

\*From you\*

Lumps of brown sugar swirled  
Into my cream of wheat,  
Butter pudding too.  
A touch, a wink, a smile,  
A kiss on the neck  
from you.

Woman of wonder curled  
Into my DNA,  
Long fingers too.  
A look, a laugh, a joke,  
A book on the shelf  
From you.

Like souvenirs all unfurled  
Into my indexed mind,  
Cheerful legends too.  
A film, a shot, a scene,  
A photo album  
From you.

Fearless nature burled  
Into my composition,  
Serious scowl too.  
A strength, a truth, authenticity,  
A standard edge  
From you.

Invitation to the brim of your world,  
Into my heartbreak story,  
Relentless pain too.

And still.

A touch, a wink, a smile,  
A kiss on the neck  
from you.

\*You Are Everything\*

I lied about you today.

I said you were nothing.

I said you were of no significance.

It was a lie, because to me, you are everything.

You are the mesmerizing yellow wheat fields in the summer, waving like water swells in warm winds.

You are the stillness of the forest leaves on a windless day, the atmosphere a heavy weight, as though the trees are holding their breath.

You are the thick humidity of a storm coming in spring, earth and wonder being pulled deep into my lungs.

You are the soft touch of a friend's rough hands.

You are the perfect songbird laugh that calls me to join.

You are the peacemaker amongst wolves.

You are a smile in the middle of a mourning dirge.

You are new love in an old house.

You are the warm blanket of the sun on my back and the cool rapture of the creek when I dip my feet.

You are a thousand lyrics mixed into a vintage piece of musical ache.

You are everything I could ever hope to know and love.

I'm sorry I lied.

You are not nothing.

You are everything.

\*Love Hidden\*

This beautiful soul.  
Love, earth, and wild things call out.  
We hide it away.

\*The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face\*

The first time ever I saw your face, your eyes burned into my soul.

Your hand gently brushed against what I held close. You did this effortlessly, as though by accident, without purpose, or intent.

You could look into my eyes, and I would suddenly feel vulnerable and safe all at the same time.

I wanted to feel it again, to see you do it again.

You did. Over and over, again and again.

When I was around you, I felt all the bits of myself that I kept hidden from others, start to tremble, like they were alive, well, and wanted out.

All the secret notes, all the hidden trinkets of thoughts I didn't share with anyone, started to spin and dance, deep inside of me.

You noticed them peeking out, and one by one, when you saw them, you smiled.

Once they saw your twinkling grin, they began escaping my clenched fingers, in a betrayal of sorts.

They twirled and skipped around you, as I did my best to hold them back.

The pieces of myself that I hid from everyone else were suddenly at home, safe, with you.

They were together, happy, accepted and celebrated as if they'd never been before.

The first time ever I saw your face, I came to know what love is.