

## HOW TO BE PERFECT





MAYA BARNES  
NOV 2017

PEOPLE GET ANGRY WHEN YOU ACCOMPLISH  
MORE THAN THEY DO  
IGNORE THEM  
THEY ARE ANGRY BECAUSE THEY WANT TO BE IN  
YOUR SHOES



YOU SAY YOU'RE THE SMARTEST  
BUT ARROGANCE FUELS THE MOLD  
DRY ROT  
WORKING HARD TOWARD A FESTERING  
HOLE

SOMETHING SWEET TO  
SWALLOW  
AND SLIDE A FINGER ACROSS  
THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR MOUTH  
TO CLEAN UP

WOMEN WILL CLEAN UP YOUR  
MESSSES  
PLAY YOUR STRINGS  
TEMPTATION WILL RING  
AND REVERB  
AGAINST THE SWEET STING

LURE YOUR VICTIMS INTO DEPTH  
FEELING ROUND THE SUPPLE  
BREAST  
WITH HAGGARD BREATH AND  
SWEAT  
NEVER ENOUGH TO GO AROUND

ANGELS FIX YOUR CUTS  
ALWAYS GONE TOO SOON  
STUCK IN A CIRCULAR RUT  
A TRAGEDY WITH ONE PLAYER

THE ONLY CHESS PIECE ON  
THE BOARD IS YOU

SO THE STRINGS PLAY ON  
FULFILLING SOME SWEET PSALM  
IN A FAR AWAY LAND  
SO FAR FROM YOU

SHE LOVED WALKING IN COLD RAIN  
FOR THE BEADS OF SIZZLING PAIN





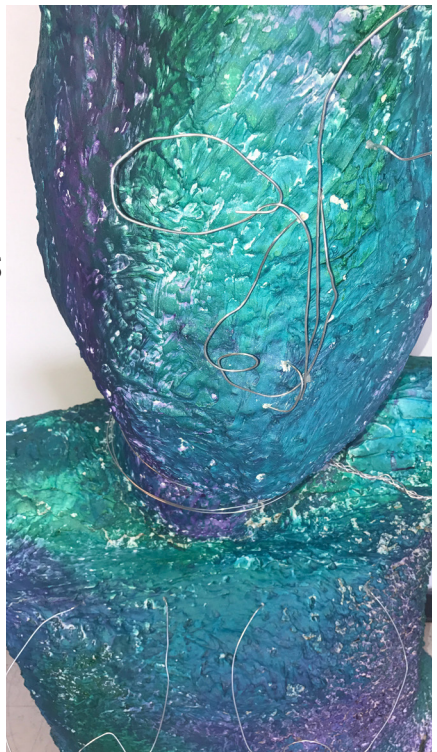
MY ACHEY FINGERS LONG FOR THE SWEET  
STING THE METAL STRINGS GIVE ME  
EACH RIDGE MAKING A NEW CALLUS  
GREEN OXIDIZATION STICKS TO MY HANDS  
HAVING ME HOLD THE SMELL OF PENNIES

WITH EACH NOTE I CREATE A SAFE PLACE FOR A MEMORY  
EVERY ONE IS A DIFFERENT PIECE OF THE STORY  
TO DESCRIBE THE HUMAN CONDITION AS LIGHT SHINING  
THROUGH SOFT EYELASHES

EACH SONG IS A MARK ON THE WEBBED  
SKIN OF THE UNIVERSE

MAKES US OKAY WITH PAIN  
AND TIRED OF HAPPINESS  
AND CONTENT WITH LONELINESS  
AND ADORING IN PASSIVITY

SO IN THIS  
I COULD TELL YOU I LOVED YOU  
OR I COULD SHOW YOU  
I KNOW YOU DON'T CARE



I AM NOT YOUR GIRL  
I AM NOT YOURS



NO ONE EVER TOLD ME  
LOVE WAS  
SUPPOSED TO FEEL GOOD

YOU WERE A BEAUTIFUL  
PAIN  
ONE THAT I COULD NEVER  
LET GO OF  
SOME DAYS IT WAS RAIN  
FALLING LIKE  
DROPLETS OF GLOWING  
LIGHT GRAZING MY SKIN  
I WOULD SIT THERE FOR  
HOURS  
HOWEVER MOST DAYS IT  
WAS AVALANCHES  
SUFFOCATING ME YOU  
PUT YOUR HANDS  
OVER MY MOUTH IT FELT  
LIKE A SERPENT  
WRAPPED AROUND MY  
NECK HIDING ME

YOU THOUGHT IT WAS  
CUTE

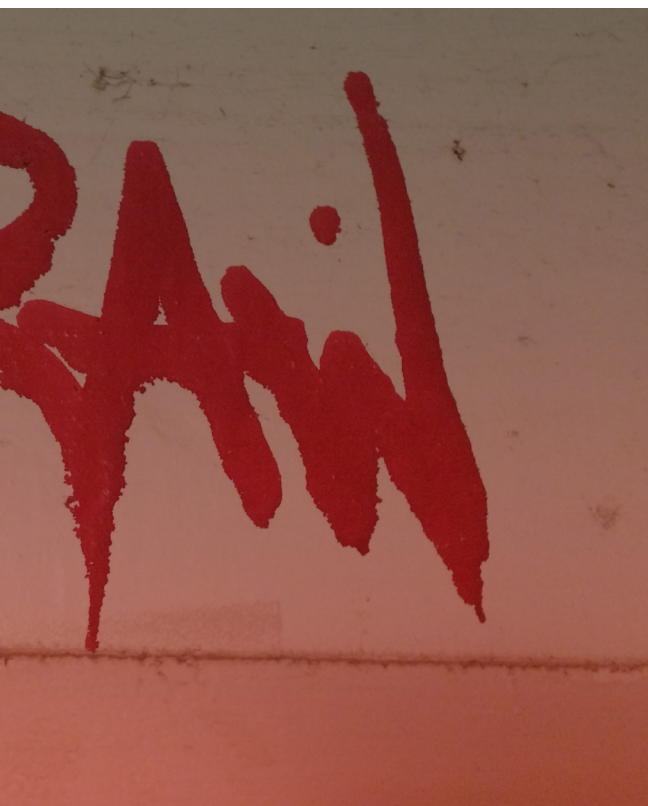
MY SKIN SLOWLY MELTING  
AND BLOOD WAS RAINING  
FROM THE SKY  
YOU WERE A SWEET DYS-  
FUNCTIONALITY  
A KISS WITH A STING



A BAD AFTERTASTE  
THE EMPTY VODKA BOTTLE  
THE “MOM I SWEAR I’M OKAY”  
ON REPEAT  
BROKEN RECORD

NO ONE EVER TOLD ME LOVE  
WAS  
SUPPOSED TO FEEL GOOD

ALL I WANTED WAS TO FEEL



THIS CHILDISH BOY CON-  
TINUES TO HAUNT ME  
CREEPS INTO MY DREAMS  
REMINDS ME HOW I USED  
TO SING SONGS FOR YOU  
BREAK IT DOWN FOR YOU  
COUNTING THE DAYS  
LIKE QUARTER NOTES  
THE HOSPITAL WAS EIGHT  
BEATS TWO MEASURES  
YOU'RE DOING FINE NOW  
CARRYING  
ON THROUGH LIFE LIKE  
THE REST OF US,  
BUT SINCE WHEN IS IT  
OKAY TO USE EVERY  
FRIEND YOU EVER HAD  
FOR YOUR OWN  
SELFISH NEEDS

WANTED  
AND YOU KNEW EXACTLY THAT  
HEAVY COATS AND STOLEN  
SUNGLASSES  
YOU WANTED ME IN A SUN-  
DRESS BUT I  
WAS READY FOR THE RAIN  
YOU TWIST THE MINDS AND  
WORDS OF  
THOSE MOST VULNERABLE  
YOU NEVER CHANGED

NO ONE EVER TOLD ME  
LOVE WAS  
SUPPOSED TO FEEL GOOD

DEAR SARAH,

THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING TO BE SAID  
ABOUT BEING A KIND PERSON  
BUT THERE IS SOMETHING THAT CANNOT BE  
SAID ABOUT BEING UNDERSTOOD BY ANOTHER  
HUMAN BEING  
BEING NICE OR POLITE CAN BRIGHTEN SOME-  
ONE'S DAY,  
BUT UNDERSTANDING SOMEONE BEYOND  
A SURFACE LEVEL CAN CHANGE SOMEONE'S  
WHOLE LIFE  
FILLING A HOLE THAT SOMEONE FEELS IS A  
VOID IN THEM CAN CHANGE THEIR ENTIRE  
WORLD  
IT IS A RARE OCCURRENCE  
AND NOT SOMETHING TO TAKE LIGHTLY  
I KNEW I DIDN'T NEED A FATHER BUT PART OF  
ME ALWAYS WANTED ONE

“BABY YOU'RE WALKING  
AROUND WITH POISON  
IN YOU”

MOONLIGHT ENVELOPS HER MARBLE  
BODY LIKE VELVET  
ORANGE RAYS FROM SUNRISE PAINT HER  
BODY IN FLAME  
AN IMMORTAL GODDESS OF BEAUTY  
NO ONE DARED TOUCH HER



SILENCE SO SUBTLE IT WARPS  
NO BIRDS CHIRP  
NO BROOK BABBLES  
THE ABSENCE OF NOISE CREATED A NEW SOUND

YOU LET THE DROPLETS ROLL OFF YOUR SKIN  
SWALLOW YOUR FRAGMENTED PARTS  
THE LIGHT CREEPS THROUGH THE BOTTOM OF THE DOOR

SIN  
IS BATHED IN BLOOD

SHE  
IS BATHED IN HONEY

YOUR LOVER DID YOU NO HARM  
YOU WATCHED HER ELEGANCE  
AND YOU SNAPPED THE TINY ICICLES  
THROUGH YOUR FINGERS  
SINKING  
CAVING

YOUR BODY IS FOLDED LIKE ORIGAMI IN THE BATHTUB  
YOUR ARMS AND LONG LEGS CASCADE OUT LIKE MID-SEN-  
TENCE WATERFALLS  
EYES CLOSED  
YOU LEAVE THE SPACE EMPTY





## SELBSTÜBERWINDUNG

RIP ON THE TENDONS LIKE THEY ARE THE  
ONES WHO HURT YOU  
RUN TILL YOUR FEET ARE FURTHER BEHIND  
THAN YOUR BODY  
COLLAPSE UNTIL YOU ARE  
NOTHING AND  
EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD

PIECES OF SUGAR AND SPICE WILL BE YOUR  
BEST LOVERS

STOP LETTING YOUR SOUL DISSOLVE ON  
THE TIP OF HIS TONGUE  
STOP HEEDING HIS WORDS AS GOD'S  
TRUTH  
STOP LETTING THE SERPENT'S TONGUE  
LICK THE WORST PARTS OF YOUR PAIN  
STOP REACHING FOR HIM LIKE HE WILL  
NUMB YOUR PAIN  
INSTEAD OF HEALING  
HE WILL ONLY DEEPEN THE CUTS, RATHER  
THAN SEWING THEM TOGETHER

INSTEAD  
NOURISH WHAT IS GOOD

YOU ARE A WOMAN

YOU ARE LIGHT



