

## Collection of poetry: Dreams

### Shadows

The ocean beckons me on with sensual waves of temptation  
The wind sifts through my hair with the promised illusion of comfort  
And yet behind me sits the loom of a vast and silent desert  
Calling me to it through the burning sand underneath my bare feet  
But I turn and find instead a village marked by crumbling huts  
With faltered steps I aim for a home I have no memory of  
Darkness blurs the worn path as I grapple for what I remember  
And panic sets in on my chest as narrow streets close in on me  
Bang on doors, but locked they stay, as eyes peer at me with suspicion  
Until suddenly a light I see! Glimmering dim up ahead  
Eyes closely follow my every step as I near the open door  
I rush in and breathe a sigh of relief at the embrace of warmth  
But the sight ahead stops me cold as chills appear along my skin  
The hut sits bare, empty, except for a painting that faces me  
With an illusion of movement made by the dance of a candle  
And in the image a girl looks down, black hair covering her face  
She wears a dress of dirty red, the hem torn and splattered with mud  
Chained fast to a wall of rotting bricks that stands curiously strong  
Her fragile wrists bruised, her body slumped, spirit defeated, broken  
Tears blur my vision as she suffers forever, frozen in time  
A soft sigh escapes my lips and her hair slightly shifts with the wind  
Her head raises until she catches my eyes with her golden gaze  
In terror, I run toward the open door, but pain grips my legs  
My red dress has tangled round my legs, but I cannot free them  
I collapse hard to the ground as bruises cover my fragile arms  
I shriek in fear as the world spins around in an array of swirls  
Then stillness, cold, as I slump in my chains, black hair over my face  
Waiting and waiting for the person that will free me from my bonds.

## Not Safe

Night has fallen, and stars are falling too  
Shadows disappear, for all light is gone  
Loneliness abandons me on this night  
And eyes peer with menace from crevices.  
Now finds me walking faster and faster  
Down winding streets of broken cobblestone  
Figures pass by with sharp and gnashing teeth  
Who shriek in horror at my passing face  
And creatures are lurking in alleyways  
Licking their lips that shine with impatience  
For a taste of the blood that spills tonight;  
And brick buildings sway amidst pitched sirens  
While chaos reigns over all the city.  
A mantra persists in my ragged brain  
To keep my head low and never look up  
I'll lose my eyes if I dare make contact  
But the noises they utter chill my bones  
And etch their horrors onto my burnt skin;  
The sound bubbles up, I can't hold it back  
A scream of fear and pain passes my lips  
Suddenly they see me, what have I done!  
They're on to me in a broken heart beat  
Holding me down as a face peers at me  
Wrinkled and sagging, a sight to behold  
Get off of me, you beast! Leave me alone!  
I'm thrashing and kicking and biting hard  
And finally break free from the monster.  
One foot at a time, I'm running back home  
Inside my room, locked door, heavy breath  
I'm safe tonight from the wild beasts outside  
The sun is rising, the stars disappear  
The beating of my heart slows to a crawl  
The only noise is the hum of the news  
Lamenting the innocent old lady  
Beaten to death on the streets overnight  
By a crazy person with frenzied eyes  
It's not safe outside, I remind myself...

## Myself

Eyes were hollow and so were mine  
I sat among them and held my tongue  
For death would come upon me quick  
Should they figure out my dark deceit

They take a step, I take one too  
Seven steps left, and I follow suit  
Two steps back, I stumble a bit  
One more step, I fall hard to my knees.

Then I'm running to who knows where  
I hear their pursuit and hear their wails  
"You tricked us!" they cried out with rage  
"Now you will suffer for your mistake."

And as I flee, my mask breaks free  
My skin shatters, pieces fly away  
My tears turn into shrieking joy  
For at last, I am revealed to them,  
At last, I am me.