Where Do Broken Hearts Do?









Where Jo Broken Hearts Go?





For The Sisterhood Who Held Me Up

Chinma, Chineneye, Uzo, Ebym, Chioma U, Chioma, E, Ng, &

My Mom.





The riddle of the ages: if a tree falls in the forest and there is no one to hear it, does it make a sound? Well, science says yes.

What about the human heart? If your heart is broken by love, death or any other number of human circumstances, does your broken heart make a sound?

In your hand is a collection of the sounds made by my broken heart.

In these sounds of my brokenness, many readers have recognized their own sounds and have taken some comfort in the way I was able to capture these sounds.

I always feel this deep need to offer comfort whenever my words resonate with a reader because I feel deeply. I feel hard. And because I know the sounds of a heart breaking. So I cry with you.

What I hope you will find in this book is hope. Hope that in the sounds of our brokenness, a light, a comfort, a peace..., can take seed and maybe we can once again smile, and dare I wish- dance, again.

> All my love, Okwy.





Pain in a bottle 8 Quicksand 9 Never Tell 10 Where Do Broken Hearts Go? 11 I look To The Future 12 Homeless 13 A Heart Once Pure 14-15 She Is The One For You 16

> Justice 17 My Love 18

I Was Arrogant 19 Homebound 20-21

Prayer For The Dead 22-23 Like A Galloping Horse 24 Get Up & Fight 25-26 Performer 27-29

From The Lips Of My Darling 30 Never Believe A Lie 31 Can They See Me? 32 I Lost The Fight & The War & The Love 33 Early Enough 34 Never Love Again 35 A Fine Couple 36





Be Good To Her 37 Be Kind-er 38 Enjoy The Pain 39 God Is Dead. Don't Hail The Dead 40-41 Awkward 42- 43 Worthless 44 Take A Mockery 45 A Bright Future 46 Hopeless In God 47-48 A Chore Most Hard 49

> Unseen 50 Hypocrite, My Love 51 Dignity Lost 52 Until You Fight 53 A Peaceless Existence 54 Nothing New Under The Sun 55-56 Your Secret Is Safe 57 The Price Of Secrets 58 So Slow Time Is 59 First One Named Is First One Served 60 Tinted Lenses 61 Our Heroes Are Human Too 62 A Faultless Line 63 Heartbroken Woman 64 Darling, Remember Me? 65-66

The Woman In The Mirror 67-68 Flash 69-70 Romantic Entanglements 71 When Right Doesn't Feel Good 72 For Her Mama 73-74 I Own You Now 75-76 Unfettered 77



Ringtones 78 Grown Man 79-80 Dreams 81-82 Don't Feed Me 83 Gone Girl 84 The Cliche Is True 85 Wild Thing 86 New Day, Old Me 87 Separated 88 Mind Games 89 Baby Please Sleep 90 Now You See Me 91 Melted Away 92 Promise Of Tomorrow 93 Play Dead 94 Typhoon Eye 95 Babe 96

Freewill 97 Oh Baby 98 A Good Day 99 Way Ahead Of You 100 Senseless Housing 101 Child Please 102 Not Picture Perfect 103 Mama Raised No Fool 104 I See Me Now 105 Daily Routine 106 Good Morning, God 107-108 Uncovered 109 The Virtuous Don't Survive 110- 111 Shangri- La 112

Swept Away 113 Tattered Up 114 Unconvinced 115 Philosopher 116 He Is Lucky To Have You 117 Little Drops Of Water 118





Another Day, Another Lie 119 Hello Midnight 120 Walk A Mile In My Shoes 121 What Do Broken Hearts Say? 122 The Holes On The Wall 123 The Sins Of The Father 124- 125 God Approved 126 Irony Much 127 The Ghost Between Us 128 Dullard 129-130 Goodbye, My Darling 131 Owned 132- 133 Over 134 Truth Raises Up 135 Fearfully Made 136-137 Warriors, Warriors, Everywhere 138- 139



Pain in a bottle

I cannot capture my pain In a bottle But even if I could, How does that help you? How does hearing my heart Shatter a million times in A million pieces more, How does that help you? Bravery to me is forgetting.

I cannot capture my pain in a bottle But, remember, I do. Your heart racing to the floor In a thud so earth shattering You just know, No human deserved it.

I would wish you could never know my pain. That my pain be mere words To you If ever a day came that This pain become meaningful to you, Too late My sincerest thoughts are with you And the best, to you, I wish

8

Quicksand

I am in a quicksand Struggling To breathe Struggling To get out I'm falling Can't stop. Bottomless... A quicksand.

People say, be calm... Stop, in a quicksand? Breathe, In a quicksand? Is that normal?

> They say, New normal... Is that a thing?

How do you stop, How do you breathe, In a quicksand? And call it, normal? The new normal?

g



Never Tell

Never tell the universe what you have been through

And never tell God to stop a pain or Do you a favor

Both will listen But both are too Busy having a laugh Upon the brokenness of your heart To give a care, About you.





Where do broken hearts Go?

> Wonder, sighs, tosses, Heart pounding Meals unappealing Talking, moot

> > So,

Where do broken hearts go?





9 look To the Future

Wonder, sighs, tosses, Heart pounding Meals unappealing Talking, moot

So,

Where do broken hearts go?



Homeless

The biggest poverty is having no portion in the world To call a home.

Have you ever overstayed your welcome? A roach is better than you. The rat has more pride of place than you.

Have you ever overstayed your welcome? In a corner of the world Not your own? All the riches of the moment Bring little pleasure.

You crave peace of mind You hope each waking day brings Closer and closer An exit... No matter how undignified.





God, You took a heart Once full of your love A heart Most desirous of your ways, To tell others of you, A heart that all it wanted Was be in awe of you all day All night...

God, You took a heart Once full of innocence, A heart Most trusting of you...

God,

You took a heart And you broke that heart Like a twig upon your knees A heart, Broken Yet you threw it into a fire And watched it burn. (Cont...)





A Heart Once Pure (2)

God, What have you to gain by A heart Full of misery, A heart Full of disbelief A heart Mournful and in regret of you?





She's The One For You

She is the one for you and I was the one for you. I am an old cloth, A well-worn shoe I am comfort Always here, Too present.

She is shy And she is sly Her breasts as upright As her ways are dainty And her words erect your bones And shivers down your back.

> All night long, You reach And reach, All night long, You reach for her.





Justice is a funny word In anger, you scream for her You curse and cuss And lie satisfied that she is real.

The learned know though, There is nothing in the world Like justice



My Love

My love, you call to her My name you blast to me Bathed and perfumed You go to her, But disgusted You look upon my freshness

With ease, she rides along A toothache, a thought of me.

You did this But you cannot help it Love is a funny one And it has found you Away from me, Forever.





I was arrogant, wasn't I? When you spoke harshly to them, Made me lie for you, Helped you move quickly from her, Helped me move quicker from him...

I was arrogant, wasn't I? 'cos I thought we were enchanted Didn't give it a thought Didn't know you were my karma. Ex truly has marked the spot.



Homebound (1)

My love is homebound, My tongue is dry My fists balled up, My heart beats so hard, I fear it will pop. My head throbs From the back to the front. I shiver, Rub my arms over and over Send a little warmth. I feel I should poop But my feet, Too heavy Can't lift me up.

My love is homebound And I am seated on the corner On the floor My head upon the door My back against the wall Wishing it swallows me whole

(Cont.)





My love is homebound But this isn't about my love. But his anger For surely, he soonest Will unleash upon me.



Prayer For The Dead (1)

I really prayed this hard. I never would have believed A heart could heave and ache This much.

I prayed till my voice cracked, My lips chapped, heavy as rocks Out of me flowed words too deep Even I couldn't understand. And I am a master weaver Of words and plans And speak in tongues diverse And yet...

I finally understood words like hopeless Words like helpless Those aren't words...mere words, But of feelings Of fear, Once the fight is gone From your belly. (Cont...)



Prayer For The Dead (2)

You understand What a shell means And a shell is you. The light in your eyes Is gone And you don't know Who you are, Anymore.



Like A Galloping Horse

Oh may the days come And come fast Like a galloping horse set ablaze by a swarm of bees...

The day my heart no longer Yearns for you The days when no more I lie upon my bed But my heart trails Your every move

May the day come When upon my bed I lie My heart within me, My thoughts, with me Maybe upon the good people Of the world.

May the day come When I flinch no more at the sound of your voice And ache at the thought of you.

Oh days, May the galloping horse bring you to me!

24



I told her, Get up and fight!

The day the same fight came For me, I froze.

I told her, Get up, walk away On my turn, I curled up and I took it.

I took it, In my heart, In my head, On my arms In every way, And I said not a word.

Shame swallowed me whole Shame swallowed my words Many fears stilled my heart. I tried to speak but heard Only the mockery of my own words. (Cont.)





I told her, Get up and fight! And she did. But I never was able To make a sound.



Performer (1)

I am a performer I wake up every day to perform A dance solo I have performed for so long I no longer am afraid To be found out.

All through my nights, I eat my tears These pillows, the truths they hold Dear friends, they are my best friends And as the night gives way to the morning, they shut my eyes, We have a big day tomorrow, they say.

Open your eyes, the world must not see these tears. So I wear my smilefaster than my mascara I flash my teethshinier than my foundation, Good morning, good morning, My voice rings loud oh swallows, you don't stand a chance.

I waltz, I twerk, I twirl- anything for you Never a peep behind this mask, That will ruin this play.

Performer (2)

This play is my masterpiece It is happy, A solo- a happy solo cos my partner has walked off... But I must hold court. I must hold steady Cos darling, they will never see beneath this mask.

I am a performer And have done this dance for so long, I fear this mask may never again come off.

It gets tiresome being so kind Are these words of care all mine? So compassionate and so stale.

Like me Like me, please Pretend my play you loved so well





For at night, these tears will fall A review my pillows will know Another secret the performer knows. Like me Like me please... Like this Like this Like this play, I wrote it with pieces of my dreams And sold my soul to get it right.



From The Lips Of My Darling

Fool Idiot Boring Horror Get out! These are not the words From my enemies. These are the words From the lips of my darling

My heart, Oh, my heart, You twist, you burn, you hurt And you take it.





I gaze upon my darling as he speaks I hear every word from his lips And I believe not a sound he makes.

I gaze upon the back of my darling As he leaves Around the corner, he claims to go I believe his heart after she goes And I believe not a sound he makes.





I wondered if you could see me Then I wondered if she could see me. I made them the center of my world, I shouldn't have but I did.

> I tried to be her friend To know - woman to woman, Will she take pity on me? I groveled at his feet, I shut my mouth like lava he swallowed me whole, I cried I pleaded I pleaded I played a fool Maybe today he will see me But today was no good.

Maybe tomorrow she will remember me Maybe a good deed I once did her? And maybe finally, they will see me? But that tomorrow never will come.



9 Lost The Fight And The War And The Love

To save us, I had to fight for us See me, See me, darling, I cried Love me Love me, darling, I begged Choose me, Choose me, I knelt.

But you wouldn't... Not ever again My heart was betrothed to yours, once, A long time ago But you broke our oath And gave it to another.

Your soul you promised her With your wealth you cherished her And with your body, you loved her

I turned toward you You recoiled from me I thought I could fight you back I thought I could pray you back But once gone, That light is dead And in the darkness now, I know you never Will make your way back to me.



Did you see it early? But how couldn't you have seen it? The early morning chats? The late-night repartees? The games you played with her? She calls and you answer...

You swivel in your chair And you smile down on your phone You sneak off to see her... To be with her

You hide her You defend her You will not stand a slight against her...

> How couldn't you have seen that this was love? Your true love again?





I thought I would never love again I thought I would never dream again But I know now, that it was my pain speaking.

I wanted to go away and mourn forever. I thought everyone was laughing at me. I thought there was no hope anymore But darling, I thought wrong.

I know now that it is all over It was a war and I stood no chance Not in my naivete or my trusting heart. But it happened for you and Maybe you weren't even looking Some day, I hope it will happen for me too.



A Fine Couple

A fine couple you two will make Like fine wine, you two will age.

Tall and proud, she bathes you in love Births to you, your pretty ones.

She will your heart fill with joy And laughter from your lips will flow Better suited for you she is And behind my thoughts will be.

I had no boys to you to give Three to you she gives for real Forever your love shall bloom and fly And on my way, I cry away



Be Good To Her

Be good to her, this one And never let her get away I see it in her eyes - the fire. She is fierce and will fight back Not a good end will she give If you turn to bite on her. She is loyal And here for you.

You already proved yourself -Your wandering eyes, Your tongue, they hold few truths And your heart serves only you But to her, Be kind. No other woman should ever go through,

The pining of one heart for another Whose heart already is lost to her





I used to wish you both ill And rain curses upon your offspring But, It is useless. For one, those are fairy tales and another, those are evil.

The world needs more kindness The world beckons upon me To be kind-her For if the posts were given to me, I may be the one evil is called down on And even now, who says I am blameless?

May you both know only joy And great joy only And even though it hurts me To wish this, I look forward to my own path someday





Whatever it is you hurt from, Enjoy it No, I kid you not.

But how can I say this? When I live in so much pain?

Soonest my pain This pain, Will end. Never again will I feel it. But you who read this, I could have said many other but, they will mean not a thing If I did not go through this pain.



God Is Dead. Don't Hail The Dead (1)

Isn't it a scam to believe in God? The loss of a child, The end of a union, The shame of your man gallivanting with every woman, Infertility, Bankruptcy, The uncertainty of the future?

You believe in God or not, This comes indiscriminately To the most of us.

Those who believe God are nice Those who believe not, are nice...

But if a good thing happens to me-I thank God. And that horror? He was testing me. Testing me?

(Cont...)



God Is Dead. Don't Hail The Dead (2)

In this test they tell me-My duty to hope on Upon the one who took me Who broke me Without a thought?

I reach out to him for... comfort. He breaks me, He picks me not up?

For my child, I will lift a car For my father, I lift up one too. Nah, I'm good.



Awkward (1)

So by chance, you sat on my bed We had eyes on us No place left to stay Daughter, she made you lie down So here we are You on my bed lying there And I on my bed sitting there

We pretend this is normal Your warmth, it feels so good Oh how I have missed this But this This is awkward. We don't know what to do With our eyes So you fasten yours on daughter And mine stay glued to the screens

> Do you feel awkward? My place used to be here A long time ago You loved it too You welcomed it

> > (Cont...)





But here is cold now Secrets upon secrets Words left unsaid You cannot wait to escape And I cannot wait to feel again The familiar coldness That can never betray me





You never even tried again When it was over for you Cold. Like college roommates Who couldn't be more different?

It was a closed book Snapped shut. At night you snuck out At midnight you crawled back With the morning light A swift hello Outward bound.

> You never even tried My body yearned My heart was faithful Like a fool, I hoped I hoped for the longest Thinking my patience A virtue

But you were never going to Try again.





I thought the mockery of The world was worse Than the loss of my love. I thought the laughter of kin Was worse than the loss of my love

While you screamed, I held a smile, You pushed me off Back, I came again.

In your eyes that shone with hate, I held fast Maybe, maybe, maybe If I held on This perfect picture I held up For all the world, Maybe that they see Not the hate in your eyes.



A Bright Future

I look to the future and smile And look fondly at the aged. Life went through them But they made it. Some without their children Some without their husband Some without a job Some without a farm But yet, they made it. And when they talk to you, They do not mention the troubles Of their youth, A few... Maybe But for the many, They smile at the folly of the youth The hustle. The bustle The nonstop worries, They smile with knowledge. Those were not important after all, That gives me hope...





My friend asked me to have hope Pray Have faith I listened to people of God And now it draws a laugh They tell what God can do I tell what God has done

Of how he took a faithful heart And broke it Maybe I am selfish But I am a mother Even I shouldn't love harder than God.

How do I lift up my eyes to the hills When I am bereaved of faith? What do I pray for, When I am in a drought of hope?

(Cont...)





I loved the God I served The one I read about My soul longs for him all day long But alas, where I must go, I am in Shame Of what he should see.

To join the mockers of him gets easier I couldn't even use small letters to talk of him But now, my heart is resolute And I fear my innocence is gone- forever





Oh to talk about your day to me What a chore, a chore most hard Your feet all booted up Even a goodbye, That too, a chore, a chore most hard.

> For the one you love How easy, So easy That must be.





I tried to get your attention But I was all noise. I performed, I sang I jiggled And I danced Like a circus monkey, I performed And disgusted You hung up your nose.





Love is petty You hypocrite, my love For love keeps you up late at night Like a rat, You bite off Hideout Pieces and pieces Of your heart Offering them up In gifts, Muted convos, In laughs, most true And in listening So free.

But to me, the one you pledged Your heart, Love is foolish Love is blind

> So, my love, Why so in love?



Dignity Lost

For courtesy, I asked, Tell me, Tell me, my love, Are you in love with her? I do not stop you, My darling, no, no. But for my dignity This cannot be hard.

She smiles to my face Her friends whisper the truth But your fear grips their heart And a fool I must remain But tell me, tell me my darling This cannot be hard.

You, You don't even like me. So, why? This cannot be hard. What? Is there a price upon dignity lost? My dignity lost that I know not off?





Until the fight comes to you The strongest woman you are. Until on your knees Awake at night The future a monster Heart pounding on the floor Your present a blur of shame...

Until the fight comes to you The strongest woman you are.





Nothing hurts more Than a broken heart... No. That cannot be right. For acceptance follows a broken heart.

Nothing hurts more than lost peace You twist, you turn, you seek it But like the fortunate mosquito Your peace eludes you.



Nothing New Under The Sun (1)

She knows everything I know Haha No, she knows you better now. And everything new, She gets your energetic Dramatizations It stales when you have to tell it again To me... A chore, a chore most hard. Why bother To even give me a clue?

> What pictures of you She gets a copy Oh, who do I kid? I get a copy. She gets all of it And what little she Knows not? You blame yourself.

> > (Cont...)



Nothing New Under The Sun (2)

Has she ever done a wrong? Her words are gold dust What she says, That you must do Ts love And true love I cannot question





Behind your doors, your secrets are safe At night, you must be alone For she must call to end your day So no whispers, And manfully, you must respond In peace





I used to wonder what her secrets were That made you pledge your body to hers That turned your hate as crusted as rocks She must teach us This secret of hers. To make a man blind, deaf, and dumb.

I used to wonder what secrets she used That turned a house band outward-bound Screens got blackened and On paper your heart you poured to her. Can her secrets be bought, my love?

> I used to wonder about secrets Of hers and yours, what hurts they must hold For my heart, uninitiated I am.

Can she tell us her price? I plan not on you to use them again For our paths have diverged at last And these pains, I want never again.





You cannot wait, right? You cannot wait. Away with me This space you must need Loneliness must engulf your heart for her At night when no nearer to you she isn't.

Not all can be said right now But promises, promises you both hold close And soon her lips will spill those words You know in her heart she guards untapped.

You must burn nightly wandering away Is she telling all the truth? Of men she claimed to love but lost? Of ones your wise counsel she sought Are they really over or a show for you? You wonder... You plead But you must wait.

Away with me Is indeed your one true hope. You must not wait, You cannot wait Over and over you chant her name The only flower that blooms your smiles

First One Named Is First One Served

God is good But he wasn't to me. I showed faith but she is faith Must be something in a name. For on that rock he built His church.

My name followed and made me a fool Gave to her Everything I wanted, and so much more





I was the back that broke.

Abuse is a bed of rocks Sometimes you don't even know you are quartered on it. Lay there long enough And you don't know right from wrong.

Abuse is a hardened bed of comfort When vulnerable souls feel shame. And rather than acceptance of fate We crave the familiar And refuse an out.

Abuse is a crown of thorns It is prickly alright but who says you deserve better Your ma did not get better Not your aunts either Not the poor single mother down the road Remember you once turned up your nose at them?

> Who is laughing now? No. Not you. Abuse has become your well guarded secret.

61



Never meet your heroes.

I met mine I loved mine I stayed with mine I worshiped mine Now I have come to tell You all the truth-Never meet your heroes.





It wasn't that he was a bad man He just was no longer right for me.

> It wasn't that he hated me He just loved someone else

It wasn't that he did not care He just watered elsewhere

It wasn't that his tongue was evil His words just became slashing blades.

> It wasn't that I smelled bad His nose just wanted different

It wasn't that he hated hugs He just saw bugs on me

It wasn't that he was gay I just made his skin crawl.

It wasn't that he hated my looks He just hated the man he saw in me.





See the woman whose heart was broken That is a woman whose heart is priceless

See that woman who walked away? That is a woman you must respect.

To the heartbroken woman who stays To the heartbroken woman who walks away Give every woman the respect she is due.



Darling, Remember Me? (1)

He hates that I apologize so much Darling, I hate me too. But I don't know who I am anymore. She knows though.

She is strong She speaks her mind She does whatever she wants... She takes risks. Darling, remember her? She used to be me.

She is loyal to you She loves your ways You can do no wrong in her eyes After you hurt her endlessly? She forgives, She takes you back Darling, remember her? She used to be me.

(Cont...)



Darling, Remember Me? (2)

You hated that about me, didn't you? The challenge The pursuit.

I wish I had known To show this brokenness There would be no challenge There would be no pursuit There would have been no us. I see you chase after her because Darling, remember her? She used to be me.

Let her go. From a distance you love it. The challenge Her eye rolls Her quick wits But you can't keep up And when she is closest, You will break her spirit. Because darling, She was me.



The Woman In The Mirror (1)

I see her At her side glances at the mirror There is a glint in her eyes that used to burn But to survive, She had to push her down.

I see her haunted gaze In her flighty glances The quick repartee she bites down on The hurried movement before she slows down She had to push her down.

She bides her time She is no threat to anyone But she bides her time Waiting for takeoff She will not be pushed down.

(Cont...)





Today she stares. She stares and stares. She stares hard at the mirror Of dreams, of possibilities Of the future and all that she can ever be And she will not be pushed down.



Flash (1)

She is flash She will flaunt your wealth. She knows what to do And you will love her for doing it.

You will teach her family be damned And it will be her way or the highway And she, she only needs a nod from you The rest, she will handle it for you.

> On days she oversteps, A prod here and she nods Avoiding her master's dark. In and out she'll show herself Even to God, she's not this true.

With my arms I gather my friends On the floors, we spread a table Gathered around, we break our bread All is invited and none shall flash Except we all in agreement be.

(Cont...)



Flash (2)

Will she get the house I want? All the money you promised to me? Will she be the one to send Notes on me to hide my shame.

I see in her what in me I dread That she will love to flaunt and show Off to me in mockery and shame That she got it finally And her ring for your noose.



Romantic Entanglements

She is your closest friend And your words with her Inappropriate To all other ears. She a whore or don't you see? I know you see though You just think I don't.



When Right Doesn't Feel Good

You tried to say I was disillusioned I was blind and paranoid Hasn't time proved me right? And you, a trumpeting liar? But there are no prices. No awards here. Being right doesn't feel good. The pain in my heart is still the same. I truly am now disillusioned.





Your baby girl is all grown up So grown up she lives in my home.

You were angry at first But new shoes, new clothes, a new house The voices of neighbours, walled off

Your eyes will smile, your priest will clap A fat offering for his throne. Squeeze it, squeeze it Till it drops. Time truly heals all wounds.

Give me a baby you say to her Get a ring and wear it white Make it real, make him stay Your heart can't take any more The uncertainty that once lived in me.

(Cont...)





You never will meet me, Hello in crowds, long distance Her back like yours, Turned to me Nonchalant, intentional. I swear, I don't know who was wronged.

But you know, You know. It was your baby girl But you never can say Not to me No more to your heart Your very grateful heart Which gives thanks to God.



10wn You Now (1)

Her heart is beating faster Faster than her hips are twerking She pretends to be fine. From beneath her lashes she steals Coveted glances at me.

Was it all you thought it would be? You were me, remember that? But now a shell Of your former self. The performer I once was.

You lie on a bed of gold You don't think too deeply. And when you cough a complaint, Ungrateful, ungrateful, ungrateful Your ears hear.

But you will never tell me that Will you? You will crave my freedom

(Cont...)





You did not ask but I forgive you Never though will my lips assure you You knew exactly what you did And when it was still morning... You could have saved me





I sit in my sweat My hair is unshaven And my face like my bed is unmade I sit in comfort as a biscuit wrapper Joins the others on the floor.

My love is booted and ready to go All white, a knight he leaves To her arms To flirt, hold and love And at night, he retreats to sleep.

Once upon a time I could never sit in my mess Always shiny for my love But my love has no more need for me

Godspeed to the one he runs to Whip your hair in place and smile Tell a lie to those around Off you go, your love to gloat.





Can a sound make you nauseous? And a tune, A melodious tune, Trigger a panic within you?

Douse me with water for I am sick It is her who tolls for you.

We sneak glances and off you go To get down on that swiveling chair Where her words twirl you round.



Grown Man (1)

Look at you grown man Shivering Look of guilt on your face Don't know where to look I caught you You were on the phone With your love And I walked in...

> Should you freeze? You don't know. What should you do But fidget Speak too much Too fast to me?

Awkward. Let's not do this again It's your life Live it.

(Cont...)





You aren't doing anything new Pops did it Where is he now? Old Battered Alone

Live your life You don't owe me





I used to dream of you, And of fine dining and children sprawled around But you said it was stupid I was silly and had my head in the clouds. Now I think you are silly.

I dream of fine dining, Of travels around the world Of friends engaged around the fireplace And the booming laughter of children Bouncing off the walls.

I dream that my toes skip giddy along beach Shores. My nose perfumed by flowers Yellow. I wake up to green trees and Crickets. My eyes taking in the beauty Of cascading waters. And white earth.

I dream of a knight pure in heart Of a true tongue And a heart heated up by my name And a skin quivering at my touch

(Cont...)





I dreamed that I wanted it all And when I woke up I wanted it all And in my heart, I know I will get it all.





The food smells delicious I know it must taste heavenly But I pick at it.

I try to wolf it down But it just won't go So I set my spoon down.

The thoughts that plague my heart rise up And the food feels like pain to me I cannot take it down.

Another plate goes to waste.





If there was no one else I had a prayer That you will miss me after I'm Gone.

> But I know now The relief you feel Now that I am gone.





I used to be angry Not all men are the same! How dare you all

I used to be angry, Don't plan, All your love to your children You married wrong

For my love is a giant above men He never would my heart hurt He always will be true

> My love got me good Thrashed and taunted So good, I turned to poetry





Grief is a wild thing And sneaky. Like it plays a game. On my corner, soaked in tears There's your corner booming with laughs.

A chime, a flash calls my phone Brings me news from my kin A chime, a flash calls your phone Brings you love from her bowels And my heart to my feet.



New Day, Old Me

It is good to start afresh The one good thing about heartbreak Now I know who I am And that there are hearts like yours.

Heartbreak makes one true To self alone and you must come To walk on glass that once was whole And lived quite safe in your heart.

Heartbreak heartbreak tolls for me When shall I be whole again Every day I think is new but With sighs, I leave my bed.





We've got separate rooms And separate baths. Don't think I know you in the dark I bet your moles she can tell





Do you even have secrets? Yes you do but not from them They have a diary of your depravity They know you are just a man Like every other worm

> Boldly you appear on pages Where people find love Boldly you connect to faces On the book With your corny lines. I shame for you





Rock a bye baby, you should be asleep Mummy is up to do grown up things To mourn, to wail and sigh away





Our gloves are off now, aren't they No more pretense you see me Blocked on pages, we smile all fake Around folks who know us a bit more

Voicemail voicemail when I call Voicemail voicemail when you call We never say it, we both all grown I'm the old and you his new Never know my pain baby girl We done with words Like kitties we fight.





My cooler is bad but yours is great Rather melt in this heat than give a knock On those doors, behind you lay Keeping your secrets from my world



Promise Of Tomorrow

I promise you babe, it isn't forever Soon quite soon, we'll be out of here To another land to start afresh To you there, I give the world.

We'll be free to roam and free All spoiled for choice and fun Things to do No more tears and sighs at night This to you I give my word





I wish trust was not so needed For me to be with you I would hide my head in the sand Play dead like the wild squirrel You can see me And I can see you But I pretend we can't.





She is front and center And in all the pictures She was your second most loyal lieutenant But even she knew you had eyes For the one that cruises on you

> Her rent is paid up You fuel her jets and She dresses in tags You ship to her.

She gets the best hand-me Downs. Even the deaf know to be safe On her good side. What a hoot it must be For the both of you.



Babe

Babe babe, she called to you Oh no, it crosses a line Babe for me to you is kept My Naivety was appalling to you

Now I know, now I see My love, my love you call to her Nothing is sacred and nothing is kept Not for me, you don't even care.





My lane is where I speak no words Don't question your moves And let you live However you please. That is my lane.

> Stay in your lane Over and again you chant To me.

> For you my love, I stay on my lane Hope I stay forever on it.





Baby, can you see me? Just one more time? Just to tell me really who you are Because the you I see this time Chills my every being

Baby, please see me One more time Before you are whited and booted Running to her Running to them How did you convince yourself so?



A Good Day

Oh honey...child... You look so good You smell so fine Damn, she must look better

Give her that meaningful look Batting her eyelids, she sashays Give an excuse you take her out To hear that throaty laugh all-day

And come night you had a good day Sweetheart, you were looking so damn Fine. mission accomplished you all fooled Us all.





What a solemn promise You have made me:

> You will be a noise On my phone When you leave

I want out God, how I want it You, idiot- gone forever And my peace forever mine

And when I hear a noise I don't like I scrub it off and move On.





You think we fight because I do not hear you. We fight because you See me not And when I seek to touch you You scream Spittle pouring out.

All I taste are lies I wish I could smell them No more.





For all the things my friends tell me Be strong Don't show emotion You loved with all your heart Be brave And no more tears

It is like having a child Comatose. Do you just... Do you just pull the plug? You don't wanna be a thousand Times sure

Did you even carry that child? And nurse that child And dream the world of that child If you just pull the plug

So I do what I have always done I snoop one last time I speak out of tune...one last time And like the hydra, I get stung all over my heart One last time.





Pictures lie Up on my walls are lies Of smiles and kisses and promises And those are the start

Soon soon I will smash you up You cannot come where I go Where to self I must be true And hurt will no longer live

Smash smash I cannot wait Down the dumps, you fly away Still, my heart, be still my heart The day it draws and tolls quite close

So I do what I have always done I snoop one last time I speak out of tune...one last time And like the hydra, I get stung all over my heart One last time.



Mama Raised No Fool

Fool me once it is your shame Fool me twice, I am a fool A fool a fool a fool for you

Fool me once you would be true On the twice, you gave your word Best and ever for your queen I smiled and thought you talked of me

> Fooled me yes I was your fool So easy was no challenge Say for life you assure I smile and nod, I know you lie





I see me The me in me The me that breaks Into a dance With no provocation

I see me I see me now The me that takes my pain And says you must not waste This time is too precious

I see me now, The me I love All these tears will fade away Alone at night I'll clap my hands Did it, did it, I got away!





It is morning but you are safe behind your doors Evening comes and you are booted up Time to hit the town And see you at night.

It is the weekend and you are safe Behind your doors, you dial away Evening comes, you are booted up See you, Moro, You call from afar



Good Morning, god (1)

I made you my god And at your altar, I bowed daily Did not know how that happened But it is true

Yes, I started with the drama When I saw in your eyes You had lost me I tried with the tears And the words and the pleas And my shame was like dust Nothing upon the earth

My world revolved around you Your word, my command Show pony, I danced And aye, to my master's wishes Perceived, given or imagined And that was a card you played too well When it worked, you took credit When it did not Your approval was loud

(Cont...)





For what does it cost when it Is abundant? So abundant. I made you my god That was on me But you could have protected me Just to keep an oath.





Love cannot be hidden No. It shines like the sun Protrudes like the baby in the belly You say so many words Of how I am mistaken But darling, Booted up, Clean shaven The gift in your pocket The smile as you gaze down Upon those screens The hurry of your feet Because she is on the Other side... Darling, you are a man in love



The Virtuous Don't Survive (1)

Good girls finish last And if you are a good girl You will finish last. You can cry, You can say I lie But my dear, Soon you will see, I tell the truth.

Our goodness is innocent and wrong. The world rewards the immoral Keep your morality underfoot And join those who sold their Virtues Or had none to begin with.

Begrudge them not their ill-gotten gains. They hustle for their gold And they will take your home And crucify you for Letting them in.

(Cont...)



The Virtuous Don't Survive (2)

The world mocks good girls Our guts they hate. Our innocence offends them and Even though we say not a word They judge themselves through our ways And blame us for it.

Don't be a good girl my darling Or maybe keep your morality Hidden where the sun never shines.



Shangri La

The things you will do After I am gone Given you all that space For all that freedom Which your heart really craves.

Is this the life You willingly sacrificed our love The future we fought for The dome for our children For the lusts of your flesh.

Is this all there is A new one every other day Endless smokes and naked bodies Depravity Ungodliness In the clubs And where we once called home And then you have made it.

If this really is what you want Then darling please have it And though inner my heart I cry Above all else, I wish you well.



Swept Away

Slowly but surely we peel away Twas babe but now your lips Too heavy to call out that lie

Slowly but surely, we hide away Pictures, chats, in folders safe Videos, audios, to replay at night

Slowly but surely we fade away You engineer it and I must feel it All downhill never to rise





I came short of a trinket across the bridge Of my nose Tattoos I got A flaming head of hair I lightened my self Whatever to stay shiny To get your eyes on me All the pains for my troubles

Just to hear you say these precious words:

Soon you shall be gone Then I can begin to enjoy My life. I will answer to no one And if you disturb me a bit I will gladly block your calls.





You are a tamed man You are a read man You are a hard man But you are a good man

Why really, why? How really how? How did you get here?

What do you have to prove And to who do you prove it And why do you choose to prove it?





Remember all those days We sat in the dark and dreamed? Remember all those walks We pointed and hoped Soon our time will come.

Remember our song? Yeah, that one Of promises made and Promises kept The one you forbade your lips To sing again And warned of me My silliness to cease.



He Is Lucky To Have You

My friend came today And I had hope. She talked of a person With hopes and strength And beauty dignified. Of a Kindheart, an aura sure and True-Me.

Me.

It was me she talked of And oh,

To hear those words was light To my darkened paths And fire to my bones Even if I believed not a word.



Little Drops Of Water

It started small A look here, A scream there And a bad day, I thought it was.

It became the little things The hurts, I took their blame Booming voice made me Feel as useless as a single Grain of rice. On a Sunday morning It was my god. On others, I had no redemption.

The small things are everything.



Another Day, Another Lie

It was another lie, wasn't it? That I was family And your stead I'll bear.

It was another lie, wasn't it? Oh, whatever with you was real? Layers on layers my eyes you bleed That you see, imagine my heart.





It is closer to midnight But she says hello What wickedness is this? Is she jealous of a man who should be With his wife?

Why does she say hello and hello? Her loins don't ache for you She just wants to keep you As long as she can Just because she knows she can

It is closer to midnight Yet, she creeps up Morning to morning, she acts for you Performer performer monkey she is Dance and twirl she acts for you

Welcome welcome to her you say Was supposed to be for you to laugh Except your head you went and lost And now like dirt beneath your shoes You trump and stump and break my back



Walk A Mile In My Shoes

Darling, if you were me Not that you ever will be but, If you were me... Would your man be up all night Delighting another While alone in the dark, you cry?

Darling if you were me How happy will you be, The same games with my man you play The calls, the chats, the rubs you give? Darling, what if you were me?

Darling if you were me, Would you have packed your bags To Mama and kept them down? With tears in your eyes, heart in tatters, And a cow ill-enough To appease your sorrows? Gone forever will you not? So darling, what if you were me?



What Do Broken Hearts Say?

We are sorry you had to walk this path We should have known better but We didn't We cry your tears and hold your heart From the floors on which they lay

We are sorry we were not as strong As tough a broad as we thought we were Had no one to hold-

> Your hand Your head, Your tears, Your back, Your tongue.



The Holes On The Wall

Do you say these words Because you know they hurt That they pierce my skin My heart and my hope?

Why beat a dead horse? You flog and you kick One whose flag is raised A flag so white, a flag so pure

Why do you still kick When these words already On my heart, crested? Even a savage dog Deserves a swift end.



The Sins Of The Fathers (1)

We come from broken homes Of fathers who scorned mothers Of mothers whose hearts were bitter And who poured the venom For their men Into the hearts of their children.

We come from broken homes From places Brother looked With suspicion on brother And sisters took sides I thought we would be family To build anew what once was lost

We come from broken homes I thought we learned To hold on to Our ideals, And work through Dark dreary days Open and honest Avoiding these things Things snagging the foot Our forebears fell prey

(Cont...)

124

The Sins Of The Fathers (2)

We come from broken homes I thought the pains of our homes Will keep us on our toes But carnal thoughts Became actions

The lure of their swollen breasts The sway of hips so free The batting of glued-on lashes... Like Esau, you sold our right To not come from a broken home





Dear God, If you can hear me... Bless this love for my love They are meant for each other Such fine people May the world envy their love And may we all celebrate their union.

Oh God Bless this love in which my love has fallen He didn't ask but My approval I give Both are such fine people The best couple, they will make

> So God, Bless the union of the lovebirds!



Trony Much

All the things I prayed for None of them came to pass All the hurts I feared All of them came to pass

There I lost my faith in the father But now I see it None of the things I prayed for Were right for me. Not for me and not for my love.

Praise to the father be.





In a relationship like ours Trust was our currency

But now you threaten me Move on in acceptance

Is she all you talk about You are obsessed...

But darling can't you see That there is a ghost between us

She makes me uncomfortable Though you love it.

Her presence mocks me Though you welcome it

And I cannot exorcize her Because you wouldn't let me

Darling how do I move on When there is a ghost between us?



Dullard (1)

I woke up slow Like in a daze One in a sleep I woke up slow As though I had been jazzed.

I couldn't think it...through My heart couldn't take it Could it be true...really be true? That what he says is true? Didn't love me anymore? Care...about me? No. We have too much history Too much love.

I woke up slow Was I always this dull The screams did not wake me And when he shoved me harder I didn't awake

(Cont...)



Dullard (2)

Did I really hear all those words But stayed to pray all those words Did I really see that raging hate The disgust as you hung up your nose?

Was I always really this slow Or did I just become this slow?



Goodbye My Darling

They are too many And their names roll off the tongue. All queens, all lustre, no dulling And they are up for grabs.

They know what they want and To get that, They know who they want.

They have arrived to get my darling And he very willingly goes with them.

Where I would have paused, they have broken through. I must have had an easy life If this remains this shocking to me.

Oh my love, all peace to you Grab them hard and don't let go Curtains have fallen on us and For my lift, I wait and cry.



Owned (1)

I have learned two truths That you cannot throw away the child With the bath water. Also have I learned Two sides exist to every tale.

I have told my tale My pen has spoken my truth What the world does with my truth That I exist to see Not to apologize Not to explain why I stayed too long And how I exaggerate And the days to regret are through.

Have I been unkind my darling? I fear you must look away for The book bites harder.

You cannot give me a hurt And tell me what to do with it That really was my second truth.

(Cont.)



Owned (2)

I have done with my pain What the creator has made me be Defend it not I must caution For time and time again, Africa has eaten her brides Without questions

I am the porcupine though. My pen you cannot break Though you squeeze to bend. And pandering tongues speak for you.

> Where do broken hearts go? Where they have always gone Covered, broken, bitter

I am the back you broke But my shells are too rugged Too crusty to be swept Aside.

Now though you walk and guard your heart I will take what I get Even if only your feet I bleed.



Over

I really am over my tears Over my broken heart I am over my pathetic self And this. Heart pounding and legs curled up Get over yourself, girl! I scream to myself.

I really am over been broken This has taken the last of my pain I have squeezed until my ink is dry Whatever else I shall add May it be of joy. Now I go sit in a corner And listen as my heart pounds.



Truth Raises Up

For the longest I kept Up a charade I am a liar A big fat liar A tragic performer Cos who would have thought I had all this mess

I hate that I pulled down This curtain The picture is not cracked The picture is shattered A look at my heart Mirror image Just like you after her on socials

> But I was a liar And for us I could tell a lie to Me myself and I But now I am all alone And I cannot lie to Me myself and I



Fearfully Made (1)

The prayers, I did it Quiet they said, let God work So like a sheet, I rolled over Possum like I played dead For you my love, for you

I saw my old man as he spat fire Terrorized our poor dear hearts Oh yes he did But memories oh memories oh Cos for the longest, I hated him so

I swore it would never be my home I swore I would protect the children Like a mom should do... Like a mom should have done...

But where was mom Silent. Prayerfully she took it I swore I would never be mom But look at me now playing dead Wishing and wishing for it to be over

(Cont...)





I hated the man who torched our peace And loved the one who did nothing But why play dead when there is a life Beyond these walls Where you can live again



Warriors Warriors, Everywhere (1)

This is for you strong woman Everywhere. You are divorced You are single You are married You say your piece And you are hated for it I see you because in your stories You saw me

Never stop holding up this flag I saw it when mine was down Battered Dirtied Hopeless There was no light You lighted my way In your stories I saw myself Treading your scars I healed myself

Possible possible you gave me hope Whimpering wavering I took your ropes And though it is a long way up This rope will not leave my hands



Warriors Warriors, Everywhere (2)

I see you though you know me not But this girl will rise again That I can assure you Your words were not in vain You blew a kiss, it bloomed my heart

Now I pass on the torch In hopes that once again Another woman sees this flag Warms her heart In the smoldering fires Of my broken words

Possible, possible I tell you all Take this rope Yourself save A life awaits for your dance Or sing a song Whatever way, do something And let us know you saw our flag





The End.



Where Do Broken Hearts Do?