

# **Finding Light in the Darkness**

## Finding Light in the Darkness

Darkness surrounds me as I walk these lonely streets  
The moon shines down thru branches and falling leaves  
Wind swirls around me as dead leaves dance above the cobblestone  
I see the light in peoples' windows  
Every home another family, another world inside a world  
And I wonder  
Do they feel what I feel?  
I don't know what it is that makes me take these walks alone at night  
It fills me with peace to hear the silence and retract into my thoughts  
I find myself atop the grassy hill at the park, looking out at the city below  
I marvel at all the lights, every one somebody's mother, father, child, spouse  
Longing to be back with the one's they love  
I look up at the stars, struggling to compete with the city lights  
I'm glad they are watching over me  
It's time to go home.  
I emerge from the darkness into the light of her beautiful smile  
She is holding Gabriel, his head rested peacefully on her chest  
He is listening to the heart that he was made from  
I look into his dark blue eyes right back into myself  
And I feel the love that I never thought myself capable of feeling  
I see in his eyes, a new life, God's precious gift, with endless possibilities and the hopes  
And dreams of a new generation  
I think back on the countless lights from my midnight walks  
Every one someone's love, someone's world inside this world  
I cannot describe how I feel as I watch them lay there  
I know only one thing, that they are my world inside our world  
I've found my light.

## Second Chance

Every morning, new birth  
Throw away prejudice and preconceived notions  
View the world thru soft eyes  
Like a child seeing the sea for the first time  
I wake up with a fresh start  
In the everyday hustle  
Did you ever stop to feel the warmth of the sun on your face?  
Get out of yourself  
Walk thru the dew and feel each soft blade as it cushions your footfall  
Cherish it  
Every sound  
Every sight  
Each feeling and  
Each thought  
God's wonderful gift to us  
Can we be so blind?  
**EVERYTHING SECOND MATTERS**  
The secret of life is to enjoy every moment of it  
It is a GIFT!  
Thank you, God  
For the most wonderful gift of all

## Heaven

Her beauty never ceases to amaze me.  
The way her eyes light up when I walk into the room.  
Her sweet smile that takes away all my frustration  
She makes me realize that all this has a meaning  
Watching her sleep, our unborn child resting peacefully inside her  
Her soft skin against the sheets  
As I lay there, I wonder  
Is there anything better?  
I have found the place where most people never do  
The place where everything you've ever wanted or needed  
Is sleeping beside you  
I've found Heaven

## Untitled

I don't know what it is  
I feel this overwhelming pull to the park  
Maybe it's the electricity in the air or maybe...  
I dunno...it's impossible to put my finger on  
It's like I'm drawn here by some invisible force  
Thoughts race thru my mind, intangible  
I can glimpse them for a moment  
But when I try to fix them into focus,  
They float away  
I can't explain it,  
But the animals sense it also  
The birds in the trees chirp wildly as thunder fills the air  
The wind swirls thru the trees  
In ever increasingly violent bursts of speed  
Flashes of light cut through the darkness as  
Rain begins to fall  
I see people walking around,  
Oblivious to what is going on around them  
It's times like these that I sit back and watch...  
Just watch  
My thoughts melt away and I simply observe  
The world spinning around me  
I look at the trees and wonder  
At the things they have seen  
Silently watching over us  
The sun hides behind a blanket of  
Grey clouds, all too common  
For this place  
Children's singing fills the air as four little  
Black girls walk past  
I imagine the trees have seen these types of things  
For hundreds of years  
I remember being a child and looking up  
Up at the huge branches and thousands of leaves  
These trees have seen me grow up  
I look out at the city, hearing sirens in the distance  
I think about all the people down there, rushing around  
The concrete giants  
It amazes me that we shut ourselves up in cubicles  
And plug our minds into computer and television screens  
It makes me think that actors are the only ones truly alive  
I don't think that I am the only one that feels this way  
Stars light our way through the dark night now,  
As the moon keeps a watchful eye.

## A World Without Me

He walked the path alone  
As he did so many times before  
Feeling like the only person to ever  
Carry such pain inside  
Never could find his place in the sun  
He stared out into the vastness  
At the countless lights below  
Wind blowing through his hair  
Almost as fast as the thoughts  
Through his troubled mind  
Who would care if just one bulb  
Would burn out?  
His memory would fade like the  
Smoke in the night air  
He thought of his wife and son  
Her angelic face smiling as if she  
Lay directly in the arm of God  
Himself  
He felt the warmth of his baby's smile  
Penetrate the chill of the restless night air  
Those innocent eyes which seem to look  
Deep into his soul and  
View thoughts and feelings they were yet  
To understand  
He felt the emptiness of the air  
As the earth rushed towards him  
He reached out his arms and  
Imagined jumping into her  
Loving embrace that seemed to be  
The only place he was ever truly happy  
Never could tell them how much  
He loved them  
They buried him under the tree  
That had watched him grow up  
"This is what he would have wanted,"  
She said as he lay there in the sleep  
That eventually covers all  
She thought back to the promise  
They had made so long ago  
Now he would be waiting for her here  
Waiting for the day when they could finally  
Take that flight over the city where they  
Fell in love

## If Only for a Moment

Stay with me here  
If only for a moment  
Hold me in your arms  
And let the life inside you  
Warm my skin  
Take me in  
If only for a moment  
Take away my sadness  
Let the moon break the clouds  
If only for a moment...

## Home

"Home," the words floated through the night air.  
She walked alone in a blanket clouds,  
Her vision blurred by the steady stream of tears in her eyes  
"This is your home", the words drifted through her mind  
As she struggled to believe them  
Her nomadic childhood had taught her otherwise  
She had been left in so many places,  
With so many strangers  
Every time she felt at home,  
That home was taken away  
She had taught herself not to let anyone get too close  
She accepted his words with the disbelieving eyes that  
Had seen this before  
"These people are getting to me", she thought to herself  
As she pressed on into the darkness  
Experience had taught her that this was a fatal mistake,  
Yet she could not help trusting his loving eyes that seemed to  
Surround her like the fog of her midnight walk  
She loved him more than she had ever loved anyone before  
Maybe he was an exception to her rule  
She closed her eyes and felt his chest against her ear,  
The sound of his heart beating lulling her to sleep  
She felt the safety of his strong arms as they held her close  
His gently hands resting peacefully on her soft skin  
"Home," she whispered as the heat from his body  
Covered her weary soul  
"I'm home now."



## Thoughts

Why is it that whenever I think about things too much,  
I get so down?  
Sometimes I look into the mirror and feel like I'm  
Standing next to myself  
Porcelain smiles over sad souls  
I wonder if anyone can see through my disguise  
Dark clouds cover my head as  
The world spins around me  
The world will spin without me  
Stumbling in the darkness, I can't escape my sadness  
I scream for help, but my cries fall onto deaf ears  
Suddenly light begins to creep out from behind the clouds,  
And I think of you  
You are the light that leads me back  
To the place where the sun's warmth melts away  
All my insecurities and imperfections  
Thank you.

## Ode to Brandi

The light reflecting off your eyes  
Pulls me in  
Your soft skin radiates the warm within  
And again I am at peace  
Rest for my tired soul

## Johnny

Close my eyes and I see a place  
Where souls are free from their  
Prisons of flesh  
Your soul was too beautiful to be contained  
In any Earthly vessel  
You were only fit to be with God  
In the place where all that exists is love  
You're finally home.

## Gay Ass Mellon

Fuck this. Mellon is fucking bullshit.  
You're draining my life away.  
I hate you.  
This shit is never going to be done, ever.

## Stillness

As I sit in the darkness of my soul  
I stare into the starless sky at the moon  
So far and distant from the world of pain and suffering  
I stare into the memories of my happy childhood  
Of walks with Mummy in the park  
Laughing in the sun  
But now that happiness fades and gets harder and harder  
To see  
The world I know is fake and preppy and unreal  
I feel so poor, even though everyone gives me everything  
I get all, but feel so empty  
My heart is the night with one bright moon shining in the center  
The love of my parents and the love of God.

## Prayer

Thank you, God, for all the blessings you have given me  
My cup overflows  
I ask only the wisdom and humility to use them in your service  
I am but a grain of dust, so I ask you - let me do all that I can  
Before I return to you  
Open my eyes and let me never turn from you  
Help me not to lose sight  
Thank you for my family, friends, Brandi, and Gabriel  
Never let me forget that life is a GIFT.

## Regret

A soul too beautiful to be contained in a human body  
You were the best man I ever knew  
You had a light about you that touched everyone  
You ever met  
I'm so sad that I can't see you anymore  
I can feel you in the air around me  
I see your smile in the sunset,  
Hear your voice in the wind  
I miss you, Johnny  
I regret not spending more time with you

## Apology

I just want you to be happy  
With or without me  
For me, happiness is being with you  
I love you, and you put my soul at ease  
You make me happy, and seeing you happy  
Is the only thing I want  
I know that I don't deserve you  
And that I've made some mistakes  
I am very sorry  
But from my failures, I have learned  
What is truly important in life  
And that is you, Love  
You complete me  
The heat radiates from your skin  
And fills me with a warmth  
That I have never known before  
Your smile parts the dark clouds  
Hanging over my soul  
And your light leads me home.



## Beaten

Slowly I force a smile  
The weight of the world on my shoulders  
I look thru everything I see  
You've beaten me  
You can stop now  
I can take no more  
Happiness evades me like smoke  
In the night air  
Silently I walk these city streets  
This world takes and takes until  
There is nothing left  
I can't find myself in the mirror anymore  
The laughing little boy inside of me is dead  
Murdered before he ever got a chance to  
Feel the warmth of the sun on his face  
It rains on him now as he struggles  
To pick up his cross  
I give up  
Congratulations, fucker  
You win.

## Finding Sleep

He walked thru the rain on the cold city street, the silence broken only by the hum of neon signs or the occasional passing car. In his head played the days' events. Hour after hour on the phone trying to pump money from the scum of society for his already exceedingly wealthy boss. *He doesn't need that fucking money*, he thought as he listened to another desperate mother's sob story about how her baby's daddy's in jail and she just lost her job, *I need that money*. "Look Shaquina, just pay the fucking bill our we'll have to foreclose on the house", he hung up. Not naturally a prejudiced or uncompassionate man, years of being forced to be the "bad guy" had hardened his heart. It was the 28th, only two days left to meet the quota. The phone rang, it was his ex-wife threatening not to let there son visit for the summer if he didn't send her more money. "Julian needs summer clothes," she barked matter-of-factly over the phone lines. *Oh, so YOU need summer clothes*, he thought bitterly to himself as he slowly let the air drain from his lungs. "What happened to the four hundred dollars I send every month?", he asked. "I had to make the car payment, and you know I use that money for storage." The words burned in his head, *The bitch drives a Benz and can't afford to get the kid a God-damned outfit?*

His thoughts were broken by a woman and a young child hiding from the rain under the awning of the Kaufmanns. They hurried into a black car, the driver smiling lovingly at his wife and child. He watched them drive away, and closed his eyes. He thought about what Julian must be doing at that moment, sadly realizing that picture to be almost a year old by now. His pace sped now as he approached the bus stop; a cloud much darker than the night fell over him as he sat bathed in the unnerving light of the

sign in the store window. LIQUOR STORE.....LIQUOR STORE, the words pierced into his very soul. "No, I can't," he whispered under his breath as the battle raged on between his addiction and his will. *Who would care?*, he thought, *that's all anyone expects from me, they think I'm a joke*. This was a familiar trail. The cloud was getting so thick now that he doubted even God could see him dying there. He was torn apart as he stood slowly up, just then, the bus came around the corner. *Last bus all night*, he thought as he made the first agonizing step.

Sleep would not find him on the way home that night. He stared thru the glass, thru the world outside, as his thoughts were silenced by the sobering reality of his life. His feet were dragging as he entered his small apartment above a garage. "Almost thirty and I live above a garage", he muttered to himself as he passed face down pictures of a life that seemed so distant to him now. Frozen moments of happy days spent at the beach with his son...too painful to remember now. "I'm fucking starving", he said to the open air as he opened the refrigerator door, only to find an old hot dog and a packet of mustard from Macdonald's. *There's Vodka in the freezer*, the thought crept into his head. *NOOOO!*, his soul screamed against it.

He fell into the couch and flipped between the only three channels he could afford and tried desperately to forget, to let go. He tossed and turned in bed; every depressing detail of his life pounding in his head, racing and flying too fast for him to control. He lay there, alone and sweating, in his own private hell; surrounded by the cloud so dark and so thick that he could not see past his own hopelessness. He stared at the phone, praying that someone would call, somehow he would have some relief. But silence was all he heard as the bottle seemed to call, louder and louder, to him from the freezer. "I'll

take you out of this. I will make you numb", its incessant moan called out, until the sound was so deafening that he could hear nothing else. Finally, he screamed into the darkness, " Help me! Oh God, please help me. I am all alone. I can't take this anymore, please take this away".

"I am here, my son", the words floated thru his mind, he had heard without hearing. "And so is your Mother, she and I are with you always". "Mom!!!", he screamed, "Momma can you hear me? I need you!"

He waited until his ears hurt, but no sound was heard. But suddenly the phone rang, it was his brother Paul with understanding and gentle words of encouragement to help him thru the night. "Get some sleep now, goodnight", he heard as he hung up the phone. When he closed his eyes, he felt the warmth of his mother's smile on his face. "Goodnight son, I love you", she said as she tucked him in.