

**Ruined**

At night, when the blackness of my room reflects the darkness of my heart  
I think of you

Before you, I was full of sunshine  
but you brought a storm  
At first the storm was beautiful  
and exhilarating  
and it made the adrenaline rush through my blood

Then I learned how destructive storms are

You destroyed so much of me  
and I would love to blame you  
but I know it's not your fault

It's mine

I was the foolish one  
You are wise and calculating  
You are wise because you know better than to do what's wrong  
But you are calculating because you know what you want  
and even though neither of us can have it you make me believe that we can

I learned a million lessons from you and I'm grateful that I grew because of you  
but I hate that this kind of growth comes from deep pain

Because you decided on the ending before you even envisioned the beginning,  
your heart is safe and sound

You protected it  
But you couldn't protect both of us with your choice

The only way to stop me from running to you like I was  
would have been to act like you didn't care at all

And maybe you tried that

But if you did,

you failed

When I saw that you cared I gave myself permission to care  
And having you ripped from me has been too much to bear

What is it like to live life on the run?

You're a thief of hearts

And I'm the queen of hearts

But I don't feel like ruling anything

if you're not beside me to guide me

Is your heart empty or full?

When I met you I got a glimpse of an empty, hurting heart  
and I loved you because of it and it made me want to fill it

Do you still feel like you're not yet fulfilled?

From time to time I saw that aching in your eyes but

I also saw hope for your soul being satisfied

Did you ever think I could be your girl?

Was I right when I thought your glances and words to me  
meant more than what they appeared at surface level?

I can't be angry with you for realizing we wouldn't work  
That realization came from a place of wisdom and I admire that

But what I most admire about you crushes me most

because it means someday

some other girl will get to live every day

in the presence of that wisdom and commitment

I can't hate you because hating you will only ruin me further

and you've already ruined me enough

And how can I hate the one I love most in the world?

Hate and love cannot coexist

In the same way, neither can you and I coexist

Either one of us will be happy or no one at all

## Three Different Love Stories

I've spent a lifetime choosing you so  
it's time for me to choose me

Because you sure didn't

First Date

I can picture it now  
He's tapping his foot  
Yet looks calm somehow

He glances at a watch  
It sits on a wrist above carefully rolled up sleeves  
She gets out of the taxi, steps down, and takes a deep breath as it leaves

They both want to do this and don't at the same time  
His heart thumps and thuds  
and hers flutters and flies

She steals a glance at her reflection in the glossy glass of the door she walks through  
His heart springs up but he tells himself to be calm and so walks to her subdued

Simultaneous smiles  
"good to see you again"  
Hearts beating wildly  
Minds racing

She's waited her whole life for him and she knows it  
He's waited his whole life for her only he doesn't know it  
All he knows is that he's seen a piece of her heart  
and he wants all of the other missing parts

He's been thinking of her, and the thoughts have been keeping him up at night  
Their only conversation burned its memory into his mind  
and the vision of her won't leave his sight

And now the vision is before him and if he reaches out to touch her he could  
And he wants to but he knows that if he wants her trust he  
should not

He doesn't know it as they follow the waiter to the table  
but her mind is alive with the thoughts of *him*

that won't leave her on *her* sleepless nights

Her eyes stay calm but her heart is wild  
She looks at the menu but has no idea what it says  
He sneaks several glances at her lowered head

She's so nervous now that her intellect leaves  
She never before has struggled to read  
The menu is simple  
But love isn't  
And right now her thoughts are far away from what's printed

He's smitten, love-bitten, it makes him feel intoxicated  
She feels it too but she fears being jaded  
They've not been immune to hurt; they know the power of the heart  
But two hearts racing madly always feel ready to restart

The lies of past guys are so far from her mind  
As she watches this stranger, so bold and so kind  
Her beauty and smarts make his eyes fiercely twinkle  
as they swap stories and laugh far into the night

As he reaches for his wallet to pay the bill  
She nearly chokes on an emotional thrill  
She lasted through the meal, through a DATE with Prince Charming  
And he gave her attention, her defenses disarming

She thought that his presence would stay only in her soul  
But now she's with him in person and thinks there could be more

A future with him is all she feels that she wants  
And his smile at the end shows her it won't be long  
till he calls her again because she sees in his eyes  
all the love that he feels that he cannot disguise

**What You Are to Me**

It feels too soon to be addressing a poem to you like this,  
as though it is a love letter

It's too personal

But you and I know each other in a personal way

You are personable

You have always been this way as long as I've known you

The day we met it seemed like we were just  
continuing a conversation we'd been having for years

Being with you felt so natural on that first day

Just like two puzzle pieces fitting together

We are both two broken pieces but we fit together

and together we are whole

Together we make up something beautiful

You make me come to life in a way that only you can

and I can tell that when I'm with you that you smile a lot more

There is much we can offer the world together

We belong-you and I

We can bring more light to the world when we work together-you and I

You and I- I like the way that sounds

but even more than the way it sounds

I like the way it feels in my soul

I knew from the moment our two worlds first collided that we belonged

But sometimes people only belong together as friends

and I thought maybe that was why you made sense

But tonight, you started to make sense in my heart in a different way

Tonight, when I was with you

I fell in love with you

I love all people- it's in my nature...it's who I am

But it's not often that I fall *in* love

## Three Different Love Stories

My mind tried to fight it but every excuse I came up with  
crumbled under the overpowering reasons of why you are worth falling for

So here I am

I am diving into the sea of emotions to see what I can discover

I'm promising myself that I'll come back up for air though  
I've drowned too many times in the ocean of unrequited love and  
I'm not letting that happen again

If you don't ever see me the way I see you then I'll figure it out  
and find my way back to the place I once stood with you  
That was back when you were only a face and just my friend and  
when I loved you just like I love everyone else

But if you start to feel the way I've just started to feel  
and you ask "yes?" then  
I'll shout "yes!"

And then we can go stargazing like you love  
and we can play that music you love  
and go hiking like you love  
and eat the healthy food you love

Not only will you be happy, I'll be happy too because  
I love the same things that you do  
and because of that I hope it's true that one day you might  
feel this in your own heart

Tonight, when my mind filled with all the thoughts of why I like you, I tried to fight  
them by talking myself into being realistic  
I reminded myself of all that I'm doing in life right now  
but  
with every excuse I saw you there

So the excuses stopped being excuses and  
became more daydreams about sharing a life with you

You...the unrealistic dream...became real to me

“I’m busy with homework”

I told myself

“But he’d be the perfect study date”

my heart shot back

“But what if I go to college in NYC like I might?”

I asked myself

Then my heart burst into images of your smiling face next to mine in the city

because I know you

You have wanderlust just like me

And you would come to visit

You told me once that your greatest disappointment is

that you’re not yet who you want to be

and I feel the same way about myself

But maybe we can grow together

and find those people along the way