

*Love Island Brainrot*  
*(Poems inspired by Love Island U.K.)*

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*B. Y.*

History's never seen us before.  
When I contemplate shared spaces  
and places and odds in the universe's timing  
I feel the kiss of cosmic luck

Unfathomable,  
How it used to be like  
a sad poem a day keeps the voices at bay  
Now I'm all smitten  
leaving little love notes  
addressed to your soul

And no,  
I'd never had a problem sleeping alone  
But I can't imagine us not sharing a bed  
Now...  
How would I sleep without you?

What did I write about before I had you  
to consume all of my thoughts?  
What was I even doing  
with myself  
with all this time  
Before you?  
What did I even think about  
before you settled into my head?  
What an exotic concept

Remarkable,  
I've gone my whole life with no clue  
And now I can't imagine myself  
without your smile and how it reaches your eyes  
and exposes a dimple to the right

Impossible,  
I wasn't a subscriber  
to the belief that your memories split  
(into before and afters)  
Once you've met that someone in particular  
I guess some experiences are universal

What did I do before you?  
Before you were the only motif  
my music could conjure?  
What was I even thinking of  
when I wasn't thinking of you?  
The old times seem so far away now

Nine days ago,  
I didn't know you existed  
And it's wild,  
Feels like I've known you for ages

## *Crystal Eyes*

This is one of them corny little love letters for you  
From my sappy little soul  
I can tell you the exact moment our eyes met  
And how it felt like you were someone I had always known  
Like we were written in the stars already  
Like this was the thread the fates had been measuring  
Like we're meant to be or something  
Like this was destiny

I'd never been a sucker before  
but a smile like yours can do unspeakable things  
Torture me with your humor and never quit  
I can live with bruised ribs for the rest of my life  
From indigo soul to soul, I see  
You, all crystal eyes and nonchalance  
That one-look-from-you-gets-me-all-bothered kinda hot  
A time-and-space-can't-stop-us kinda love  
That one-of-a-kind best-friend-forever type  
The pick-up-where-we-left-off sort  
That I had desired for as long as I can remember  
When my wild thoughts roam free, sans fear  
of jinxing my life because I thought of it too vividly...  
Like I'd wished too hard by picturing it too clearly  
Before you, I'd never dared to let myself hope out loud —  
Til now

You say we're made for each other  
I say it's more like we were made together  
and then torn apart  
Still we feel where our link was severed  
The prickling sensation of what once was  
Haunting the long-lost like phantom pains  
I had to believe in ghosts in order to feel you again

I look at you all starry eyed  
Helplessly cloudy minded  
I see a hopeless romantic crystalized in sugar  
Too far gone for enlightenment  
Miraculously—it's always you

We'd find each other in any universe

And we'll never say goodbye, only  
"I'll see you in another life"

## *Whirlwind Romancing*

Man's a player and he loves the game  
And if ma'am's an athlete at heart  
she won't stay away

She was a smoke show  
An absolute sort, a pocket rocket  
Electric to the core and dangerous if mishandled  
She had a tough exterior  
Hypnotically colorful internally like a geode  
Art of nature in the clumsy hands of men

He was on fire  
Calendar model man, centerfold worthy  
Tattoos all over like he had a deep story  
He dove into every day  
Like a child on Christmas morning

They laughed as much as they kissed  
And no one ever saw them doing much else  
He was gobsmacked that she chose him back  
He wouldn't snap himself out of this dream  
Like if he were to call attention to it  
she'll evaporate like smoke, and he'll forget it all  
But when they were together  
He smiled like he saw the entire world  
Through rose-colored lenses

Petrify in time this moment of pure bliss  
He's going to spoil it

It didn't even take long  
For the man to fumble her glass heart  
To shatter it like porcelain  
Now he's acting like a pioneer  
who's procured incomparable artwork  
Stolen from a country his ancestors colonized  
and displayed for a price to the torn artists  
Like he expects to be knighted by his brothers in arms

Once the sun had begun to target her  
She knew it was time to go  
But those stonewall mates of hers  
They played a daring, perfect game with time  
Shoved a golden chance into her hands  
For the return of her smile

And they all paid for it

## *Delusions of Grandeur*

You know, I get it  
You've got all these grand delusions  
About me  
And what we could be  
And what this could all mean  
I come with glass drugs

You see an alchemic reaction  
This magnetic-like attraction  
Use that old soul of yours to lure me in  
I'm easily addicted to the stars  
in your eyes, your pretentious affinity for art  
and boundless curiosity to rival my own  
Satin-soft flesh  
I can sink my teeth into  
Your tender neck and contagious smile  
A tumultuous delight to be savored  
It's not enough to analyze the chemistry

Forget me not in your delusions of grandeur  
For I'm only a gourmand connoisseur  
Devoted to your madness  
I am the one to conjure up a remedy  
unlike anything of this reality  
Potions are my specialty  
and i'll concoct a delusional recipe  
One that you've never seen  
You won't even know what to believe  
No one had ever imagined such a thing

You startled me  
I dropped and shattered on solid ground  
The cauldron tipped over  
and this endless amount of everything spilled out  
Mauve holographic alluvium over blue shimmering iridescence  
You're welcome to dip your finger in to test it  
Just allow the psychedelics a moment to spread  
before you give in to the chase  
Let me know what you think of the taste and the high  
You can lie to me

## *Toxic Culprit*

Gatekeeper of my fabricated realities  
I welcome you back to rehash the maladies  
Unholy and mostly unseen  
to the untrained eye  
I bare my teeth and imperceptible scars  
of your design all over me  
You are the toxic culprit from the crypts  
Truly fooling me with our illicit trysts  
And your baleful sleight of hand  
— Oh how you chipped me away  
til I had nothing left to say —  
I thought I had learned from my mistakes  
Rusty morsels of iron from the bars  
still remain beneath my fingernails  
And still, I claw at the gates

But I remember when you said you'd stay  
What happened to "us"?  
You've tainted the word  
you'd asked me to trust  
What changed? What did I do?  
I thought we had an understanding  
I thought that you knew—  
I wish that you knew—  
You could tell me anything, always  
Would've saved me  
some pain of the back and forth  
Trying to understand your paradoxical mind  
Could've saved you  
some evidently bothersome company  
Should've saved us  
some time

I know you think that I'm oblivious  
but my hindsight's 20/20 when i need it  
and I notice everything  
Now I've got context  
When I looked back, I hated what I found  
Was I just the best trophy lying around—  
an expendable placeholder that'll do for now?  
I didn't think it'd hurt this much  
trying to find it all out

Is it too late to ask you  
To have mercy on my poor, aching soul?  
This little heart of mine  
can only hold itself together for so long  
Steadfast I held to us  
when curses upon unassuming forces  
faced your innocence with interest and mistrust,  
My devotion never came into question  
But then you said "just this morning"  
You said it like we were nothing  
And I realized I'd been mourning  
something I never really had  
and it has driven me mad  
Forgive my still learning  
I don't yet know  
how to live without breathing  
Not to sound all dire or anything

What happened to "us"?  
You've tainted the word  
you'd asked me to trust  
Truth might've saved us time  
Instead, you left me behind.

