

dusk to dawn  
and  
midday thoughts



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A Collection of Poems by Sydney Guerrette



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*to my mom,*

*whose light  
gave me the confidence  
to step out on my own*

*and whose hope  
gives me the courage  
to move forward with  
an open heart and mind*



## *I AM*

Don't compare me to a flower  
For all they bring forth is their beauty

Don't compare me to autumn leaves  
For they are easily blown by the wind

Don't compare me to a seashell  
For the tide persuades them

Don't compare me to a bee  
Who only listens to its Majesty

I am of likeness to the earth  
Yes scattered, but grounded, firm and BEHOLD,

I am of likeness to the deepest roots,  
Protective of growth  
Bringing nourishment and life

I am of likeness to the waves,  
I shift the culture around me

And I am of likeness to the wind,  
Full of soul and SAY

I AM the wonder I crave

## *What Holds Me Back?*

In all sounds, I feel your voice  
It aches me

A downward spiral of what is  
Soon to be once was  
Never to be something good to come

Nothing in balance  
In fact  
It's all out of balance

I'm not meant to feel balanced  
It isn't real  
Nothing's real

Why does it occupy so many peoples' thoughts?

Life,  
Full of misleading falsehoods

So,  
I still ache

Every regret, moment  
Lost, gone to waste

I think about them too often  
These shadows



*Shadows*

A proper name for these wretched things  
Feelings, thoughts, holding onto you

What happens if you hold too tight to them?

There will be nothing left of you

## *Will It Ever End?*

Perfection lives on borrowed time  
Except, it's never borrowed

Only stolen

I should be more furious  
But,

I'm not

I live with the body aches

Live with the concerns and anxiety  
Even though I'll be sent to an early grave

I've never lacked resilience,  
It's something everyone can possess

But, I've learned the more we retreat,  
The easier it is to  
*suppress*

That flame  
Spark

The glow that fuels your soul

Perfectionism can  
snuff it out

Don't let that get to you now

## *A Heart's Messy*

The more I don't know,  
The *mEsSiEr* I write

Is it this way for everyone?

Or are there humans  
Who are more careful  
With their words?

It's all lost on me

I'm not clumsy  
Just curious

But my writing reflects my heart  
So, if the words are messy

My heart is too

I'm not ashamed of m y s e l f

*that's a lie*

I'm working to get T H E R E

*where I make an effort*

To love all I am

Without changing the writing

## *Alone*

Am I afraid of being alone?

No, I don't think so

I'm not alone in family

I'm not alone in friends

Why does this question always

*f*

*a*

*l*

*l*

down to romantic relations?

You can be or *feel* alone in many ways

Yet, that phrase

I feel most in the air

For the time being,

I feel as if I'm missing out

Or

*Undesirable*

w  
h  
a  
t  
e  
v  
e  
r  
  
t  
h  
a  
t  
  
m  
e  
a  
n  
s

But, I'm also content  
And that's okay

## *I Like Being Different*

I like being the only one who's \_\_\_\_\_

*At least, the only one I know of...*

But, with this mindset  
I lost myself

I set myself apart  
Spread myself *too thin*

No grace  
No room for error

I form a calloused heart

Turn to "*no one will understand*"s

It's hard to keep friends like this

So, I keep to myself  
I don't reach out

I keep to myself  
*Someone I should be able to rely on*

But, I never know with *her*

I never know with *me*



## *I Choose*

Thanks for  
keeping me  
awake.

## *Unruly*

There's a chaos within  
Untamed and  
*Persuasive*

Come too close  
And it can *pull you in*

On a ledge,  
I stand

My arms *sprea d* like wings  
I feel the air rush towards me

*This freedom is*

*liberating*

And for once,

I finally feel *F R E E*

This chaos inside salutes the wind  
They're one in the same

They force whatever's around them  
To dance during their reign

Both mother nature's children  
Disobedient and  
*Unruly*

One *within* me  
One *surrounding* me

I'm closer to life  
And *death*  
Than I ever realized

## *The Night Never Lasts*

To quiet  
To be still

To find warmth in a smile

Little things like gestures, *kind*  
Matter.

When I look to the sky  
I see not whole *darkness*  
But *light* shining through

Is this what hope's like?

Is this what a *quiet*  
*still*  
*warmth*

Feels like?

To believe there's something  
Better, for all of us,  
On the other side of the universe

*I choose to hope so.*

There's a beauty in the **darkness**  
A beauty in the disarray

But, it can't be as beautiful as  
The light piercing through a darkened sky

*Can it?*

## *You Go First*

Unrevealed thoughts  
Sealed  
With no postal address

Instead  
Set aside  
Locked in a *hidden* drawer

Upper left corner of  
Your brain

Your heart just  
Forgot about them

So, she lets the brain  
Deal with it

In order to move forward  
Someone  
Something  
Has to let go

So  
One of them  
Lets go

## *Time*

A beast without *t e e t h*  
One of the monstrous halves of our world

Yet, full of wonder

Can something so mysterious  
And *finite*  
Be so beautiful?

## *Where True Beauty Lies*

The majesty of a flower  
What we always see  
We praise the tiniest of petals  
Worship the *even smaller* leaves

But, what about the weeds?  
They're seen as unruly creatures  
*Disturbed*  
Disturbing to the most *distressed* garden

I tell you  
The weeds' roots  
Grow deeper than the flowers'

These earthly creatures have more  
Of a backbone than the most beautiful  
*Chrysanthemum*



Genuine beauty lies *u*

*n*  
*d*  
*e*  
*r*  
*g*  
*r*  
*o*  
*u*  
*n*  
*d*

Deep within soil

Deep within an earthly soul

## *All of Me*

I come with another unique set of prayers  
In my own unique frustration  
I'm found in my arrogance  
Who am I to make requests?

I am the wretched soul  
Who pursues the blade  
Rather than leave it in its sheath

I've never felt *godly*  
Free will isn't a gift,           but  
*A curse*  
To those who  
*bend* towards  
indecisiveness

Who are  
*Bound*  
To anxiousness

I can't allow  
You to see  
Me like this

All my worst parts,                    *a deliberate enemy*  
So, I stay in my own                *company*

I mustn't allow  
You to see  
Me like this

I've hollowed certain parts of myself  
The worst memories  
My *dark* intertwines with my *light*

You can't have  
Me or truly know  
Me unless  
You accept *both*

I am not myself without *both*

You ask, "*Who* will you allow to take up most space?"

## *We Dream of Other Worlds*

In these *dreams*,  
We take refuge  
In these *worlds*,  
We find peace

As I snake into bed,  
With lights out  
And no one else awake,  
All I hear are whispers  
They're beckoning me to sleep

Summoning memories  
Reconstructing them  
So they can play *make-believe*  
The subconscious of my imagination  
Where there's no limit to *possibility*

I hope my head remembers  
Its promise to  
My heart

To keep you in the corner  
of my darkest memory  
For if your vision awakes  
My peace will become chaos

My dream  
To a nightmare

The only time  
I can be still  
I'll toss and turn

My bed no longer  
A safe place

So, I don't fall asleep  
No, I won't fall asleep

There will be no calm  
At least until I no longer  
Believe you to be a *threat*

*(to me)*

## *A Weight*

In the midst of my grief  
It's as if I float on water,                      but then

Watch as it slowly  
Swallows my body whole

I collapse into *nothing*  
My soul becoming *dismal*

Once hollow  
Now full of sorrow and                      malice

As water fills my lungs  
My breath becomes less a nd l e s s

### *Available*

The weight of pain  
Surrounds me

But, I will be okay  
I will be okay.

This won't last forever  
The pain won't last forever  
I won't last forever

## *Just Accept It*

In your solitude, I find rest  
In your peace, I learn to sleep

The night,  
No longer darkness  
But, a glimpse of hope

A reminder that what has been  
Will lead to what will be

Grace is a funny thing  
It's when we are undeserving that  
This is gifted to us

If it's a gift  
then why do I feel shame?

Why do I let these feelings  
Clasp themselves to me?

Like if they let go  
They'll disappear  
Vanish into t h i n a i r

What would it look like if they did?

What if I accepted this gift?  
And found the solitude,  
*Peace*

*Just accept it.*

## *Will You Give It the Chance?*

Can a heart be lost?

*Intentionally.*

Sometimes

Your mind has a part

To play

You see

They don't always get

Along

Your heart is

Full of hope

Your mind leads

A cautionary tale

Hope and caution

Have a difficult time

Coexisting

You can be cautious

And hopeful at the same time



But, be careful  
To sway more in  
One direction than  
The other

Too much caution  
Borderlines fear

And fear will lock  
Your heart up  
Whenever you give it  
The chance

## *My Turn*

*They've clipped my wings*  
What will I do?

*They've clipped my wings*  
Will this hold me back from my truth?

*They've clipped my wings*  
This won't keep me in one place for long

*They've clipped my wings*  
So wingless, I *must* learn to be free

## *To the Women in My Life*

Thank you for showing me what  
*Love* is.

Wearing your hearts  
On your sleeves,  
The *invaluable* strength  
Found in the midst of hardship

Your *resilience*,  
A badge of *honor*

Having been through so much,  
You've made it to where  
You are now

*Here.*

*Breathing.*

*Full of life.*

Despite all that's been said  
And done to you  
Your head is held *high*

Moving forward,  
Your *kindness* never lost  
Its way, love

## *Flight*

Let me show you  
A world with no limits

A world full of  
Connection

A world where the dreamers  
Rule

Take into consideration  
The way you feel as soon  
As you let go of  
Others' expectations

It feels as though a  
Burden is lifted

Pen to paper,  
Paper to Instrument,  
Instrument to Stage,

Limitlessness  
Swoops around me

Keeps me on  
My toes

*Wingless,*  
Yet,

I take *flight*