

Writing Contest Entry

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Submission Category: Poetry

Days

The day you picked up that guitar, and sang low but strong
That's the day I fell in love with you
You sang about a girl who disappeared, and I wanted to take her place
That lisp burrowed deep in my heart, like a spirochete
My love for you rattled around my whole body, something so alive, so very kinetic
That I was sure we were made for each other
After all, I'd never felt this before
So how could I possibly feel it again
And you'd never felt it before
So our symmetry was destiny
The day you rode four miles in the rain and only told me
That's the day I knew I'd do anything and everything, all for you and just for you
The next time I rode with you,
Four miles there on quiet streets
Four miles home all alone
Even now that's the most trouble I ever got in
The day the trouble caught up to me,
That's the day you almost cost me 500\$
But I never flinched, and even over my dad's yelling and my mom's disappointment
I could hear that love vibrating through me so loud
That's the day I wanted to be who you wanted,
And I needed to be what you needed
And over time I realized you're a person, and you exist all the time,
Not just in love letters
The day you screamed and took me home,
That's the day I cried,
Because I felt all their eyes on me,

Because I felt them all pity me,
Because I got four texts telling me to blink twice
That's the day I got scared because I couldn't tell where I stopped and you started
That's the first day I cringed when you called me yours
Because I'm not a necklace or a book, I'm not a toy
And when I tried to think, I had no room
Because everything in my head belonged to you
The day no one recognized me except for you
That's the day I understood why actors get paid
It's hard to play a character, and harder to live one
You wanted someone to love the bars you kept them in
You wanted someone to drink and break laws with
You wanted a cure
I am not a cure
The day I sat alone in your basement
That's the day your love turned to ipecac
I choked and sputtered, I struggled to breathe
You cried as you poured more in my mouth to wash down the former
The day you held me in place and begged me to stay
That's the day I felt like I didn't exist
For eight long months I sat in a cardboard house
Wondering whether I'd ever existed
The day I went back to smoking
That's the day we got back together
I'd been so sure that I missed you
Maybe all I missed was existing
The day I got caught out at 3 a.m.
That's the day it got bad again

But I was so sure that I had missed you
The day I can't remember, when I was way too drunk
That's the day the Tylenol didn't work because *you* were the pounding in my head
That same buzzing of your love made my skin hurt
The songs you wrote for me made me nauseous
The day I looked at my hands because I couldn't meet your eye
That's the day I ended it
Because I flinch at your touch
The day I asked for my sweatshirts back
That's the day I stopped loving you
Or at least I'm trying to

Rain

Sometimes I just sit in the rain
I sat on my roof, the water washes away pain
It gets cold but that isn't the point
Alone in my underwear in the weather

I feel the drops fall on my skin
It took so much to let her in
I hate her but that isn't the point
Precipitation attempting to heal me

So I'll sit silent outside my room
Let the rain dissolve the gloom
It's different now but that's not the point
It's time to go inside

Anxiety

I get ashamed when I admit
That I am anxious about it
He's my best friend
And she's a bit,
Well, she was evil at the end

I know it's stupid, yes, of course
To bow to such a made up force
There's no reason that he'd leave
But when she talks he does endorse,
Is that why I prepare to grieve?

It ties my stomach into knots
Trying to connect these dots,
I do not really want to think
There's other reasons, really, lots
Maybe I can leave the brink

But either way I can't erase,
Can you see it on my face,
That he'll go, I'll have no one left,
Whether anxiety has base
Alone in my room and so bereft