

# Poetry 2009

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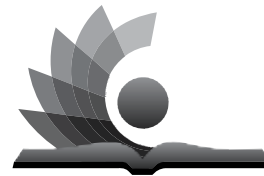
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**My Angel** by N.V.

The essence of love is a blessing from above,  
Your sexiness raises up the temperature in my blood.  
The second I hear your name, cold flames ignite the fire,  
It's no shame, insane feelings, your love takes me higher.

Your inner beauty is truly an intelligent work of art,  
Renewing untold vows, pursuing you with my heart.  
Holding tight, with no hopes of losing your warm touch,  
It's not much, but the presence of you is more than enough.

My loneliness is healed by the steady beat of your heart,  
The only woman that's real, soul mates will never part.  
Together like the moon and stars are at dusk,  
Evidence of true beauty proves our love to be just.

If ever shall we separate, death shall be the reason,  
Yet at the pearly gates shall come our second meeting.  
I'll remain in the heavens for eternity to protect you,  
With a halo and wings on your back, just like the night I met you.



**No More!** by R.K.

You smile at the edge of sight, and I  
turn to see you. No More!

You whisper between words, and I  
hush to hear you. No More!

Without you, I am in darkness,  
and the sun hides beneath the world.

No more will I ever be held down,  
or be a menace to the Society. No More!

**One Thought to Help** by R.C.

Outside the wind swirls  
Soft leaves do tumble  
Watch as you walk  
Beware of where you stumble.  
Know now are good times  
Listen to birds sing  
Love friends and family  
Enjoy the small things.  
Stay clear of the dark road  
Believe in all hope  
Keep focused and clear  
This isn't a joke.  
Take a long walk  
See nature's colors  
Live for life  
And love one another.



**Is It Too Late?** by F.N.

Change is great, if I want to change is it too late?  
I want to be a better person, a better man  
I don't like who I am so I always ran.  
What was I running from?  
I was running from myself, I was trying to escape.  
If I want to change is it too late?  
It's only one person who told me I can run but can't hide  
Because the person I'm running from is always going to be  
trapped inside.

He said I could keep running,  
But when I look into the mirror I'm going to be right there.  
I told him I hate myself, that I'm my worst nightmare  
So I found out I can't escape,  
But if I want to change is it too late?

**Life** by C.N.

Life is based on existence, relationships, and activities  
Also growth and reproduction.  
In my life I share my existence  
With those I can relate to  
Share no existence with foes who try to degrade you.  
In my life I've done activities that caused strife  
But that's my life.  
I've learned from my mistakes.  
Don't play a hate, or put my life at stake  
For something that won't last long  
Or help me get strong.  
That's wrong.  
But that's growth..  
If you change and do right  
That's living for the future, not just tonight.  
Life is unpredictable.  
You never know what can happen.  
I know it's scary 'cuz we got a lot of kidnappin'  
Murder, robber, and all this other violence.  
Got some advice  
Keep your ears open and move in silence.  
Do right, stay positive, and ignore the nonsense  
It's your life, so make it last and live it  
How you want to.



**Haiku** by K.C.

Why are you lying  
Saying I am your boyfriend  
You too ugly girl

**Untitled** by A.D.

My mind says yes but my heart says no.  
I'm feeling melancholy and it's starting to show.  
My heart is suppressed  
And my mind says let my loved one know.  
But I'm not that type of person to let my feelings show.  
It's evident that I'm a misfit but you can't comprehend.  
I'm trying to show you how I feel  
But I'm feeling vacancy instead.  
And I'm thinking where did I go wrong  
It all seems like a dream.  
I just wish one day I can wake up  
And see the blissful side of me.  
But in my point of view no one seems to care  
And even worse they ain't even there  
When they said that they cared.  
I'm crestfallen as my problems get deeper.  
It feels like quick-sand  
And I'm sinking and getting weaker.



**Untitled** by W.M.

Humiliated by judgmental eyes,  
Steady wondering why me,  
Trapped in the flesh as days go by.  
The reflection I see is not this,  
But another in the mirror of my soul and body,  
I cannot tell.  
I played too many games, I went the wrong of ways.  
The poison is stuck inside me and there it has to stay.  
The burden I carry is to advise you of freedom,  
Stay away from the pain cuz in this life you don't need 'em.

**What is Love** by E.B.

What is love?

Love is something from out of this world  
It's something that makes you feel good  
Just like when you are sitting in front of burning wood.  
It's the opposite of sad and it's the farthest thing from me  
I'm just glad it has nothing to do with the bad.

What is love?

Love is something that never perishes  
It's so real it's pure, just as shiny as a brand new diamond.  
Love is so loud even the deaf can hear it  
And it's so bright even the blind can see it.

What is love?

Love is something you can never wish for  
But if you're lucky you may be able to reach for it  
Even if it's on top of the highest mountain.  
If you have a big heart, then you will find it closer  
Than the nearest drinking fountain.  
But always remember  
Sometimes love hurts.



**Day by Day** by R.C.

day by day  
lay in bed

day by day  
rest my head

day by day  
think of her  
the girl I love

day by day  
goes by  
and my love grows stronger

**Walkin' in the Rain** by J.B.

Drip, drip, drip. The rain falls from the sky.  
Drip, drip, drip. These tears fall from my eyes.  
I walk through the rain so you can't see me cry  
I walk through the rain in my attempt to hide  
The pain and fear I try holding inside.  
The rain and the tears mix beneath my eyes  
So you can't see me cry and might ask yourself why  
That guy's just walkin' in the rain outside.  
And if you were to ask me, I'd probably lie  
I'd say I was fine and everything was alright  
And I'd stifle the cry that was building inside.  
I'd wear my mask of deceit so you couldn't tell  
I was falling into a hole as black as the night  
Lost in everything and nothing both at the same time.  
So I cry  
But only when the rain drops fall from the sky  
So you can't see the things that I'm holding inside.



**The Gateway to your Soul is your Eyes** by E.B.

The gateway to your soul is your eyes.  
How do I know because when you cry,  
It's just not emotions it's tears so pure  
Like raindrops out the ocean  
Or maybe train in motion.  
It's amazing how you got me under your love potion.  
The gateway to your soul is your eyes.  
When I look into your big green eyes  
It reminds me of lemon lime.  
Your love is so immense it makes me sad  
When in my cell reminiscing  
Waiting until the day I get out  
So you can look into my eyes and see my soul cry.  
And that is how I know  
The gateway to your soul is your eyes.

**Give My Heart** by E.C.

I'm sitting here crying these faithful tears,  
cause you've granted me my worst of fears,  
holding me down further than I thought I could go,  
you ripped out my heart and soul.

Just when I thought it couldn't get worse,  
I heard some news I never thought I would hear,  
I'm tired of feeling this pain,  
that whole year was such a shame.

I hope,  
her kisses were as sweet as mine.  
I hope,  
losing me was worth all the lies.  
I hope,  
she's the one you go to tonight.  
She's the one cause I am giving up this time.

You lied to me, cried to me,  
said to me she meant nothing.

Nothing at all to you.

You said to me, "She's dead to me."  
but that is hard to see.

You begged me,  
to believe  
God I was so lost and naive

To give my heart again.



**Moms** by C.P.

Dear Moms,  
Thank you for the gift of life,  
Your love and advice.  
Trying to raise me alone  
After the long time I was gone  
It seems life went wrong  
But my love for you, Moms, is forever strong.

I know the load you carry is heavy,  
And I know I'm not making it much better.  
Cause I feel I got to hustle  
Cause I can't sit back and watch you struggle.  
Knowing I made it worse,  
I'd rather die first.

Moms, there's no mercy for the weak.  
That's why they say only the strong survive.  
So if it means to get money,  
I'd rather live that lie.  
I know we have to pray just to get by.  
And I know it hurt you just watching me subside.  
But it's going to feel even better when I succeed.

Moms, we been through a lot.  
And it all started when I was younger,  
Throwing rocks at the neighborhood cops  
To slingin' 'em, the youngest on the block.

But you know what,  
I never forgot.  
We all we got.



**My Life** by J.S.

i will not be like my mother or brother!  
i know i have done some stupid stuff  
made bad choices in my life  
but i know i can change  
and do better for me and my life  
i will change, if i put my mind to it  
i can do whatever i would like to be or do  
i will not drop out and do nothing with my life  
i know what i want to do with my life  
what i want to be and what i have to do  
to make myself be that person  
i will do whatever i have to do  
i will change and be that person i want to be...



**Untitled** by T.S.

Watch me fly and surf the moon,  
like a flower I gracefully bloom.  
Screams of cheer, the king is here,  
my enemies flee and shake with fear.  
Hope is lost, all is gone,  
come with me we'll sing a song.  
Watch me shout and jump about,  
succeed in life without a thought.  
Lost the battle the war is near,  
time has passed almost a year.  
Tears of joy I am free,  
come with me and you will see.  
That life is good but I am sad,  
to lose the friends I thought I had.  
Do not judge what you can't see,  
the life I live created me.

**When a Friendship Dies** by K.S.

When a friend dies,  
Who cries?

Everyone you see.  
But after the funeral,  
Who will come see?  
Again  
Not a friend  
Just the wind  
Or a leaf,  
But never my peeps.

When a friend dies,  
Nobody is thinking  
About you cuz life  
Moves on with or without you.

When a friend dies,  
Ask his supposedly real boys  
Where he is buried  
And they can't tell.

When a friend dies,  
He watches over his real loved ones,  
And the ones that really cared,  
And takes care of his  
Son or daughter,  
His mother or father.

But never the people that left  
Him hanging.

So when a friend dies,  
So does our friendship  
And all relationships.

**Caught Up In The Rapture of Literature** by C.N.

I went from surviving a struggle in the *Coldest Winter Ever*  
To becoming a smart educated *Street Soldier*.  
I've read books by famous authors like James Patterson.  
I've read *First to Die*  
Now I'm caught in the sequence of *4<sup>th</sup> of July*.  
Kimani Tru *Keysha's Drama* is like something I went  
through.  
Who would have thought that the young boy who wouldn't  
read unless it had pictures  
Would become infatuated with Teri Woods' stories  
and other inspiring literature.  
When I read, I learn.  
What I've achieved, I've earned.  
As I lay on my mat and read from Zane to relax  
Daydreams come from good scenes.  
I'm not a photographer  
But through a novel I can picture things.  
Reading is like love, it's good for the soul.  
When I open up something from Mosley,  
On an adventure I go.  
Suzanne, Alison, Nadia and big Russell I thank you  
For keeping the books poppin'  
And helping me read 72.  
Not the age but read 72 books, every page  
Don't judge a book by its cover, you gotta read it.  
And when you finish, on the back,  
There's a picture, you gotta see it.



**My Life** by M.P.

In violation of probation  
Now dealing with incarceration  
So I pray the Lord for a better education  
The past is the past  
The future is now  
I know that I will but when and how  
My goals I will achieve I say it loud!



**Good Bye** by H.R.

How do you love someone that hurt you so bad,  
with intentions good was all she ever had.  
But how do I let go when I loved her for so long?  
I've given her all that I could.  
Maybe Love is a hopeless crime,  
giving up what seems your lifetime,  
what went wrong with something once so good.  
How do you find the words to say goodbye  
when your heart don't have the strength to say goodbye?  
I know I was naive I never knew where this would lead.  
I'm not trying to take away from the good woman that she is.  
But how do I let go when I loved her for so long?  
I've given her all that I could.  
Was it something wrong that we did?  
Of course others infiltrated what went wrong with something  
once so good.  
How do you find the words to say goodbye  
when your heart don't have the strength to say goodbye?  
Is this the end? Are you sure?  
How should you know  
when you have never been here before?  
It's so hard to just let go and say goodbye.

**Great Getaways** by K.C.

I need to get away  
Someplace where no one knows me  
Even for just one day  
Take a break from all my homies.

No more ghetto, no more violence, no more hoods  
24 hours to relax and feel good.

Listen to the rustle of the trees  
Watch the birds fly by  
Feel the warmth of the breeze  
And the kites fly high.

Lay back with headphones, watch the kids have fun  
Mindin' my biz, absorbing the sun.

Visit the beach  
Travel the world  
These are my dreams  
I treasure like diamonds and pearls.



**Ode to a Palm Tree** by L.M.

Jail's making me go crazy  
It's making me stay lazy  
The staff talking mess that don't phase me  
When I wake up the wall's looking glazy  
The teacher in class looking purple hazy  
I like when that one staff fades me  
Shady the staff says she's like a palm tree.

**Mr. MLK** by C.P.

Mr. King  
The director of equal rights for every human being.  
Who would ever have thought  
The beginning of a new life would start with a dream?  
From bloodshed and hatred  
To sharing the same things  
He went against the odds  
No matter how bad they seemed.  
He had hope we could overcome any situation  
Like Abraham  
Emancipation proclamation.

Mr. MLK  
Your dreams are still a memory as of today.  
The Mother Land King  
He taught it was OK  
To have and follow our dreams.  
He fed the hungry and clothed the naked.  
I learned if it's a risk for the cause of change  
Then take it.  
But now our minds are vacant.  
I pray for no other lives to be taken.  
I'm hearing lies  
I'm waiting for the truth to awaken.

I had a dream  
I was talking to M.L. King.  
He said it starts with you.  
Walk on the side where the grass is green.  
Then I hear a blast and a scream.  
I see a black and white flash  
Then I woke up from my dream.



**Sweet Love** by R.D.

As I rise above stars and land  
On cloud nine, a single tear reaches my lips.  
Overwhelmed with pleasure,  
I smile, while honey drips from my fingertips.  
This is definitely a sweet love.

As I rise, I float among skies of joy,  
I see the sugar in your eyes  
And feel the chocolate on your skin.  
You handle me so gently,  
Touching the soul that's deep within.  
This is definitely a sweet love.

As I rise, honey drips on chocolate skin.  
As I rise, sugar eyes soothe the soul within  
Showing the sweetest love I've ever known.



**Under a Rock** by R.W.

I feel like I'm trapped under a rock,  
with no limitation of my movements  
because the chains are locked,  
not around my wrist or ankles,  
but around my soul,  
because there's nothing to make my heart warm  
since everything's so cold.  
I ponder the thoughts of freedom to the best of my ability,  
with actuality acting as temptation for the solitary,  
playing Vegas-style  
and you're down to the last deal of three,  
and the only way to win the game is to set free  
a king, which is stuck behind a queen.  
I feel like I'm trapped under a rock...

**Fish** by N.V.

The world is so cold and I ain't got no coat on,  
I'm all alone with no kind of shoulder for tears to roll on.  
I'm walking towards the darkness,  
I ain't seen the light in so long,  
that I wanna let go but something keeps tellin' me to hold on.  
I ate the down, I ain't even tasted the ups yet,  
So sick of feeling down the only ups I get is upset.  
And if I die today life goes on like a freeway,  
The earth keeps spinning like a DJ.  
So I don't really care what he say or she say,  
If it don't involve me keep it going like a replay,  
Ain't got a dollar in my pocket, broker than a hobo,  
Getting higher every day living my whole life in slow mo'  
You know I'm right because you're still here listenin'  
Paint a picture in your head sit back and envision it.  
Tighten up your line and start thinking like a fisherman,  
Quit acting like a fish going for everything that's glistening.



**Survive the Silence** by K.S.

Survive the silence, survive in life  
Even if they give second chances  
It's only one life.

Survive the silence, survive the streets  
While living this life on a road to where I thought  
I'd never be.

Survive the silence that's so quiet  
My mind roams  
To another zone.

Survive the silence that's so cold  
The Lord only knows if I stay quiet  
Then I might be dead.

**Illuminate** by C.P.

Just me inside and out  
Silent thoughts find their way  
Expressionless trying to break out.  
Set aside in life to handle my strife  
I paid the price to be where I am today.  
In the right mind frame  
Lives and freedom given and taken  
For the moment of truth I've been waiting.  
Dodging Satan, catching my breath  
Me at my best avoiding stress  
Demons camouflage in my success.

Naked to the world  
Eyes vulnerable to the flow of air  
Secrets no one wants to share.  
For kids, parents fail to be there  
So some kids hurt inside  
Some kids hurt others  
Some cry alone under covers  
Some contemplate suicide  
Some are stronger than others  
So they use their pain and wisdom from experience  
To help guide one another.

Hard to rest  
I'm close to the edge  
Out of my mind most often  
Trying to stay away from the present day  
Let my dreams carry me away.  
Lost in tomorrow  
The evil shall follow  
Pride is hard to swallow  
Hoping to bypass sorrow  
In the alleys of the shadows  
Searching for valleys where rivers will flow.

First we have to overcome hurt and despair.  
For everyone in the world  
There is someone who cares.  
In the middle of nowhere  
Where do I go from here?  
At the point of no return  
Live and learn  
Still standing firm.  
But you get what you earn  
And reap what you sow  
But reality fails to show  
Things come in time  
Take it slow.  
Just a little patience  
Help me dodge the evil  
The world's facing  
Help me avoid temptation  
God, I'm ready.  
Can you forgive me for the time I've wasted?

Just me inside and out  
Silent thoughts find their way  
Expressionless trying to break out.  
Set aside in life to handle my strife  
I paid the price to be where I am today.  
In the right mind frame  
Lives and freedom given and taken  
Un-god-for-saken  
For the moment of truth I've been waiting.  
Dodging Satan, catching my breath  
Me at my best avoiding stress  
Demons camouflage in my success.  
No place to rest  
Eyes weary  
Mixed with hurt, passion, and fury.  
I close my eyes, prostrate  
Hoping Allah can hear me.