

issues

fairy tale

you say he loves you
cerulean eyes, gazing back
and back
blink—story changes
once upon a time

you say he loved you
but you've lots left to do
turn the page

sunset colors
back to back

you say he made you
but you let him take it all away

train ticket
no stops

go back

can't

slick tracks
heavy wheels
...fragile neck

don't

troll bridge ahead
your riddle awaits

he loves me
he loves me not
...hits me

please sto—SMASH!!!

...

...

...

you say he found you
but you were never lost until now

dashing prince
moonlight dress

kiss him back
crimson eyes

monster

cut me out
throw me away
...please stop

you say it's over
but still you've yet to leave

if this is the ending you want

why so many tears?

cuts you out
throws you away

bruises

ugly

rage

demon

soul mate
star crossed
...other half

you say he loved you
but you've lots left to do

sunset colors
back to back
cerulean sea
crimson eyes

the world was never
so bright
so dark

shattered ocean

face in the water
so cold

you say you're sorry
but you have to let it go

happily
ever
...after

you say he loved you

he loves me
he loves me not
...he

you say he loved you

happily
ever

he loved you

...after
ever
happily

you say

he loves me

you

loves me n—

—SMASH!!!

...

...

...he

One Last Visit

A timely greeting awaits me,
ticking just like I remember.
Constant meter, gently pulsing
in time with my heart and memories.
How many ticks have passed since I last came?
Upon what tock have we arrived?
Only this place stays the same
while everything else is changing.

Between your seconds I count minutes.
Shifting light passes through the windows,
phasing in and out of the room.
Stoic shadows graze the walls and
the sun chases them corner to corner.
Calm is my visitor and nature my guest,
whose branches dance in the wake of chaos and
sway under the spell of time.

A polished gun rests beside me.
It waits for permission from the hands—
those slowly circling nearby,
and my own, sweating steadily.
As the drug slows my heart rate
every beat means more than the last.

I will join the shadows soon and become
a part of this broken place.
The wait is almost over.
I am so glad to rest once more where
the sky has always shown me tomorrow,
where my last breath will swallow the past.
So many stars have come out to watch as
a single bullet shines in my hand.
I want it to see my world before it takes me to another.

I am so sorry to end this,
my dear, ticking friend.
Will you still keep the time once I am gone?

toy

lock and key—rust, corrode—sunlight
open the box
let the ashen dust settle
 a cloud of memories

plastic heart, lifeless eyes
rip off my head and
hug yourself with my arms

 perfect face, human lips
 know just what to say to
 keep me in the toy box

i'll be lying here next time
you come around

imagination

 I will be whatever you want me to be
 favorite—playtime—daydreams—
 —nostalgia—relic
 trash tossed away
 once life splits you open
 ...merciless hands...
 it'll start feeling better
 takes all you've ever felt—loved
 strips away your seasons and years
 and leaves behind
 a bleak pallet of
 immeasurable
 time

stop making wishes—splintered fool
close the heart to that fucking smile as
the frozen winter whisks it to its new palace

yet left behind...

in the static quagmire of broken
memories and ashen dust
not a single ripple permeates the
forgotten debris

a single plastic hand reaches past
my outstretched arms
scratches a poem
on the underside of
the
ice

as if dictating my screams:



basement petals

*it wasn't always in the darkness
life outside those walls it knew
dew, morning, sunrise
parting clouds shine
rain
it learned to dream
transcend confinement
reveries of light made it bloom
only to swallow dust in its eager anthers
its vivid petals never seen
never caressed
sharp pointless thorns
a violent hand was yet a welcome touch
with no sun to reach for
it hated its roots, hated its stem, envied legs
humidity, rain
death was its final aspiration
empty pots beside it made it anxious
never knew affection
never introduced to love
prolonged suffocation
memories of water
rain
black desert basement
dreams no longer enough
its pot of ashy soil near an ashier edge
tried to will it closer and closer
superpowers, telekinetic flower, thinking hard
tip, fall, crash, wither
impossible hope
only withered
life wasn't worth seeing through
couldn't breathe
growth impossible
no one was around
watering can, sprinkle, anything
take in its beauty
no one knew suffering thirsty
sunlight dry can't choking
couldn't breathe rain
dew water clouds
RAIN!*

down time

remain
in years of absence
why live
when you cannot
play today tonight tomorrow
ever

miss you?
that doesn't sound like me
(YES)
no one likes
to
burn in (hell) a room
with those sharp

playtime's over
draw the shades
(twist)
draw lines
(pull)
draw blood
(bleed)

how are you
fine
only one exit
make way
(RUN)
find a (safe) place
not here

slaughter house (for the mind)
sawblades in the
safest dreams

reality is yet
a waking nightmare

where to hide
when
every blade knows me
inside out
my secrets
(vaults of wishes)
spilled
all over the cold floor

what kinds of stains are these
(red)
answers under the sleeves
last year's dream
tomorrow's blood
gallons of failure
(twist)
(pull)
(bleed)

what did you do yesterday
read the last
few
lines
again
STOP ASKING
the stainless steel doesn't
care
(neither should you)

seep through the cracks
the hands of the
clock
point
to your exit
chiming
(now)
(now)
(now)
go while I'm still ready
one last drink

(twist)
goodbye for now
 (pull)
take your time leaving
 (bleed)

 without you
eyes mouth laugh touch love
more than a lifetime of
feelings
 in
 a
 momentary

 smile

(now)
in years of
 (now)
absence
 (now)
it won't be the same
(twist)
but the scars
 (pull)
 will remain
 (bleed)

in the *shape* of that smile

what did you do
yesterday
(...)
 today
 (now)
 (...)
 tonight
 tomorrow
 (now)
 (...)