Underneath The Silk

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Verse For an Angel

The bed must be soft. the sheets must be white For an angel like you it must be right, As I take you in my embrace On that bed in virgin sheets, While you whisper my name and softly speak Of all the things that you need as we kiss I shall show you nothing but bliss, I'll show you ways you have never seen Give you passion better than any dream. And you will come knowing the reality That love is better with someone like me. I shall hold you so gently and sweetly because You are so unlike anyone I've ever loved. The only thing I have to do Is begin to find ways to gently show you; This does not come easily Although your love is precious like purity, Life has often made me see That feelings are as snowflakes, some not meant to last, Once warmed with passion's burning flame, They melt away too fast. Or even worse, the love I keep safe Could be thrown back in my face-So I shall tell you secretly, Carefully and cautiously. And if it happens that you care And love me as I love you, I shall fold you in my heart And ever keep you there.

Rainy Skies (2007)

Underneath the rainy skies
As clouds grow heavy, giving sigh
Downward falling, falls the rain,
Ever falling all the same

Mother Nature making lace upon my window pane.

One of life's constants is the rain, It shall always stay the same And always be until forever

Man shall always have the weather - And no one can rearrange it,

Nor shall time or tide or evolution change it.

Raindrops like a billion diamonds drift
Catch on a breeze and carry and shift
To melt in the soil until once again
The cycle restarts and clouds swell with rain.

I think the rain that fell on my hair and my coat
That made my eight year old self get soaked
As I splashed in puddles as I walked
And washed away the playground chalk
Twenty five years ago could be the same
As the rain today that laced my pane I know it looks and tastes the same.

So I shall say it is never just another rainy day,
For memories are made that way Half of life beneath blue skies and half beneath the grey.
Therefore I shall remember this rain
For tomorrow, when it comes again
It shall taste of today and make lace of the past
And I shall make the moment last.

For every day is a memory
Past present and future spread out like a tree
With branches entangled, all are linked So when we taste the falling rain
It shall make the present past..
...And taste of future rain, I think.

Real Love (written 2004)

Your breath, slow and easy in my ear
Sounded like a milk-warmed rest
Of a sleep-lazy newborn dozing at the chest
Of a mother whose sleepless hours
Was rewarded - as sweet as meadow flowersWhen the love within you was finally spent,
All your needs fulfilled.
And I had urged wished and willed
To bring about this explosion
That washed over you like the deepest ocean.

Throbbing seed and singing blood you let it go
Went with the need inside you that showed
How much you needed this bliss.
Wet skin to skin, we weakly kissed
As you, my love, still shivering
With the heavens awakening
All that you needed to feel,
I held you, kissed you, till sleep made you still.
Once sleep had taken you I didnt have to hide it:
As you breathed and slept I finally sighed it..

No years seemed harsh on your face as the light
Was softened by the approaching night
The street light shone amber through the glass
Made you beautiful, young as if this would last
Forever, you safe in loves embrace
With life's hurts and stresses taken out of your face.
As you rested in my arms
The moment was still and warm and calm.
So I whispered the words, quietly:
I said, "I love you."
And you slept on, and breathed so easily.

THIS BIRD'S SONG (2008)

Like a little tweety pie,
Here I sit alone
No one sings my praises So I shall sing my own.

I crave a love thats passionate
A gentleman intense
Who's wordly wise and yet still sweet
With gentle innocence.

I want a man who I deserve (That means I need the best) The very best that I can get, Im sick of all the rest.

I sing am beautiful, I sing that I'm alive
I sing that I am passionate, I sing that I've survived And I'm still here and looking good,
Not bad for thirty five.

Look at me! I am unique!
I am a princess,
I must speak - Where is my prince?
When will we meet?
When will he see I'm all the things
That I know I am
When will he come and say to me
That he understands?

Until he comes I must wait
And see what life shall bring.
So here alone this little tweety pie
Shall sing and sing
And sing.

Underneath The Silk

Under the vast expanse of solid white That sits above like frozen milk, As daylight darkens into night Soon morning shimmers and the silk Of day and life begins again, Winter cracks the skyline Frost-shocked trees reach up, recalling when Their gifts were bestowed by a warming sun, Craving sap and leaves and green beginnings; We all feel the frost in our veins when Life turns and gravity breaks sharp And the world freezes with the jolt, it jars Our bones and like an endless fall we reach Yet everything slips through and to speak Of clinging on to break the fall is pointless, As all is rushed away, swept As a tide washes out. But tides return and gravity slows down, Like those trees that wait for sun, It comes back, life returns to come And warm us, the ice will dissolve again, Snowflakes slipping into rain, Blood turned to ice yet ice will melt, And remembering all we have felt, The pain will warm away like sun warming winter trees, Life will soften and flow on Troubles vanish, gone Like the frozen skies of life. Soon all will run to blue As the sun returns to shine right through And penetrate days With healing rays, No trouble can destroy in a heart That holds love as its finest part, No matter if the knife be stuck in to the hilt -We shall warm again with the rising sun, As skies turn blue and life shall tilt

Back to calm and still: We shall live once more in times of peace, Underneath the silk.

Tomatoes

Shining red treasure like a chest of pirate jewels, Taken from a fridge white and cool Supposed to keep them chilled -No matter now as you are filled With ideas to mix and stir and blend. I shall let you, mess can mend With some effort and cleaning You are well meaning as you sit on the floor, I watch you from the door And remind you not to make a mess, But you just smile on hearing this And then attack the butter. You little fingers clutch a spoon, a flutter Of a movement sends milk spilling out So squashed tomatos and milky water fly about, The tomatoes are butter smeared and stick To the walls of the glass bowl as if they are glued, But it's cooking in your world, it is fun to you. Then you say the dish is ready and leave it in the fridge, I will clean up after you, so all the mess you did Will be gone and ready for next time, Havoc for me is a world that shines With ideas for you and although the cleaning tires me I am happy underneath the chaos, as I see That these are magical days And soon you will grow out of these ways, So I can't complain but only too soon There will come an afternoon When you are older, sensible, in the kitchen Standing there making a sandwich

And I will smile and say
I remember the day
When you was a little girl
In your own world
And you didn't slice that tomato
All neat and clean, instead you took the box
And destroyed the bloody lot
And you will laugh and so shall I;
I wish I could catch these times that fly.

I Wear It

Sharp and yellow in the air I breathe it in, aware The world is steeped in honey comb, And the walls drip sweet for me alone In its amber glow, The winter covering over thrown Like the extra blanket on my bed; Spring is here at last for you, Mother nature said. The sheets feel light The night's chill catch has long since slipped the door, The world has turned to honev It freezes now no more. I swallow down the honeved days As Springtime tilts and drifts away Into a Summer, all sun-washed and golden, And here I shall stay. But day follows day and inches into days Of sky less bright And shrinking light Autumn's hollow like a shell, Shadows sink like the rain filled clouds That shift on the stormy weather I know so well, Then over me it goes and under Sticks into me runs through like coming thunder

Or the promise of a storm That blows up on clear day, A darkening on the dawn, Wind and greyness bind about tight, Spiking up the fears that wake me at night, Head aching and tired I will creep Back to my bed and sleep To dream of warmer days and yellow sun To kill the headache that's begun, There's room to breathe in Summer time. Before the shadows weigh me down And the pain is mine alone, It bears down on me, pressure I'm as a witch being pressed with stones, Each one a day that sits on my chest And I rest and rest. Sinking deeper letting it flow Over me like water goes Along a running stream, But I'm not as deep as I seem to be, So I stay still as a pebble and let it wash me clean, The flow wears my edges smooth Above me storms die off, The way that water levels drop. The worst over I feel the warmth See the sky and the sun, It comes round again to begin; I live easier in Spring and Summer, Not so when the seasons turn -I wear it under my skin.

<u>Bamboo</u>

Hanging solid, varnish shining in the sun,
Chipped where chimes touch, weather's won
On that score, it suspends to dance
At each wind-blown chance
Encounter with the elements.
Out living panels in the fence

And being immune to intense Sea-weather blown to land. It has been fed on a wind chime diet. Even on the breezeless, quiet Days the air has carried up to touch The chimes and make them fill with much Resilience - this consisting of: Sunshine days, my daughter's love And laughter as she ran about, **Every single giggle and shout** Carried through the air, Other days, when lying there In the yard, sunbathing I Would turn over and give a sigh As heat warmed me through Like only the summer can do, All these days touched the air That stirred the bamboo hanging there. It has since witnessed storms snow and frost, Hurricane winds and suffered no loss. Now the chill wind blows it knocks And sways as if the wind chime rocks Back and forth on a bumpy ride Like my house is a ship on a choppy tide; But still the chimes sound sweet And gentler mornings shall greet The hanging bamboo come spring: I sometimes think it shall out last me, It can cope with anything.

<u>Yes</u>

Can I take a canvas and turn a solid white Blank page of life into colours bright?
When those colours drain away Through the rain-washed days, Could I catch them running quick As they flow to pavement just like ink?

Can I take a sky injected pink And pick the clouds apart, Then keep them in a sealed up iar To scatter wide and high and far In skies with duller days? Is it possible for me to have a way About the twist of my hand That draws the visions tall to stand Clear and upright in my palm, Can I summon sweetness to wash away Shadows that creep through darker days? Am I to shift as a magical shimmer, A good fairy with sparkles to linger In the air and grant the smallest wish? Can I do all this with the speed and grace Of stealing a lingering kiss? Can I really do all this? I am an element that burns in time's fire, My heart beats true and my power rises From ash, I use the live again tricks Of the recycled phoenix; It hands me the gift to clearly understand, All of these things I can command -So therefore I must confess To all of the wonderings above, The answer can only be Yes.

<u>Celestial</u>

I slept tight under darkened sky
Motionless without a sigh
As night wrapped me in sleep,
Senses slid and numbing weight crept
Over my bones as darkness set
Solid as ebony wood, a rest
Silent, my bed and my thoughts still
As the sea lamented absence
Of the moon's pull to rent

At a sighing tide, the dent In the sky that the missing moon Had left behind was like a pit. A dim shaded orbit Where no eye of dreamers rested. The keeper of tides, long tested By the back and forth of the flow Set in its place long ago Seemed snatched, leaving a hollow, Like a thief had put a hand **Through Night's window** And stolen the orb like a pearl Nestled on silk, shining cream as milk And then it was gone, as if Carried off in the hand of the thief. And so a blank night of rest settled me As if I slept in eternity -Until I opened my eyes to see A softer place, a world of dreams And then my spirit lifted As I moved and drifted, For the guiet darkened gloom Was cancelled out by a returning moon, I heard the rippling tide As she gently sighed, Flowing to rush some more As time's heartbeat sounded sure That dreams were kept within this place. I saw the shimmer of her silver face And she rested as if content In a lover's arms, glowing As below her tides were flowing Ink-black and darkly shimmering, A hypnotic light glow echoing This night was no longer bare:

Then I saw Venus take a burning light And climb a sky-night stair, As I watched her lighting candles, Her flame flickered through the air -

And within a single heartbeat, A thousand stars reflected there.

Serpent

Days pass in chill
No matter how the heating fills
The house warming through to carpet,
Weather white skies mark it
Scoring through as damp under floor,
Like my foundations - hollow once more
As I count up the credits owed.
The meters tick and click, I know
They shall bleep their need,
So I take key and card to feed
And light my shelter, benefits
Are a counting down of days.

There is a trick, a skilful way
Of sliding money for food and heat
Somewhere end to end they meet
Tuesday to Tuesday - a lot
Of twenty four hour slots
To fill in winter, the worst time It's easier when weather's fine,
If gas runs out in Summertime
The burning sun will brilliant shine,
Crossing out urgent need,
Warmer months bring no freeze.

But hard times slip under the door To turn to ice that refuses to thaw; It is a rut with a groove As narrow as it is long, Constricting if I try and move
To shut me up again,
O optimism and brighter ways,
Deal me cards with better days The poverty trap
Has steel jaws that snap
As a creature that shall ever prevail;
It rises as a serpent curved
To swallow its own tail.

December First

No thick white sky held up by iced wind, Today is grey, a shimmering Of blue hides somewhere up there No moods of Christmas yet, And no promise that the day May be better than the November way Of weeping clouds that sobbed away, Winter still carries the grey That sat in the sky yesterday As if December had sneaked Up on November like a thief And stolen Autumn's cover, As I look up and see more skies above I Wish Winter would return the blanket; I had enough of it in November-time -For it's efforts I won't thank it.

Penny Thoughts

When I throw my penny thoughts
I pitch them down and watch them fall If they catch in the dark spiral
It crowds me in;
Beginnings of wonderings

That prod me awake, then start To circle about in the dark Like wide-winged birds Dark of feather, who may have heard The whispers of my doubts And grown hungry to dig them out Like pecking for worms. They swoop and turn, I see a sweep Of shadow growing tall at my back, Thief of sleep and thief of rest. Snatching at my shortened breath. Stones pile up, each one bearing A shade of life I have been wearing. Sometimes I think I lean too far And maybe I have slipped And in fact I'm falling down -Or is it just a trick, The way the surface rests on brick? Perhaps the well is not as deep As I think, nor the fall as steep As I imagine it to be -Are things always as we see, Or is there more behind the layer Of veneer, would it peel as paper If I picked at a corner and tore it wide, What would I find hidden behind? Are these dark shadows that stretch Just a memory that's etched? Sometimes - on a brighter day-I see the sun's reflected rays That clarify this water: **Even my penny thoughts shine** With gold and silver, as if time Sparkles for me in sweetest dreams -Then it seems to me The well is magical, it sparks With shades of light and shades of dark, But it is all that comprises me. These are the things I see In the well where I pitch my thoughts,

Their course is not always a line
Straight down into dark water, at times
I throw them with a smile on my face,
They catch the sun, spinning in a race,
As if each needing to be first
To hit the water and quench their thirst,
And when I look down into the well
One glance immediately tells
Me they are shimmering on the bottom
In translucent waters, not forgotten.
And on days that run clear like this,
I watch them fall and make a wish.

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Me: I am just as speckle of dust I am so very barely visible Out in humanity's sea, I'm a dot, as if just A bee Inside A hive: Shining, Striving, Aiming, **Trying:** I bend, I tend. I reach I stretch. And yet -I am one of Many but the love Inside me when uncurled Is bigger than the bloody world.

A Brighter Shade

Pink sky this morning like food colouring Injected through my imagining, Graced a morning world to mask the grey Hiding up there in the sky, dull as yesterday, It faded fast and left behind A negative in my mind Of what the day could have been like, I could develop the picture later, maybe tonight To remember a pretty sky, Instead of the wind hurried clouds that dash by, The garden is dark green mixed with mud, November chill means no flowers nod, Just wet grass and sturdy shrubs to shiver As they suffer in this weather, The cold air spins round my house to play, Rushes up the yard, into the garden. No matter the cold makes the soil harden, All is soaked and wind-blown today, The elements shall have their way The garden arch bends and bows As November breathing harshly blows And the arch creaks back and forth, Soon it will be worth No more than a pile of sticks, As the wind huffs and puffs, It will demolish it quick, Then more rain will come to soak through My garden my house and all that I do. Fences creak, the gate rattles with knocks As if the hinge is about to come off. The sky presses down and in its wake The grey weight feels like a coming headache, A pressure that goes under my skin, My eyes, my bones, everything. So I still myself and still my world, And as it crowds me in I start to think Not of grey skies but instead morning pink.

You

You remind me of the sea And Southend and you and me, Of the time I was a size ten, Of the pub and beer and when We walked along the seafront Never had a care My arm linked with yours And salt was in the air. You remind me of all the places We have lived, all the faces Of people we have known, As the years have passed we have grown Closer in some ways but in others alone, Separate paths yet together, You have shared some of the weather Of storms that have crossed my life, But of all the things I think of When I think of you, It's not you or the things you do. Its something else that makes me feel glad, Because nothing can detract From the joy I hear in her voice When she runs to you shouting "Dad!"

Dark Water

I sit on a solid ledge,
Grass banked, with flower speckled edge
And dip my hand where as a girl
Thoughts and dreams once ran and swirled;
Now these waters have grown dark
Although the sun's rays shimmer sharp,
As breath sighs out from me
It seems to catch upon the breeze
And animate the darkened pool,

Sending a ripple soft and cool To brush the surface like a touch Of hand on heart that means so much. Once the waters sparkled bright, Seen through my own eyes when the light Was new and fresh, yet time Has sat with me to open wide My vision and show me truth -Rainbows end through a sunlit path That led me to sparkling dreams Was not a shallow running stream, But still and deeper than it seemed; I dip my fingers in dark reflection meant As sweet as low whispers, the scent Like blooms of night flowering plants. I know in a flash of pointed darts The arrow flew swift and sharp, Penetrating to the heart Where swirls in its centre to dwell A time protected reckoning: As if I kneel at the feet of a king The still dark waters in your eyes Draw up Excalibur to rise, As passion silent and fathoms deep Shall awaken me from my sleep. Immortal Prince: Keeper of this passion sea, Let your waters run only to me.

When The Door Was Painted Blue

When I lived at Grove Road West the door was boring grey,
Like a cold cold sky on a blank January day,
I changed it when it started to chip
Because I'd had enough of it,
On looking at the colours from which I had to choose
I decided no more grey and painted it sky blue.
I painted over several times,
Till I saw layers cleanly shine

As paint dried like a second skin, It brightened the house and put light in Where there used to be grev now it was neat The brightest doorway in the street. That door stayed blue until I moved, It saw a lot of changes too, Coming and going, laughter and tears, Day passing day as weeks turned to years. It even saw the time the dog lunged too fast Keen for a walk and dragged me on the path, I lost skin off my knuckle and still have the scar, That blue door had seen it all, Every day of my life, Some days good and some not so nice, But the day I left I felt the loss As I'd kept my home eight years no matter the cost. When I think back to the place I lived before, I always recall that sky blue door. Now I have another door, it's been mine for many a year. Last summer I noticed the old white paint was chipped and starting to wear.

I thought about colours I'd had before,
I remembered my sky blue door,
But that was gone now, in the past,
The way of all things I try to hold fast.
So I looked at some colours and after a think
I painted this door deepest pink.

Flower

Cupid has a garden with flowers that grow bright
They are planted all in rows and spaced apart just right.
I wandered in there through a dream and saw that he was bending,

Picking at some petals as he gave the flowers attention.

Recalling that the little sod had sent me grief in the past
I approached him quietly to kick him in the arse,
But when he heard me coming he got up and smiled at me.

He told me sometimes he got it wrong And was sorry for the heartache he had brought along When in the past I'd had my share Of hurt by men who did not care, He said sometimes his aim was off, And intentions had got lost, He told me to add up this cost. All I could see was pain As he turned around again And paid attention to a flower. It was lemon washed with shades of white Alternating round just right, Each petal was a fold of silk, Satin-brushed and smooth as milk. It was not fully opened up. I asked him why, he said the touch Of love was not yet all the way through Enough to make the flower bloom. And then he spoke to me again, He said to look at way back when, He told me all the pain of the past Had fallen in place like runes to cast, A picture unfolding a prediction Of my life as a lover and the direction Meant that I'd known pain through and through But each wrong turn had left me with truth Making me who I am today, The person I am who is on the way To the right path and a rainbows end. He also added that for each love lost There had been a reward as well as a cost, He said you learned about love and when all's done and said, Each one of those men were good in bed, And when you hold the love of your life he'll be glad -You'll be the best he's ever had, In every way, heart mind and body. Then I understood there was no need for apology, I thanked him and turning to leave, I asked him why he had the flowers, He said, each root is the start

Of the meeting of two hearts
The petals open up as love grows
And that was all I needed to know.
But he was still tending on that flower
With all his patience care and power.
I asked him, why is that flower so bright and true,
Why do the colours shine all the way through?
He said to me, they all shine the same
But you can tell its calling your name That's because it's a love that's true,
This is the flower that I tend for you.

Typewriter

My first was small and black I tried it once and never looked back, Learned it typing with two fingers When I was ten years old, I even lingered When dinner was ready, even then I stayed put at the bottom of the garden. I sat there watching something begin, The words I wrote on the paper typed, then I read it back and realised I had made the words come alive. I used to sit at that table and think While I smelled the red and black ribbon of ink, The words made pictures in my head I wrote them down and this led To ideas coming much clearer and lighter -It dawned on me, I may be a writer. In those days I played with ideas But I came nowhere near To making real pieces of fiction or verse, Then two years later with no time to rehearse I was asked to stand in front of the class My teacher said in all years past She had ever seen the promise of a brighter Girl who could become a writer.

And then she made me read it out I hardly managed to do it aloud, But everyone applauded me. Even now I find it hard To read aloud fiction or poetry Especially my own! But now I have gone on From that black typewriter. I kept going and now at my PC I write fiction and poetry. I take letters, make words, spin them into thread, Weave it through plots that run through my head. Now my inspiration burns so much brighter -It's not really down to my first typewriter, But to the words that spin together inside me. They dance and spark like fireflies: I was born a writer, and ever more shall be.

Love Poem #1

You are my true love I know this in my heart I feel you beside me even though we're far apart, When darkness reaches down and shadows swallow me Your love is always there as the light that makes me see.

Sometimes I look out the window and I think about the night We share the same sky and moon and sparkles of starlight. I wonder if you're sleeping and I long to lay beside you And cover you with kisses, no one could love you more than I do.

I imagine you as moonlight shines across your pillow While I fly in like a sorceress through your open window, To run my hands all over you and down below the covers Then wake you with a single kiss, my sleeping prince, my lover.

The day we met the world stood still as I looked in your eyes, Your name was tattooed on my heart and I cannot disguise The way that love has stayed with me and always shall stay true, All I see when I look at you is beauty through and through.

If I could change your life through wishes that came true I'd take the riches of the world and give them all to you, I'd get upon my knees and declare my love so true, And tell you that I worship you, and shall forever love you.

On Eternity

The faded image on the coffin of stone
Was sleeping, sleeping all alone
Somewhere beneath lie remains
Of the person who was sleeping just the same.
As I stood in the church I felt the past
Coil its fingers around me cold and fastFog and mist, fire and earth,
Breath and spirit pushing through earth.
Ice blue lips and beating chest,
All meet where roads end at Final Rest.

And what of life that lie between,
The sands of time the tide washed clean?
Was it blown away to dust,
Bone to ash and sword to rust?
This church to me was godless gloom
A cross in a beeswax polished room
The man had been robbed by Time - a thief
Who tossed his name to the wind to speak
And wore away the stone that traced
The once clear features of his face.

And yet, I was sure as he slept on There was someone in the beyond, Someone just beyond my grasp Who waited, waited till the last And even now, as dust remains, Her ghostly lips still speak his name.

As I left that lonely place I was sure I sensed a trace

Of something past that yet still lives
That lie beneath the coffin lid.
I believed it to be love living on
Long, long after the lovers are gone:
To this very moment she speaks his name,
Somehow the soul of their love remains
And in the place where all roads meet
They walk hand-in-hand to Eternal Sleep.

Sleepless

The castle stands still on the lonely night
Everything silent the lady in white
Floats into view and calls the name
Of her knight who once knew glory and fame.

Her white dress is vapour

Her cloak is mist

She calls for the man whose lips she once kissed

He was a soldier under her command

Now lying dead in a far away land.

A misty beauty, her china white hands Stretch out towards that distant land. And somewhere afar, in the darkness so deep, There lies a knight Who can not sleep.

Siren's Song

The dark stormy sky followed me
Down a hill, past the inn by the sea,
And I looked out as I did before
Saw the waves crash on that angry shore.

I recall him and me by the tall masted ships,

A warm hungry kiss from passionate lips, That never more shall love inspire, His ship sunk by cannon fire.

But at the shore I sit and wait For power unearthly to alter my fate, My aching heart searches the waves And I feel unafraid

As below surface fiery eyes
From the depths begin to rise
Love is not finished it shall begin;
From the watery deep, you drag me in.

Love Poem#4

Sometimes on thoughts of you I think And see you as a handsome prince, I wonder if there could ever be Any kind of possibility That you could love someone like me. I'll cherish your memory into forever. I dream about holding you close And telling you about the most Cherished secrets in my heart, Of how I never want us to part, How I want share so much with you, And all the things I want to do, Just to show you how much I love you. If I could take you in my arms I'd make sure That everything that's been before Is nothing compared to what I gave you, I'd love you with a heart that's true And give the things to you That you deserve to have, I'd tell you that you're a prince And give you only the best I could give, Now, tomorrow and as long as I live. I would show you I loved you every day

With my love I would always find a way
To show you that I think you're a prince,
I'd treat you the way you deserve to be
And cherish you eternally.
Nothing will alter the way I think:
I love you and you ARE my prince