

I Tried

I've still got that picture you took
My arm resting along your leg
While I was half asleep in my bed
One of those fleeting moments in life
Where things almost felt alright
And I know you think it's silly
But I've always liked
That contrast of dark and light
My ghost white
Feeling more at home against your backdrop of midnight

And I still think about when we first met
You verbalizing every thought in your head
Too shy to even look me in the eye
I couldn't help but find it endearing
'Cause I'd never found anyone more nervous than me

And I still think about that night in bed
You losing a battle in that infinite war
Besieged by all the bad thoughts in your head
I wonder if there's anything I could have said
But I'd never found anyone sadder than me

Now we barely talk
Only text me when you're depressed
Phone calls always an SOS
You won't ever tell me what's wrong
I still sit and listen patiently
Knowing my love is only wanted
In case of emergency

Wouldn't we be quite the pair?
Bad heads, bad hearts, and vacant stares

Two broken people
Can't put each other back together
Two flailing people
Can't keep each other afloat
Still, I tried in my best ways
To keep your head above the waves
'Cause I don't think you'd ever had a chance to breathe
But I'm sinking further down
Soon I'm gonna drown
And you clearly need something more than me

The Worlds Inside Us

Spend most of my life inside my own mind
And maybe that's why I get chills down my spine
Every time I hear that line
"It's not a person who dies
But worlds die inside us"

All the things I've never said
All the things I've never done
Everything snuffed out once I'm dead and gone
And no one's ever going to see
This world that's inside me

Maybe that's a good thing
With all my neuroses and self-loathing
They'd overlook the good parts anyway
And I'll keep getting better at pretending
To be a functional human being
And everyone's better off at the end of the day

Lately I can't stop thinking
About Sarah's car accident
And when Ethan got his head bashed in
I didn't know them very well
But it's so strange that we used to breathe the same air
And I wonder what they'd have done differently
If they knew those 60some years they had left
Would be shortened with such immediacy
Never got a real chance to live
They were barely more than kids
Here I am 10 years down
Running my life further into the ground
And leave it to my fucked-up mind
To wonder if they were really deprived
Or if they were actually lucky
I guess it all depends
On there being some kind of heaven
Or if the agony of being alive
Is still better than nothing

"Is That Too Little for the Whole of a Man's Life?"

Not so great at conversation
Most of my words get caught in my throat
I've got no sense of fashion
It's been 5 years since I bought new clothes
Don't have much ambition
But every penny I make would be yours

My broken brain
Always lights up for you
My heavy heart
Always picks itself up for you
My anxious arms
Want to hold nothing but you

Can I just have one chance
To talk to you through the night?
I want to hear the rest of your morbid jokes
About how we're all gonna die
Tell me everything you love and hate
Your thoughts on free will and fate
What scares you, what gets you through the day
And I'll keep trying to think of a way to explain
How I've always been afraid of everything
And you somehow make that go away

Remember when we sang happy birthday to you twice?
And you were laughing the entire time
I will live that moment on a loop
As I spend my life without you

Pretentious Musings on Society by a Self-Professed Hypocrite

How did it come to be
That we've replaced any sense of morality
With "how much are we entertained?"
Or maybe that's how we've always been
Something like original sin
Technology catching up with our depravity

We've traded the coliseum for screens
Now everyone's got a front row seat
Less blood is shed but more people are dying
Glued to the couch with their insides rotting
Basing their views on vaccines
On the advice of beauty queens
Getting their therapy from daytime TV
Can't read the news unless it fits on a meme
Choosing their leaders based on misplaced hatred
Or a desire for comic relief
What's a few strangers' lives destroyed
If you get some voyeuristic joy
From watching trainwrecks like these

I'm not a whole lot better

In many ways I'm the same
Convince myself it's okay to waste a week
As long as something's critically acclaimed
Feeling superior to these rubes
So outspoken when they can't tell the difference
Between real and fake news
But all I do is sit in my room
Endless diatribes running in the back of my mind
When you don't make any kind of difference
There's not a lot of value in being right

You Are the Light That Never Goes Out

It feels like just yesterday
I saw you in the hallway
Your hair cut short
An unobstructed view
Of that ever perfect face
And I wished for a world
Where I was someone who knew what to say
To someone like you

But in only a matter of days
By dumb luck or fate
We were listening to music in my room
You dancing around
Me not knowing what to do
I only knew
I'd never met anyone like you

A few years down
Lying on your basement couch
I kissed you for the first time
And I finally knew what it meant
To be happy to be alive
But I was in over my head
Frozen by that fear of flesh
Hopeless from the outset
I still get cravings
For that skinny neck
And the taste of cigarettes

I used to replay it in my head
You saying I was the best person you'd ever met
And I think I was vain enough to agree
The arrogance to not understand
How you could want anyone but me
Maybe you were closer to the truth

When you said I didn't know how to love
Just how to want aggressively
And I thought I'd lost you
'Cause you'd seen the worst parts of me
But you didn't get up to leave

Do you remember that show?
My arm around your waist
Fending off the psychos
I hope you don't mind
I couldn't help but pretend you were mine
Just one more time

But I've got almost a decade of proof
That I'll always be second best to you
And that's finally okay with me
Less of you than I want
Is still more of you than I ever could've dreamed
And it doesn't change the fact
That you're the only person I believe
Every time you say you love me
And so I'll be
Whatever you need me to be
While I try to fit as many fractions of forever
Into our limited days together
And I'll just be thankful
That out of billions of lives
Stretching out across eternity
The brightest soul
Manifested so close to me