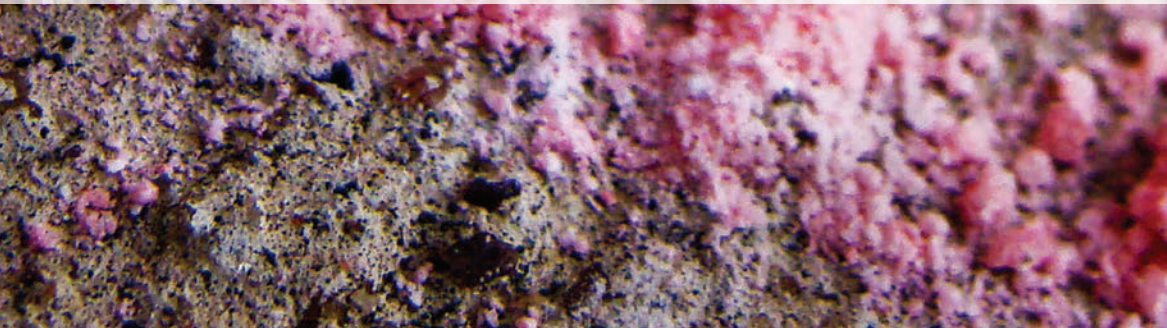




# Cross My Heart

Aubrey Scarborough



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a collection of poems  
by Aubrey Scarborough

XYZ Publications  
Boston, MA



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## Mad

I want you to ride in with armor  
Slightly tarnished  
A broomstick horse  
Handsome with your chain mail  
And your plastic sword  
Then I'll fly in  
With arms wide out  
In ski goggles, scarf, leather jacket  
Adventures absurd  
They all await us  
While we play like this  
Ignore that real reality  
You're the childhood friend  
That I never had

## Don't Ask

You don't have to ask  
Just push me against the wall  
Hold me there, kiss me

## Take

I don't want this  
sweetness,  
shyness,  
nothingness.

If you want me,  
don't make me doubt it.

Grab my wrist.  
Take all you want.

Don't let me speak  
Bully me back.

## Help

I just need to be held by  
anyone  
Just lean against them for  
a while  
They won't be you  
You can't be replaced  
But they can try  
Just to help

I just need to see your  
face again  
Just to touch your lips  
please  
I need you back  
But you can't come here  
But they can try  
Just to help

I just need my freezing hands  
warmed  
Just a sympathetic embrace to  
lift me  
I'm cold, I'm mean  
Hold me without asking  
I'll hate you but  
You'll help

## Wish

I want you to dream of me  
To feel my phantom hand creeping down your chest  
As your own hand does its own work

I want you to pretend you feel me  
My lips trailing across your skin

Moan my name when I'm not there  
Find yourself while visions of me tease you  
Imagine inside my warmth as reality around you is cold

I want you to long you feel me  
A hot breath crying out against your neck  
Hotter still where else we meet

I want you to sweat  
Shake with your need  
Running your fingers through your hair  
Craving for mine

Deceive yourself  
Thinking my breast is beneath your palm  
I want you to release a shout of yearning  
My name dripping from your tongue  
And feel empty when you're done  
A void of guilty shame

Then I want you to wish I did the same for you