

LIVING AND LOVING

AN HONORS THESIS (HONRS 499)

BY

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maude M. Jennings, Ph.D." is written over a horizontal line.

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PURPOSE OF THESIS

It could be said that "Living and Loving" is my life. Indeed, it is a written record of all that I live for and all that I love. Some of the following poems speak of happiness and joy; some of pain and frustration; others of love and romance. All of my works speak of my innermost thoughts as they are spilled from my heart. I conclude with written lyrics to my songs and an accompanying audio tape. It is with great eagerness I assembled this brief testament and with a greater excitement now offer my life and love to you. And to you who have inspired me, I now dedicate my first collection.

Christ Is Love

Crystal waters rush to shore as
Heavenward I look and thank God for the beauty.
Rippling through calm air, a cool breeze brushes against my face.
I feel the warmth of God's love; I am not cold.
Silvery tears stream down my face like rain.
Time makes me appreciate all I have, yet don't deserve.

I pray to the Lord as he gives me strength.
Sitting in quiet meditation, I feel His power.

Lowering my head, I kneel to the ground.
Opening my heart, letting the Holy Spirit enter me once more.
Variant feelings fill my soul.
Emptiness I will feel no more.

The Horror of One Night

The horror of one night
Haunts me still today.
Of their fighting and screaming
While in bed, I lay.

At the tender age of nine
I realized with a start,
My daddy might be leaving.
It might break my heart.

My tears, a salty rain;
Not making a hint of noise,
I silently thought back upon
My sorrows and my joys.

I prayed to God,
"Don't let my daddy go away!"
The fighting continued, then silence,
Daddy didn't stay.

Waterstone Lake

Peaceful times are these
As before the waters
I stand in awe
And breathe new life
In the still air.
The music of the waters
Can be heard
Like a distant song as
Her waves brush the rocks
Enfolding her.
Reminded am I of
The tender love
Holding my heart;
Enfolding my soul
In reverence,
As the blue sky
Contains her world.
Surrounding me is that world
In full glory.
And even as I reach
To touch the waters;
To be refreshed
In its coolness,
I am lost
In the sun's warm embrace;
Finding peace and love
Abundant.

The House of Cards

This house of cards
Before me now
Of which I am so proud
Is the house
I now present
And boast of strong and loud.
For in this house
I did submit
All the many hours
To perfect each card-made wall
To create its every tower.
The pillars mark the entrance
The great hall lies within.
The many rooms in splendor made
Beg of you "Come in!"
The terrace leading from the back
Overlooks the sea
Where waters gently
Brush the rocks
And beauty is mine to see.
Every card for every wall
Is in its perfect place.
For I set it there so perfectly
With my own design and grace.

I sit back now to gaze upon
The wonder that I made
And marvel at the stability
With which each card was laid.
Yet even as I now behold
This house of cards, all mine,
I feel the chill of winter wind
Creep quickly down my spine.
Jumping to my feet, I race
To block the wind away.
O, Wind be merciful to me!
Be gentle now, I pray.
But despite my desperation,
Though I try to shield the blow,
Each card now before me falls.
The pain and horror show.
With one simple burst of wind
My house of cards did fall
And with it fell the pride and joy
In which I gave my all.
And in the pile before me now
Lies the pillars and the hall,
The many rooms in splendor made
I never dreamed would fall.

(continued)

The terrace leading from the back
That overlooked the sea,
Now humbly lies in ruins
With no beauty left to see.
Every card for every wall
No longer has its place
For now it lies in pieces
And my head falls in disgrace.

I sit back now to gaze upon
The wonder I had made
And reach to touch the fallen cards
That I had so gently laid.
O cursed Wind, how dare you move
To take revenge on me
When never did I harm you
Nor destroy all that you see.
Yet you look for ways to harm me
Ways to kill all that I know.
You have taken all I ever loved
Now I have nothing left to show.
But perhaps not only for destruction
(As I'm inclined to think)
Is why you blow my house of cards
In a single second's blink.
Perhaps it's to remind me
That this is what they are:
Not stone, or brick, or lumber.
It is a house of cards.
And for that very reason
My trust in this can't stay.
For faith put in a house of cards
Very quickly blows away.
Now I see, O Wind, your ways
Though the lesson's blow was hard.
And humbly now, I start again
To build my house of cards.

Passion's Memories

Passion's memories tear at my flesh
Where happiness years to settle.
Happiness is no stranger to this, my soul.
It was once nestled secure in my breast,
Yet was unmercifully withdrawn
At a loved one's whim.
Now that my heart beats uniformly
With the spirit of another;
Now that happiness once again is warmed by love,
Memories return in terror's form
To taunt my weary soul.
Haunted with Death's own love
Only to fall again?

Shall the game be repeated
In it's bloody triumph,
Where my mind, my soul, and my being are toys
With which to appease desire?
Or is each love significant?
If I lower the gates to vulnerability
Will I fall again into the snare of my past?
Or can I save the love I wish to unite?
To love freely, to love wholly,
To love beyond the grip of another.

Reverent Despair

I lie in your arms
Innocently your friend.
Nothing unusual; never suspecting.
You caress my hair, my face, my lips;
You brush my cheek.
Cover my face with the heat of your kiss;
The warmth of your heart.
Sinking into your embrace, your love;
Knowing it should never be.
But entranced by the affection of a reverent passion.
Who am I to accept the affectionate love of a friend?
Who am I to respond, hearing the warning of my mind and soul?
Truth is clouded in desire and righteousness.
Truth is lost in reverent despair.

time is obsolete

time is obsolete
disregarding
no time is better
nor far worse
yet inevitable
i have poured out my heart
in moments
of great emotion then
in tranquility been drown
in my own rationality
disconcerting ideas pass
for a moment in time only
to be pursued by another
so much more intense
confusion
i never denied my love
not to myself
not to him
no
not to anyone
but intensity was suppressed
and relentless
freedom overcomes love
for a time
maybe forever
somewhere
somehow
in the midst of a friends love
in innocence
i was conquered
unaware until it dissipated
in a seconds notice
with a kiss that brought
together two worlds
by tearing them apart.

This Love is Real

The beat of my heart quickens as
He looks deep into my eyes
Into my heart, my soul, my being.
Sinking helplessly in an unfamiliar world.

Listening to his sweet voice fill my ears
Only for me to hear my
Valiant prince, forever.
Eyes, still locked, I see the smile I've dreamed of so long.

In this man's arms, my heart finds peace.
Silently, I cry out for his embrace.

Reach for me and fill my heart.
Endlessly let your heart be joined to mine.
As I long to fill your heart's desire
Love, so real, consumes my every thought.

When I Look at You

When I look at you, I see
A man who fills my heart
With joy and blessed happiness.
In your eyes, I see the love
That fulfills my every need;
The gentleness that encourages my every step.
In your arms, I feel the strength
That confirms my safety;
The warmth that embraces me and holds me near to you.
In your kiss, I feel a renewed passion that rises within me
And seals the promise of my love.

Take me in your arms at will
Only make your love known
Hide nothing from my eyes, my ears
Let your heart be known to me
For to you, I give my heart;
To you, I give all that you ask.
Nothing would I deny you.
For love, when repressed, is not love.
But I give it freely to you.
Look into my eyes to confirm the truth;
There you will see who I truly am:
The strengths that unite me.
See also the weaknesses
And let your heart be moved, yet unchanged
For both reach to you and you alone.

Some would call it fate, others chance
That we be drawn together
And magic be that which binds our heart and mind,
But I know that a power far above this
Drives my heart to humility, my eyes to tears.
That source of perfect Love itself
That shows me how to love
Also fuels the love I give to you.
May my heart be gentle and quiet.
May my life be reverent and pure
That I become a vessel where Love flows freely
To touch you.

I feel the heart within me
Ache as it beats beneath my chest
And I long that you know me fully.
The tears trickle down my softened cheek
As thoughts of you overwhelm my mind.
Touch those tears, for they are yours
And as you whisper your love to me
Know that our hearts beat uniformly
As one,
And know
I love you.

Forever Yours

I gaze into your eyes and fall deep in love again,
As beside me lies the man to whom
My heart sings the notes of a glorious song.
Hold me firmly to you with the hands
That have created my world
And surround me in the passion of your strong embrace.
My fervent heart melts in the heat of your kiss.
Each time, my soul is aroused, awakened.
My mind forgets all that I once knew
And remembers only who you are
And what you do to me:
I love the way you call to me
As each word falls from your lips.
You encourage my weary soul
And strengthen me in my weakness.
I love the depth of your mind
As it fuels your creative, adventurous spirit;
As it searches for the God that made you.
I love the gentleness of your heart
For as gently as you caress my body,
So you touch my soul.
That same spirit so tenderly holds my heart;
So sensitively meets my every need.
It is such love that rises in admiration
That lets me trust you with my fragile heart
With no fear.
It is that love that burns excitedly inside me;
That longs to be revealed completely.
My soul reaches out to hold you
For it knows no other desire.
Hear me calling to you, my love,
Though no words can speak what I say.
For I long to take my every breath
As the woman your dreams have searched for;
To give you all that I am and all that I have
Forever.
Call me now,
Take me in your arms now to fall again;
Lost in the sensuous pleasure of your love.
And as you confirm your love and desire,
As my every dream and longing are fulfilled in you,
Let me sink into the passion that is only ours,
Without reservation.
Take me as your own, my love,
And let me be Forever Yours.

Two Lovers Dance

Searching through the darkness
She longs to feel the touch
Of the man whose love will
Set fire to her lonely soul.
Feeling through the night, she stumbles.
For surrounded is she in
The blackness of the room
In which she roams.
So often now she reaches out
Feeling the heat she longs for
Yet as she moves closer
All is chilled before she grasps.
Falling to her knees,
The tears flow to soothe her weary soul.
Her body bruised; her heart without hope;
Knowing she dreams the impossible.
But through her tears, she sees his shadow.
Though frightened, she remains still
To follow each move he makes.
She feels him near.
So gently, he reaches for her
Helping her to her feet;
Kissing the tears that remain.
And in the still darkness, he pulls her near him
As two lovers dance.

So tenderly he holds her body.
So close, she feels the fervent beat of his heart
Against her chest.
So reverently, he kisses her face
And cradles the fragile one in his arms.
With sweet music he fills her ears
And sings to her the words of his soul;
Longing that she know the truth--
The endless depth of his love.
Yet a chilled air
Keeps her from feeling the warm tenderness in his touch.
The blackness of the room
Blocks her eyes from seeing the precious gift
That so carefully holds her.
Fear keeps her from knowing
As two lovers dance.

Holding tightly to his body,
Though he would never let her go,
She longs to see his face;
To find the light in his eyes,
But in vain.

(continued)

He feels her body shutter;
The tears that again she cries.
He reaches for the hands
That hold so securely to him
In fear he might let go.
Yet taking those hands in his,
And assuring her one last time,
He leads her where alone she could not go.
As she reaches to feel the features of his face:
His cheek, his lips. . .
He kisses her hand and reaches for her again,
Pulling her close.
Confidently now, his lips passionately kiss her own
Surprising both as the embrace reveals their hearts completely.
With it, they bring a fire so bright, they now can see.
Looking now to his face,
She finds the eyes that warm her heart;
The fire now igniting her soul.
And as the melody plays on, unending;
As the darkness melts
In the brightness of the fire,
Two lovers dance.

As You Sit Before Me Now

As you sit before me now
As I watch the shadows of each move you make
In the darkness of a still chamber,
My eyes lovingly adore you;
My ears are filled with the sweetness of your voice;
My mouth longs to speak what my heart dares not say.
And as you reach for me,
In your gentle touch,
My hands long to give you all that you desire
As do my lips to fall helplessly
Into your passionate embrace.
Let me look into your eyes
And again find the peace that soothes my aching soul.
Let your heart speak again
That I may feel it beat fiercely against my chest as it
Reveals to me the words your lips hold secret.
Such dreams of love were never mine
Not had I felt its tender touch
Until the night you gave your love to me.
My darling, I long that you hold me near to you again.
For it is then that the fire that burns my soul is calmed.
It is as your words fall softly upon my heart that
I fall in love with you again
Always deeper than the time before.
Reach for me and take the hands that long to hold you.
Pull me close and hold the woman who desires only you.
Look deep into my eyes until you see the truth of who I am
And all I desire
And find your reflection there.
For with all I am
And all I will ever be,
I love you.

The Tragedy of Love

He is everything I want to be
And all my life's desire.
The morning sun that wakens me
And the stars that shine on me tonight.
Each moment I am in his arms
I long for nothing
But to remain.
For he is my bread, my wine;
The thirst of my heart;
The hunger of my soul.
One night without him near
And my mind rests on nothing
But the moment he returns.
For drawn together are we by fate
And by fate I belong to no other.
One night without his kiss
And all passion is silenced.
May no lover find consummation
In the arms of his beloved
And no one taste the lips
That time denies.
May night never find his morning
Nor the light she longs to offer
Til my lover finds me here.
O, Time now stop your wretched course
And Winds of Change be stilled.
Until my heart can withstand your deadly blow.
Yet as I lie alone,
You unsheathe your blackened sword.
The pain cuts through my heart
To sear my soul
And as the crimson stain
Is spilled upon your blade
And you deny me the life blood
I so long for,
I know the tragedy of love.

Endlessly

I long to touch you, darling
But I'm unsure just how.
My heart leaps within me
Knowing that you've waited for this moment
For what might seem like forever;
Knowing that this commences a new beginning;
A fresh start; a brand new world.
And my soul with yours rejoices.
Yet torn am I by Joy and Sorrow.
Mercilessly they tear at my mind.
Even now, as I stand before you,
Trying to be strong.
But the pain burning inside me
Is hot enough to scorch my soul
Till I fall upon my knees
To let the tears flow freely.
I search inside my heart to find the words
That I might show you
What I long to reveal.
But these are words only my heart knows;
Words that cannot spill from my lips.
My tongue cannot express the depth of the love
That is driven so far within.
Only you can reach it, now.
Only to your voice will it arise.
And though my body shudders,
Through my weeping eyes,
Look deep within me and find that love;
The desire that is only for you.
Hold me close to you tonight, and feel the pounding of my heart
Against your chest.
Sense the quickness now that you are near;
Now that you are close to me again.
Take me now.
Take the joy and sorrow;
The happiness and pain.
Take all of me in your arms
And know that with every breath I take,
My love for you grows stronger.
The love that will never cease adoring you;
Will never stop longing for the day
You return to me.
Reach for me now, my love, and
Drink from my lips as a seal of our love.
And know that as this moment progresses
And all I've feared comes true
Know that I am so proud of all you are;
Of all you'll ever be.
And know that with all my heart,
And with every breath,
I'll love you endlessly.

Desire

The world is hushed around me
Yet my heart beats fervently within.
I lie awake, alone.
But thoughts of you fill my mind.
I feel your presence
Despite the distance.
How I long to be in your arms
To share in the kiss that you gently give;
To see the face that stirs my heart;
To give my hopes, my dreams
To give all my love to you
Is my desire.

Falling into welcomed dreams:
You reach for me.
Pulling me close,
I rest my head on your strong chest
And I feel the heart within you
Beat as wildly as my own.
And it speaks to me
Convincing me that the love,
Secure within us,
Is the power that will keep us alive
Forever.
To give your hopes, your dreams
To give all your love to me,
That was your desire.

The heart within you calms
And you brush your hand across my face.
I feel the warmth of your love in your touch.
Tilting my face to meet yours,
You search in my eyes
As both of us find our needs met
In a glance.
Without a word
Your lips meet mine.
In a moment of passion
I lose myself.
Giving all my hopes, my dreams
Giving all my love to you,
Surrendering to my desire.

(continued)

Your hands, still caressing my face,
Now move to touch my neck,
My arms, then rest securely around my waist
Until you firmly, yet gently
Pull me close to you again.
As if we were one man
Complete in himself.
Our lips separate only long enough
For you to tell me you love me
Then shower my face with kisses.
You fill my heart with peace
Despite the quickness of our hearts.
Giving all your hopes, your dreams,
Giving all your love to me
Surrendering to all your desire.

As I open my eyes,
I search to see your face.
But quickly I realize
That dreams were all
That fueled my passion tonight.
My heart longs for the day
That my dreams become real.
My eyes weep for a time
That nothing again separate us.
My prayers petition this one request.
For you are my hope, my dream.
You are all my love
And my desire.

Author's note:

I feared, perhaps, my words might be misleading. This is by no means a political or philosophical response to Plato, who emphasizes truth as light, which certainly is to be desired. No, in my admiration of such a man of wisdom, I chose to let him be. My lines are as they say: an account of my passion and where it can be found. I wrote this when my life was changing rapidly and upheaval surrounded every turn I made. Because of this, I could not seek to fulfill all I desired except for when I dreamed, nor love the man my heart longed for because of the interference of the troubled world. Rather, it's in my dreams that I can find all I want and find it in perfection. And until the day arrives that day unites with night and I can have my passion in the light of the sun, I will long for the darkness where I may dream of what love is meant to be, for I can always find it there. This passion--what I long for most--for you perhaps is different, and your neighbor different still, yet to each of us our passion may be made real in dream; perfected in the night.

Passion

Passion fills my every thought
As dreams of him
Fall deep with me in sleep.
To hear the whisper of the wind;
To feel the blazing heat
Of summer's sun
As love fulfills his course.
Often now the night brings glory,
Though once my tormenting enemy.
Yet now the darkness
Hides the sight of lovers
That in my mind, i only see.
And there he looks for me
Beyond the conscious realm;
Where reality is but a nightmare
And a dream, my only truth.
There in restless longing
Comes the gentle touch that lights
The fire of love;
That it may brand it's mark upon my soul
And hush the cries of lover's lost,
That i might wear my lover's name
And long for no other.

(continued)

I drink of his lips
As the purest wine
To let the sweetness of the taste linger
For a moment
Before i partake again
Yet not in modesty.
For in his embrace now i lay
As racing hearts burn to consume our souls
And we are one.
Beyond the artificial world of man
Where the consummation of my rapture
Is scorned in the light of the day.
Monotonous is the travail in which i wander
Yet only for the day do its troubles
Bring discord.
For when i lay my head to rest
May intoxication be my guide
As entranced am i to sleep
To dream of love perfected.

May this night be mine to dream
For it is in darkness, i find my light
And in light of day i find no hope.
For it is the day that blocks
Man's eyes from seeing
The deception in his path;
The reality that is no longer his,
But only found in darkened hours.
Let me fall deep into my sleep again
That i may see the longing in lover's eyes
And feel the heat of his body as
He gently holds me there.
Till time has reached its blessed hour
And the awakened world be no more;
Till the sun rises in a land beyond my dreams
Where i am but his own
To give into the fire of my heart
And to my soul, give way to passion.

The Man I Love

This man of God of whom I dream, tonight has
Opened up a world in which I long to be.
Devoted is his heart, tender his touch.
Drawn am I to his arms to find his reverent love.

All I desire shines in the eyes that
Light the fire of my soul.
And excited am I by the smile that moves my heart
Now fervently beating beneath my chest.

Passionate is his embrace.
Alive am I when he is near. May he
Deny me not the love that inspires me for
Darkened is my world without his gentle touch.
One man's faithfulness brings awe to all I know.
Calling to him now, I feel his touch, as in his
Kiss I find the man I love.

My Heart's In Carolina (accompanied with audio tape)

The sun came up
In the sky today
'Bout the town that I've been living in
There's not a lot to say
It never stops a'rainin'
And there's not a lot to do
Just a'working and a'sleeping
And a'singing to the blues
But there's a place I'm dreaming of
Where I can cast my cares away
And I believe with every breath I take
That I'll be there some day

Cause my heart's in Carolina
Where the sky is always blue
The sun is always shining
And a lover's love is true
My heart's in Carolina
I can live without a care
My heart's in Carolina
Cause my baby's living there

When the evening star is shining
And there's a full moon in the sky
I'll be packing up my suitcase
And giving my goodbyes
I'll be calling up my baby
"Honey, I just called to say
I'm leaving in an hour
So I'll be with you today"
I'll catch a plane to heaven
He'll be waiting there for me
And in his gentle kiss
I'll find my Carolina dream

Cause my heart's in Carolina
Where the sky is always blue
The sun is always shining
And a lover's love is true
My heart's in Carolina
I can live without a care
My heart's in Carolina
Cause my baby's living there

Do You Feel the Love (accompanied with audio tape)

I watched
As you walked into the room
I saw your every move
I fell in love with you
You came
When you saw I was alone
In your hand you took my own
How could I have known that

In your arms
I'd feel the magic in your touch
In your kiss
I'd need you far too much

Do you feel the love
Do you see the passion in my eyes
Do you feel the love
Search your heart's desire
Do you feel the love

Now
As you're standing next to me
You're the only one I see
The only one I need
Your touch
Like none I ever knew
Has made my dreams come true
Now I long for only you

In your arms
I feel the magic in your touch
In your kiss
I need you far too much

Do you feel the love
Do you see the passion in my eyes
Do you feel the love
Search your heart's desire
Do you feel the love

I need you
I've got to have your love
Don't leave me here tonight
You're all I'm dreaming of
Inside
My heart's a raging fire
You are my one desire
I can't live without you

chorus

I Believe In You (accompanied with audio tape)

I lie in your arms in awesome wonder
I marvel at the man whose next to me
I know it as I look into your eyes
There's nothing in this world that you can't be

You could have the whole world if you wanted
You could have the heavens if you choose
And I know it as you reach to hold me close
There's nothing in this world that you can't do

And I believe in you
I believe in you
Look into my eyes and see
That you are everything to me
I believe in you

In between my tears of joy and sorrow
Sometimes I find love so hard to believe
But in your touch, each time you soon convince me
There's nothing in this world that you can't be

And when I wonder if we'll ever make it
When I question if our love will see us through
In your kiss you seem always to remind me
There's nothing in this world that you can't do

And I believe in you
I believe in you
Look into my eyes and see
That you are everything to me
I believe in you

In your eyes is all I ever hoped for
In your touch is all I'll ever need
You are the lover and the friend I've dreamed of
There's nothing in this world that you can't be

You offer all the strength and love that guides me
And every time you take my hand you prove
Your faithfulness and love is like no other
There's nothing in this world that you can't do

And I believe in you
I believe in you
Look into my eyes and see
That you are everything to me
I believe in you

In Your Eyes (accompanied with audio tape)

Your heart is such a precious gift
Tenderly I hold it before me now
In wonder.
Your smile how it reaches me
Excitedly my soul awakes again
In freedom.
Each time I feel your hand in mine
The touch confirms we've found our place in time
Together.

But in your eyes
I can see the rising sun.
In your eyes
I can see the stars above.
In your eyes
When there's nothing left to be sure of,
I could always see the love
In your eyes.

Those eyes are like the deepest ocean.
With a gentle breeze they calm the deepest fears
Inside me.
Oh, I was but a lonely vessel
Until those precious waves surrounded me
They hold me.
Let the waters cover over me
For it is in your eyes that I am drown,
But you save me.

In your eyes
I can see the rising sun.
In your eyes
I can see the stars above.
In your eyes
When there's nothing left to be sure of
I could always see the love
In your eyes.

And in your eyes
I can see the rising of the sun.
In your eyes
I can see the million stars above.
In your eyes,
Baby, when there's nothing left to be sure of
I could always see the love
In your eyes.
I could always see the love
In your eyes.
I could always see the love
In your eyes.

All I've Ever Wanted (accompanied with audio tape)

I stand before you now
As I look inside my heart
To find the words I need to say
But are tearing me apart.
And I know that you must go.
And I know what we must do.
But everything inside of me
Longs for no one else but you.

Hold me
Tell me that the night is over.
Touch me
And make the darkness fade away.
Take me
In your arms, where love can find us
And put this lonely hour behind us
Cause all I've ever dreamed about is true.
I've found all I've ever wanted in you.

I look into your eyes
As you reach to hold me close
And I pray this moment never ends
Yet my quickened heartbeat shows.
That I know what we must say.
I know what you must do.
And I know that in my breaking heart
That I can't live without you.

Hold me
Tell me that the night is over.
Touch me
And make the darkness fade away.
Take me
In your arms, where love can find us
And put this lonely hour behind us
Cause all I've ever dreamed about is true.
I've found all I've ever wanted in you.

You gently kiss my lips
And slowly turn away.
It's now that I would give it all
If you would only stay.
But I know what we must do.
And I know that you must go.
And even as you walk away
I know that there will be a day
When love will bring you home.

chorus