't cried
I think I too, have turned to stone
It happened while I loved alone

I didn't know how far I'd fall
Until I got this wake-up call
Seasons change and so have I
There's nothing left, but my goodbye

It's too late now to ask me why
It's too late now to claim you'll try
So much unsaid b'tween the lines
It's too late now to change your mind

Leria Hawkins

Waiting To Become

Waiting To Become

Date: July 29,2010

I have waited here, long indeed
...waiting to become a poet
I have stumbled over and fell upon
Words that free fall from my mind

I have inked many pages
And tap, tap, tapped to siphon rhetoric
From my own dark soul!
I have taken knife in hand
To carve blindly in the dark
Searching in vain for poetic verse
Or prose, or even song

I have twisted thoughts,
And drained memories
I have stolen from friend and foe
Pilfering letter by letter
Secrets, fantasies and unspeakable acts of debauchery

I dug a grave to lost love
Cut down trees of indifference
And swam the river of denial
I have traveled far and searched wide
Climbing the highest mountain of despair
Just to sprinkle moon dust over sleeping giants

I sliced my wrist and bled poison on the leaf
All for the chance
To run my fingers through the golden hair of success

I have killed and died,
At the altar of my own naivety
I have lied, been deceived, and have coveted the gifts of others
I have waited, long indeed
...waiting to become a poet

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Leria Hawkins

Waiting To Concede

Waiting To Concede

Date: May 15,2015

Thru my window
I see the slow slide
Laid to rest, the other side
My tears dry, smiles die
As I fly, a tumbleweed in the breeze
Hope...slow-slips this sinking ship
Fading blue, in horizons lonesome grip
While evenings glow, burns a jagged hole
Into my darkened, dampened soul

Thru my window
Twilight dries, my hopeful highs
Scorched in the summer sun
Night falls, and slumber crawls
I'm hostage beneath the spell
A broken shell, tossed in the swell
And as far as I can tell
I languish in a blaze, a twisted maze
Burning hot and until it's not

Thru my window
I've seen the truth
I know the secret places
The ever changing faces
Yet I linger just the same...
It's cold here where I am
Pen in hand, drawing dreamscapes in the sand
When it's clear to see, that we, will never be
There's only me...and misery

Thru my window
I see the painted sky
In hues that blind my eyes
It's a lie I tell myself
Why it's me and no one else
Kept hidden in the night

Forever wrong, and never right
I'm just a soul, bound in chains
With only shame...to speak my name

Thru my window
I look out to the sea
Trying to find, the lost part of me
Tossed forever in the rage
Refusing still to turn the page
So here I cling, in tangled strings
Looking for the signs, the twisted lines
That leads to my surrender

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Leria Hawkins

Walk On By

Date: November 11,2011

Something made me turn my head
I looked for me, it's you instead
I'm stepping out to shed the pain
I'm trying to find myself again

No one can do it, no one but me
One day at a time, until I am free
Untie the strings, unchain my heart
Snuff the fire that haunts the dark

Hold me close, it's never you
Too busy painting shades of blue
Singing songs to lure your prey
Submission but a breath away

Whispered promises, burn like fire
Who's the cheat and who's the liar
White knuckled grip holding tight
While plunging deep the rusty knife

No need to fret; put up a fuss
There's only you, and never us
Take, take, take...to glut your need
My spirit drowning in the greed

An anguished soul hung out to dry
Can't be consoled, no need to cry
I'll face the slate and wash it clean
Then learn to walk the path again

A hairline fracture of my mind
Opens to another time
When I was young, and still naïve
But I knew then what to believe

My eager heart, was tricked by time
Believing life would clear the mind

Illusions of some transformation
That frees you of your reservations

But you have failed to let it go
A decade long has shown me so
You'll always sit upon a throne
Smiling down and tossing stones

No more beneath your cold deceit
No more a place to wipe your feet
You turned away, nose to the sky
This time it's me, who passed you by

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Leria Hawkins

Walking In Circles

Don't go burning down the bridges
That we've built 'tween me and you
Just leave a little wiggle room
Cause believe me, we're not through

And don't go building fences
To reign your passion in
We both know that you can't tame it
It's like a second skin

Don't try to draw the line
And pretend you've taken sides
Cause you know our kindred spirits
Will always turn the tide

Don't tell yourself its over
Or buy into that lie
Cause it's not over, till it's over
No matter how you try

We've had our ups and downs, babe
But there's just too much we share
And you may try to turn the corner
But, we're a circle...not a square

Leria Hawkins

What Do You Mean, I'm Screeching?

Of course...it's all I know. I met a smooth philanderer, and it made my thinking so. He flirted and he fiddled, he rang me night and day. He offered me his putter, but then refused to play. He shook my heart to pieces, and then fed it to the dogs. He whispered midnight prattle that left me in a fog. Years and year he shadowed, watched my every turn. Set fire to my resistance, then snickered as it burned. And then when I was snookered, he had me on the line. I found his flaunt and flattery was really just design.

What do you mean, I'm screeching? Well, yes I am beseeching, for justice for my pain. He prides and preens in the sunshine, while I languish in the rain. This outrage has me crow'in, it has my daggers show'in. I need to find requital, for all the snow he's blow'in. Yes, you've heard me screeching, my mind and soul beseeching, for fair and just return. As, this time it is my pleasure, I'll stand in sunny weather, and let him feel the burn.

Leria Hawkins

What More

When will I know your heart, my love
Will there be time for it
I have waited, and you have waited
My soul...has waited
But the sun goes down
And the world spins round, and I am empty

You are not mine, you are never...ever mine
And I burn...burn raw in my desires

How long... how long must I wait
How long in this cruel surrender...
How long...trapped by the echo of memories
How long...my passion rewinding in the ache of a lifetime...
Each day, I wake to a hard and bitter truth
A day, a week, a year...a lifetime
Without you
My life, my love...always and forever without you...

You never gave me truth, my sweet
Never a word, a warm sentiment
And today, I take no more than this
No more than a cold and lonesome heart
No more...than a grave robbed of its spirit
A hole...black and bitter as coal ash

There's no room to turn around, my sweet...
Our echoes have grown, oh so distant...so cold
There's no fire to our flame, sweetheart
What more can I say...what more?
There's just no fire to our flame...
There's only burning
Just a fierce and ruthless burning

But, I'll leave it here today, love
Leave it, just as I came
I'll leave with the same merciless yearning
I'll leave behind a decade of trust
Belief that burned with a bright and fanciful hope

A hope that only love can bear
A hope...slain and sacrificed at the hands of indifference

What more is there to say, my sweet
What more...

Leria Hawkins

What To Do, Without A Muse

What To Do, Without A Muse

Date: December 28,2012

My muse is gone, sweet sorrow
Passed beyond my door
No song, no verse to borrow
I hear the songs no more

My heart is sad, is lonely
I've searched the coal black skies
But only found sweet solace
When standing in the light

My muse is gone, departed
The whispers have all stilled
My passion has betrayed me
With angst my heart is filled

The flavors born of parting
Are strong but bittersweet
I hunger for the rapture
That's flown beyond my reach

My muse is gone, has left me
I'm now an empty shell
Lost, but for the burning
Of flames that sear me still

I'm waiting for the coming
A kiss upon the breeze
To blow away my sorrow
And return my muse to me

My muse is gone, is fallen
Like dust upon my tongue
I'm gagging on the relics
Of lies that burn my lungs

No promise in the whispers

Just a cold, a calloused ruse
That's tied my heart in tangles
My mind is warped, confused

But words keep spilling from me
In useless muffled verse
My muse left me forsaken
I'm snared inside this curse

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Leria Hawkins

When I Have Yearned

When I have yearned, so very long
That the light has grown dim
And the sparks have blown astray
All I see in the bleary shadows is a cradle
Empty now, so very very empty
Vacant `cept the soft indentation
A hollow, where my head once lay
I am childlike and afraid
Knowing that suffering will seek me out
Anguish...laden thick with echoes
Biding like restless spirits that refuse to pass over
The night is no longer my shelter, my savior
No longer offering the slow pull into oblivion
Gone is the purveyor of fire soaked dreams
There is only sorrow here, the slow steady drone of heartache
A mélange of melancholy whispers that rob me of peace
And visions...visions taunting of warm and glorious days gone by
I've tried so hard, so very very hard...to wish it all away
And for so very long, I sought to find and force the end
To close this book that I've refused to put down
I've tried desperately to succeed, while expecting to fail
But I fool no one, with my fits of folly...let alone myself
As nary a day passes that I do not grieve
Nary a night without a cold stab of loneliness
Bitterness, like rusty blades piercing my heart
Scarring me for the sins of my weakness
I am plagued by gnawing pangs of regret
Bombarded by random thoughts and unclaimed desires
Eating away at the last vestiges of my comfort
Obsession...taking back my bravery, snuffing out my self-assurance
I yearn for what I cannot have, for what I cannot hold
I yearn in spite of my resolve, albeit my rational
I yearn...and yearn...and yearn
Aching for the broken notes of a half written song
Clinging to a hope that I've refused to forsake

Leria Hawkins

When Pablo Speaks

When Pablo Speaks

Date: July 10,2012

My mind to frolic, with words of Frost
Slides between and then is lost
Drifting 'round to fellows long
My thirst is deep; desires strong
Filled with all that Maya says
Flits in and out my meddling head
And ah, when Pablo speaks of love
My heart's aflutter with pure white doves
Around the beat, who else but Poe
A deep dark place I've come to know
I stop to ponder the words worth
As if I've nursed them from their birth
I settle to hear the rambling brook
Where Gwendolyn baits my eager hook
Then 'long comes Oscar, running wild
I listen like an eager child
When Langston paints his colored hues
His canvas fills my point of view
Not just the finest spinning me
To this state of flux and reverie
For verses drift from near and far
Forever reaching for the stars
Feeding on the gentle night
I languish in the word's delight
Finding rhyme from 'neath the skin
The place where passion's settled in
To fill my cup, appease my soul
Till hunger's sated, fat and whole
The empty space behind my eyes
Is filled with life's sweet lullabies
And when at last, I lay to rest
I'm filled with cadence of the best

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Leria Hawkins

While The River Rushes On

While The River Rushes On

Date: July 8,2014

In you, a flame that burns forever,
fired from some distant dream.
Revived a decade later
to the slow pull of one too many.

In you, a whisper of promises
drowned out by the underlying current of duty.
The incessant hum of improbability
blowing hard across season upon season of cold.

I have no lips to speak of comforts, love
no soul to allay the storm.
The battle rages on and on
in a clash between what is true and what is fantasy.

And in the cool curling grey of one last cigarette
my eyes blur between clear and uncertain.
I've tried desperately to see beyond the fog,
to vanquish the smoke that tortures me.

I have tried with all my might, my passion
to extinguish the fire that burns.
To lay to rest...once and for all,
the yearning for a dream denied

We have parted here so very many times
Setting flames to all that we are
Yet, while our bridges burn on and on
They never seem to crumble.

And we hold here fast and true
as if, forever certain of one more crossing.
We let them smolder, we let them burn...but never fall,
while the river below rushes on...

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Leria Hawkins

Whisper Please

Oh, how I miss that wayward wind
Sweet whispers in the night
Such desires, I've pushed aside
While trying to keep things right
And, how I've missed the shadows deep
That perfect silhouette
Waltzing across my pillowslip
Sweet dreams I can't forget
And how I've missed the musings, dear
Those love-struck memories
That set my veins, my heart aflame
That sparked such fire in me
I miss the passion you imbue
That singing in my soul
It only spoke of tenderness
A finer gift than gold
Oh, how I've missed the sweet warm kiss
Oh, how I've missed the flames
That kept me burning, yearning, love
A victim of your game
I miss the sighs of your goodbyes
I miss the afterglow
I miss it all so very much
I'm lost...without a soul

Oh, save me from this wretched fate
Please save me from this pain
Come back to me sweet wayward wind
In whispers once again...

Leria Hawkins

Who Knew...

Who Knew...

Date: June 8,2014

I didn't know a tree would grow
From just a little seed
I didn't know that it would grow
In spite of all the weeds
And I didn't know a little snow
Could snuff that raging flame
I didn't know that it would blow
To leave a lasting stain
I didn't know the fire's glow
Would chill me to the bone
I didn't know it's heady glow
Would turn my heart to stone

Just...call me slow, but I didn't know
The wiles, the ways of man
And so it goes, I didn't know
What my heart can't understand...

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Leria Hawkins

Who You Want To Be

Who You Want To Be

Date: May 21,2014

You choose your place
Away in the distant hills
Looking down on my garden
Guiltlessly enjoying the view
While from high, your path is scattered with rocks and stones
Far too treacherous to seek
The terrain, a landmine full of chaos
Your house looms, dark and dangerous, a monolith of steel

You choose your life
As decreed by influence
Ink drawn by the kindred's heavy hand
A blood pact etched onto your consciousness
Your future woven through blood and bone
Like a corset laced tight to bind your soul
You have no want or will to depart
Resolved to keep house inside the cage

You choose your bearing
Head cocked, nose turned high
Wielding your weapon in whispers
By day...stainless in your creed
By night...a marauder
Lurking the shadows of premeditated depravity
Injecting venom sweetened by fool's desire
Singing your songs of greed and glaring misconception

You choose your offense
Swallowing the ruins, rather than chew on the root
Borrowing knives from your twisted circle of seers
To strike blows to the heart that holds you harmless
You claim virtues yet favored or acknowledged
Negating fault to your actions or injury
You gather as fact, from the lips of crows
Holding true, despite the light in your own sightless eyes

You choose your belief
As if season upon season of cultivation
Has brought you no riches, no prosperity
No grain worth its weight, no harvest to reap
There's only a garden, far, far below you
You horde its joys from your distant throne
Contemplating...to make or to break, in a landslide of stone
To destroy with apathy, the fields that you've sown.

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Leria Hawkins

Who's Gonna Save Me?

Who's Gonna Save Me?

Date: December 28,2011

Who do you think will save me
When I fall from your eyes
Will there be a revelation
When at last, the cup runs dry

I know that I'm not yours
No more than you are mine
I have no right to claim your smile
Though the thought assaults my mind

I have no claim to love
And affection you'd never give
I have no right to be upset
I've just the right to live

So hold me not tomorrow
Neath the blanket of your shame
So easy just to walk away
And leave the way you came

Can't you see I'm drowning
From the weight of your disdain
Just let me mend the pieces
So I'll feel whole again

Release me from the sorrow
That dwells within my heart
And help me please to understand
The meaning of the sparks

This fire that burns between us
Was never warm or kind
It burns with a deception
That torments my heart and mind

Now I've got a hole in me

That your lust could never fill
The passion that I feel for you
Was more than "just for thrills"

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Leria Hawkins

Who's Skin Is It Anyway?

Who's Skin Is It Anyway?

Date: April 20,2012

Who suggest you...shall I point to
When you've plugged into my dreams
To suck marrow straight from my bones
Leaving me dried and salted on the shore

And who carries the finger
For the thorny path of red-yellow memories
Where the treasure trove is looted
Bearing the calamity of soot and fool's gold

And when razors cut fresh gashes on my soul
Bleeding my heart in hollow whispers of night
Who bears the tongue, sharpened and cold
Laying steel across my soft professes of love

I need to know...whose skin is it anyway?
Who hides in shame the passion of a fire burning
And who, my love...siphons victories from midnight chatter
Tiptoeing through life for fear of discovery

Can you tell me? Who... my pet?
Who sullies those nights of sweet confection?
Who whispers insincere taunts and slurs of degradation
But returns to the till, time and again
To sample the burning thrill of denial

Who is it my love? I beg to know...
For it is surely not I!
I will not deny my heart's desires...I will not pretend!
As I know...'I' am the fire you crave! ! !

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Leria Hawkins

Wishes

Wishes

Date: February

I wish you could stay
We've too many games still to play
And too many songs, we've left unsung
We've too much going, to come undone

I wish you could stay
To keep those hungry wolves at bay
We've so much to do before we're done
Can't you see, that you're the one

I wish you could stay
To help me find my path, find my way
I'm helpless with my heart unstrung
Without your fire, I'm cold, I'm numb

I wish you could stay
Put those leaving thoughts away
Shut them down, leave them dead
Think of only us instead

I wish you could stay
Can't you be convinced, can't you be swayed
You're the man for me, you're the only one
Who burns me like the August sun

I wish I could stay
But I've given all my love away
I fed my heart to the flames
A pawn inside your hurtful games

I wish I could stay
But there's nothing more that I can say
You leave me lonely, steal my dreams
...it was never more than that it seems!

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Leria Hawkins

You Burn

You Burn

Date: December 29,2015

In dreams you are the moon
Rising in a midnight sky
With all the stars in heaven
A 'twinkling by your side
You are my Sunday morning
Warm between the sheets
And lazy afternoons
That leave me full...complete
You are a life long journey, babe
A path that leads me home
You're the fire that stirs my passion
A flame to warm my bones
You're whispers in my coffee
Sweet echoes in my dreams
You're the rage of lustful yearnings
In my silent movie screams
You are that speckled pup
That brings me youthful joy
A candy coated confection
That leaves me wanting more
You're the fire and flame that haunts me
You blind me of my sight
You're everything I long for
The dreams that thrill my nights
You are the secret bower
That captures all my sighs
The keeper of my secrets
A flame I can't deny
You're like a haunting melody
Rewinding in my head
With silent midnight whispers
You keep my passions fed

In dreams you are the moon, love
Rising in my darkened skies
But like a blazing midnight comet

You burn...then pass me by

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Leria Hawkins

You Never Call

There is no whistle in the briar
Nor in the garden, lilted there
There are no murmurs in the trees
There is no passion, calling me

Yet, I feel a presence in the air
Something precious, something rare
Perhaps it's in the songs I breathe
Like a little whisper on my sleeve

Is it that, you're drawing near?
Is it your essence that I feel?
Have you come my way at last?
To sweep away the shards of glass

I've searched for you, both far and wide
Out in the hills, the countryside
I've waited here, so very long
While humming soft, a secret song

There is so much I need to say
To lift the rising shades of gray
So very much I need to know
To pull me from the blinding snow

You gather near, yet stay apart
You never let me touch your heart
A fickle flame that chars my soul
You only give me, half of whole

Why do you linger, why do you stay
Why do you treat my love this way
So many times, I've told you so
So many times, I've tried to go

There is one thing, I must confess
I sought to sway your tenderness
But, it seems my heart is second hand
It took so long to understand

There is no whistle in the briar
Nor in the garden, lilted there
There are no murmurs in the trees
There is no passion, calling me...

Leria Hawkins

You Rang?

You Rang?

Date: July 5,2012

I see that you called...
Again, you have called
Perhaps in some sad belief
That you cannot be denied

I've heard it said
'You get what you give in this life'
And I believe it to be true
Perhaps...you should too!

I see that you called...
Sporting the same old howl
With conceit that does not interest me
You are brass, and nerve, and pride

Your ego grates my peace of mind
Like nails against a chalkboard
It's the incessant squall of vanity
That wears thin my patience

I see that you called...
But fall silent when looked upon
Like a frightened child, you hide your face in shadows
For fear of being seen

There's no need to pass this way again
There's no shoulder on which to rest
No ear to listen
And there is no heart to bruise or break

I see that you called...
With any luck, may it be your last
As it will go unanswered
It will be ignored...

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Leria Hawkins

You'LI Be The Death Of Me - A Mother's Rant

If I rant, if I rave
It is from love, at you I rage
It is my maddening heart's desire
To see you through, to lift you higher
To lead you to a better place
Where life's fulfillment, be your grace
A wish for future days to hold
A haven safe, within God's fold
Reared by tongue, trained by switch
Neither left you in a hitch
Scrambling for a crumb to eat
Or too weak to pull you to your feet
Though our desires may not agree
There's no more precious gift to me
Than to see you grow into a man
As I know then, you'll understand
Why I rant, why I rave
The prelude to an early grave
But someday in your future life
You'll find a home and take a wife
Then at last, your eyes will see
What a parent is meant to be
You'll look into your children's eyes
And comprehend, my demise

Leria Hawkins

You're Not That Kind

You're Not That Kind

Date: December 29,2015

I thought you knew the passion
That's burning in my heart
Thought you saw a future
Shining through the dark
I thought that you could love
Beyond the skin I wear
Thought respect and tenderness
Is something to be shared
I thought the fire would soothe you
And take away your doubt
I thought you'd find the fortitude
To push your demons out
I thought you'd find some meaning
Beyond what is today
I thought that you would honor
You'd try to find a way
But, so much for my thinking
Misguided as I am
I thought you were forever
But you're not that kind of man

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