

Poetry Series

Melissa Casteen
- poems -

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Melissa Casteen(1983)

~~flush~~

My tears won't fall in front of you
You will never see me cry
I wear a mask to hide the view
of the sorrow in my eyes

If I were to break or hide away
you'd never think to ask
why am I sad? - am I OK?
and so I wear this mask

What happened to our friendship,
our sisterhood of souls?
Why can't you see it all just slip
down the dirty toilet bowl?

Your view has become obstructed
The bubble around your life hides mine
Like the wall surrounding my heart constructed
by neglect and carelessness and wasted time

I hate that you are selfish
I hate that you don't care
And if I were one to make a wish
Only a true friend could answer that prayer

Melissa Casteen

A Forever Friend

Even all these years gone by
in sleep I still have dreams of you
I sometimes smile and often cry
I miss the things we used to do

My heart of hearts, a friend indeed
when you were sad I felt your pain
and you were there when I had need
to coax my frown to smile again

We shared a bond, I treasured it
and even though we lived apart
both in time and miles, we did not let
our kinship die within our hearts

I miss you Friend, I hope you know
until the sands stop marking time
when God Himself has stopped the flow
your soul is forever linked to mine

Until the deserts freeze with snow
and mountains crumble to the ground
Until all rivers cease to flow
and stars once bright cannot be found
Until the oceans and seas are dry
and no birds soar along the wind
Until the blue bleeds from the sky
You're in my heart, a forever friend

~For Shanna

Melissa Casteen

A Light In The Dark

As the darkness closes in
and shadows form where light had been
Horned demons hound the scent of sin
and drag their prey to the realm within
the flame

The desperate souls will writhe in pain
while fires rage, no chance for rain
Their screams and shrieks are all in vain
Their tortured minds soon go insane,
a game

The Lake of Fire is taunting me
it invades my dreams and tries to see
if the light I hold inside is free
to devour, so I can never be
the same

'The darkness, ' says the evil beast,
'will taint your soul and demand to feast
until your virtue becomes deceased
and all goodness within has been released
in shame'

Default, O demon from below
'cause the light in me will never go
sin tempts but cannot strike a blow
unforgiven, because the faithful know
His name

Melissa Casteen

Dream Free

In the hearts of boys turned men
Where dreams once quelched, come back again
And whispered in sighs of now grown girls
Wishes are hidden like oyster trapped pearls

What makes us think that dreaming is folly?
That What if? Why not? How come? If only!
Are phrases and questions pondered in vain
Like the will of the desert people who dance for the rain

Dreams are wishes and hopes we are scared to explore
Our brains scream You can't! You musn't! Ignore!
But our hearts- oh, our hearts dare to dream
And to wish and to yearn, no you can't cork the spring

Even not honored, our dreams still remain
Sometimes as certain as an oncoming train
Or ebbing and flowing like the tide of the seas,
Touching our lives like the wind rustles leaves

So dream you little child, so innocent and small
Because one day your hopes and dreams could be mountain tall
Don't abandon your desires, the greatest dreams in your soul
For without dreams to inspire, we never can be, truly, whole

Melissa Casteen

Enchanting Expectations

~For Danniell, Happy Baby! ! !

A mother to be, your baby inside
through backaches and leg cramps you take it in stride

A love like no other grows with each passing day,
A gift from above, no matter what other's may say

Your feet are now cankles and you've stretched your butt crack
And the temper and tears have you on the attack

Your bladder's been crushed and bounced on and kicked
When you think you really have to pee, you find you've been tricked

There are feet in your ribs and she's head-butting your crotch
You get light headed and dizzy, so your blood sugar is watched

You can't sleep at night and you're tired all day
- all of this fun came from a quick roll in the hay!

But even as difficult and uncomfortable as it's been
You'd never take it back- you'd do it all again

So cherish these moments while she's still in your belly
because after she's out and all cleaned from cottage cheese and strawberry jelly

She'll be loved and adored unlike any other
And you'll have to share those precious moments with the rest of us- you
mother!

Melissa Casteen

Guilty

Standing in the mirror
smoking gun in hand
wondering what just happened
to make me kill this man

something made this moment
was it his fault or was it mine?
what did he say to hurt me so
and make me do this crime

There was something in his movements
that set alarm bells off
the coldness in his eyes
the harshness in his laugh

And when the struggle ended
he was face down on the floor
everything as still as death
'cept the blood running toward the door

I couldn't let him break me again
and so I set me free
but although he hurt me I still know
the guilty one is me

Melissa Casteen

I Am The Storm

The rain falls cold and fast- shards of glass wrought in fires of bitterness and resentment.

Trees, buildings, lamposts and dusty cars weep with gratitude, their dirty tears running in torrents into the streets.

The wind weaves its way eerily through branches and chimes, whistling the tune that sends children running to their mommies.

Jagged streaks of light fork and knife their paths across the sky- teasing out roars of protest from resentful clouds.

I can't remember a more beautiful night in a long while.

Melissa Casteen

I Love

I live, I hate
I give, I take
I lie, I pledge
I forgive, I judge

I cling, I push
I cry, I wish
I sing, I whine
I think, I pine

Of all the things I often do
There's no other choice but to just love you

Melissa Casteen

In The Face Of A Tragedy

Some things seem beyond belief, like a terrifying dream
But deep inside you can't deny that things aren't what they seem.
And those who died in vain, for reasons so absurd
Will never be forgotten, their injustices will be heard.
And we will pray for those souls lost with unrelenting fervor
That God almighty will cast down these sadistic men who murder.
Our people weep and grieve for the victims, family and friends
And what they must be going through as the unrealness slowly ends.
But we will come together as we always have before
And conquer those most heartless men who dared beat down Our Door

Melissa Casteen

Lonesome Girl

Alone in my heart though my friends gather 'round
I wait to be heard but they won't hear a sound

Just want to be loved, and for once be put first
I crave understanding, an unquenchable thirst

My mind is unchallenged, my spirit- it cries
Doesn't anyone notice when my smiles are lies?

I give of myself and yet naught is returned
I love, can't stop loving, even when it is spurned

I see and I grieve when another is hurt
I hold and I comfort- they always come first

When I am in need, there's no one to care
No hand to hold mine, no one to wipe away tears

I give of myself until nothing remains
but a hole in my heart, all alone through my pain

Alone in my sorrows
Alone with my fears
Alone still tomorrow
Alone through the years

Will I forever be lonesome- no mate for my soul?
I'm just waiting to blossom, afraid my heart has gone cold.

Melissa Casteen

Moon Gazing

As I gaze into the starry night
the moon above me, warm and bright
I think that you can also see
the very same moon that appears to me
And I realize, reflecting on it's silvery light
that we are close at heart, though not in sight

Melissa Casteen

See Me Not With Your Eyes...

Look at me and see me not with your eyes
but with your heart
and feel that my love for you is both
as brilliant and demanding
as the sun gives heat and light
and as quiet and serene
as the moon caresses the stars

Look at me and see me not with your eyes
but with your mind
and know that my thoughts of you
are sprinkled spontaneously and wistfully throughout my day
and in my dreams, are given to wishing for the morn-
for being with you is lovelier than any dream

Look at me and see me not with your eyes
but with your soul
and be a part of me, as if together,
our breath has created the wind,
our tears and sweat- the seas,
our heat and passion- the sun,
the light in our eyes- the moon and stars
and our love- the World.

Melissa Casteen

The Why Not Me's

I long to feel as the eagle does
soaring high and swift among the clouds
and while my dreams alight, I cannot fly because
my arms have nary a feather, my feet are planted to the ground

And so I thought if I were a tree,
growing tall and rooted deep
I'd reach such great heights and long-lived be
but in me there lacks that steadiness, a contentment I can't keep

Well, maybe I could be like the deer
leaping, bounding, heart a-pounding in its carefree fancy flight
dancing through both glade and glen, but alas I fear
that gracefulness eludes me, like the sun forgets the night

If only I were akin to fish
gliding surely through lake or stream or sea
oh how that water would cradle me, but it's just another wish
for a diver I am not and a poor fish I'd surely be

And so I sat and pondered this
all the wishes and the why not me's
and I wondered if the others wish
what would they have longed to be?

Would the eagle flying along the wind
dream to swim, the fish to soar?
The tree so tall- would it like to send
its roots down paths they've not been before?

Perhaps the deer would like to stand
safe and steady as that tree
But on wind and sea and here on land
things are as they were meant to be

And finally I began to see
That I already am these things
A bit like deer and fish and tree
and ready to unfold my wings.

Melissa Casteen