

evergreen

Poetry by Bobby Gelter



*dedicated to you-
for inspiring me
i thought I was blue
now I'm forever green*

i ripped off the bandaïd and my best friend was brought to tears

i'm kind of feeling embarrassed or shy about it all

what will they think of me?

better to be genuine and honest than to do nothing at all, i suppose

*You're not haunting any hallways here
I'm planning how to further decorate the wall
I decide on more mirrors so I can watch myself
Someone needs to keep an eye on you
People talk shit to gossip
or people talk shit to mask pain
Everything i've said about you
Is really a shame*

10/10/23

12:36am

*was it invisible or is it thin?
i'm trying my best to be patient
i can tell that you are, too
i haven't done this before
i can tell neither have you
i'm too fragile to not find out
i'm too delicate for if it breaks
you hold me tight while i fall asleep
every single night i sleep
but when i'm awake you're snoring
i hope you never find me boring
half the time i'm valid,
half the time i'm drunk
i'll meet you right there in the middle
until enough's enough*

*10/15/23
7:05 pm*

*i used to cry when the seasons changed
now i don't feel a thing
i used to hear you in the trains
now i'm not listening*

*i sit and rhyme instead of cry
and all my autumn days are fine
it's colder so i pull him close
you're not a friend of mine*

10/15/23

*i tripped on my shoelace on the way to our spot
the one you said you'd be at
you showed up late and didn't ask me how i scraped my knee
you said your day was bad
and it was such a long walk to meet me here
right in the center of our pasts
i try to be reasonable but you're hurting my feelings
and when i tell you that you look at me like i'm crazy
they say one heart's always beating faster
and i think that'd be me
i'd set sail on a broken ship
through hurricanes for years
to kiss you goodnight
you don't even think about moving your fingers to put me at ease
if what i've been asking
is not in your league
then pick a different player
and go on without me*

*if they broke underneath you i'd catch your fall
but no one eats sugar with eggs, after all
so i'll back off again and give you the cold shoulder
then tomorrow i'll grow cause i stay getting older
then you'll do it again and i'll write the same thing
it seems your intentions aren't the same as me*

did you read my book and think it was bad?

was it too much to speak on?

did it get sent to spam?

(it actually may have)

well you're only as good as your muse

and as tough as your toughest critic

my new muse is probably watching Monday Night Football or watching tiktoks

my toughest critic is the one who wasn't even there to witness

*autumn leaves are falling
and I think I'm falling, too
every time I try to stand
my toes just point at you
and if the snow falls
and you're near
i'll make you the warmest of fires,
my dear
and when all the flowers
begin in their bloom
I'll grow some outside
just for me and you
and when the frost comes
late that fall, then I'll know
I'll know what forever means
once and for all
the changing of seasons they once made me sad
but you make me forget about all of that
I'm a leaf in the summer, green like your eyes
but you're my new autumn, like all of the time*

*singing my favorite song stuck in my head
i mentioned how dashing you looked in bright Red*

*then the other night I almost cried myself to sleep
'til I saw you in that color of green*

*and the other day you showed up in a yellow
I'll hold my goodbye if you keep up the hello's*

*if you mixed reds with whites and you ended up pink
it'd bring out your eyes, I venture to think*

*and when you wear black
I just wanna scream
cause your eyes just get lighter
and lighter of green*

*you haven't caught on but I'd venture to say
you'd look good in any variation of shade*

*lost in the navy, didn't know what to do
I used to be Blue
but now I have you*

*cold blood running through my veins
i was singin' along
had already flipped a new page
that's when you said goodnight
a smile crept onto my face
the tiniest string and the littlest thing
proved once again you are the one for me
it's likely foolish and immature to you
but your love is like the color blue
but like the blue in a cruel summer not my poetry
and i love the way you hold my hand in your sleep*

10/20/23

10/23/23
9:30ish pm

*if everything crashes and burns
i think i'll get out of town
i'll take my time to australia like
James fucking Garner*

*i've been propagating some trimmings from my outdoor plants
when i was trimming a neighbor's cat came over and we hung out
for a while
achoo*

*i feel the most empathetic when i feel most fucked up
i feel free and authentic when when i'm all by myself*

*it doesn't seem like he likes me very much
i think he feels like i'm too much to handle
and i've been feeling like i'm running in circles around myself
trying to make it seem like i'm not expecting things
i don't think he likes my sentiments
i think he thinks that all of it is just dramatic
and i've been feeling like a burden rather than someone you care for
i'm so over being the one who has to try more*

*last night i wrote a bit about not being afraid of this winter because i have you to keep me warm
later we were on the phone and i said i wasn't dreading it this year for that reason
you didn't even acknowledge the sentiment
you said "oh i'm dreading it"
maybe you should get some hand warmers
and maybe i should just keep my sentiments to myself*

*green and purple vines
twisted like a braid
i don't like to sit still
especially outside
i kiss on your cheek
even just to pass time
and everything growing is oh so divine
i planted new roots
in hopes you'd be mine
you just need the water
cause my sun always shines*

10/27/23

“Halloween 2023”

*for so long I was afraid
running through the woods
retelling my ghost stories
never did any good
I gazed at the moonlight
year after year
letting loneliness creep in
like a paralyzing fear
The forest looks different
with the colors of change
you lead me to the clearing
and it felt very strange
My skeletons don't scare you
i've risen from the dead
on your lips you taste sugar
what I thought was blood shed*

*i'd set it aside if you told me to stop
i'd better myself if it was just on your watch
but you're not responsible for my misteps
and i don't remember how it all happened
but you swept me away like i'm under a rug
can't get pulled from beneath you if it sits up above*

11:11

i wish for you and me together every time

*i sit on the tallest branches
almost every single day
writing in my notebook of exaggerations
i sit and wait for you to walk by
but it always gets dark before you pass
i used to follow your voice through the darkness
lately only a pair of footprints makes its way out*

*i noticed that the sky outside my window is glowing
if you weren't here i'd be dancing around
this ain't my bedtime*
*i'll be tired in the morning when you leave to start your day
i won't fall back asleep because of things you didn't say
and things you didn't do and things i wish i knew*
*i used to feel feelings during a full moon
now i feel like i can't*
*i noticed lately that i'm anxious when i'm high
that only ever happens when i've got worries on my mind*
*if you're mine then why do i feel like i'm still trying to win you over?
i've been building up the strength to maybe take what i deserve
but then again you're here though you don't say a word*
*i could feel it in your kiss tonight
you wanted me to stop
i told myself don't overthink
then i fucking forgot*
*on second thought, the moon is full
and i was bobby before bobby was blue*
*and you're mine so i'm done relentlessly chasing you
I swear that I'm yours if you can just pull through*

*running after someone that's faster than you will make you lose your breath
i was walking in a straight line and now i've lost my balance
like coming down from a drug when you can't make yourself feel
that's how this feels*

*i said i'll give you some space and you said okay
if i wasn't who i am i'd probably have ended it before you hung up
if i never called i probably wouldn't have heard from you
while i may not turn away, i'm slowing down my pace
if you get there before me, so be it*

*you probably won't even notice i'm not behind you until you have something to
complain about*

*i'll let all my feelings out through persistence of my honor
i'll cry myself to sleep but you'll be none the wiser
you'll miss me once or twice a month
i'll start from scratch or kill myself
i just want you to hold me and convince me we're fine
it's only been a month, i shouldn't feel like i am dying*

*are we gonna topple over
before we even caught our balance?*

*i'm just not really feeling the love. sometimes i feel like i'm forcing you to spend
time with me or to talk to me. i can absolutely take the blame for being high
maintenance and for perhaps turning you off, but even when i have pulled back
and-*

*then you flip like the other side of my favorite record
you say "can i have this dance?"*

*i laugh to myself because if my mind was a ballroom
you've been dancing for three nights
i take your hand and my breathing stops
next thing i know you're in dreamland
and you're dancing again*

*i was driving home listening to an old nicki song
The cold temperature took me back for a moment
To the winters I spent paralyzed
I never really realized it had been so long
But it only took me back to you
For like a second there or two
I've thawed like ice in the sun*

10/22/23

“Evergreen”

*i'd accepted solitude
a chipper demeanor on a tightrope
walking outside to look around at lonely faces
who all love somebody else,
when will someone love me?*

*i'll admit it was begrudging
On my way downtown
another hi how are you
i can laugh about it now*

*i had painted my nails a bright color blue
like a favorite song i'd hate to sing about you
you complimented them when you walked in the room*

*you take Your time, and i take mine
i wondered how long it'd take for you to leave me
i showed my old colors while we listened to jazz
i let loose on my grip
you said you wanted to see me again*

*cliches are my forte
you're my new favorite person
i don't need to be saved
i just needed compassion*

*now you lift me right up
in an embrace or up two flights of stairs
now i wake up with indentations
from where you held my hand while you dreamed
one day you'll loosen that little gold ring*

*i still find myself
in the night and your eyes
i know that you see through my passive goodbyes*

*we've swam in the pool
and looked up at the leaves
someday soon we'll rush past the trees
to someplace that's warm,*

*and someplace that's true
i'd get frostbite and die
if it meant kissing you*

*i used to turn cold in the wintering months
now i have you as eternal good luck*

*you're my endless summer
i'd watch snowflakes fall free
if the eyes i looked into
were forever green*

*you're my endless lover
and my new halloween
and the eyes i look into
are forever green*

10/25/23

*He heard me open a drink through the phone
He said "what happened to not drinking during the week?"
I think I'll stop drinking during the week*

*My garden's been growing
into itself
in more ways than one,
if you couldn't tell
I take it to heart then
I find a new way
i wake up to roses
almost every day
and when they get droopy
i buy me some more
and when they get lonely
he walks in the door*

11/9/23

*maybe it was the music-
i found myself driving in the night
lit another one like greeting an old friend
i found myself doing what's right
even when I feel like the world's gonna end
as much as i want you, i want myself more
and i'm further from me than ever before
but i pull myself back when i need to and can
to the depths of a raging emotional man
the music is moves me, the night sets me free
have you been yourself since dancing with me?*

“bob’s blue”

*maybe everything i wrote was true
like how after that i never grew
but i’m like this because of you
and i get no validation, so now Bob is blue*

10/24/23

11/11 at 11:11

*“make a wish”
you said
i’ve been wishing
for forever
for you and me
together*

*11:11 part 3
11/12/23*

*i've known you 111 days
(if only this were yesterday that'd be insane)*

*there's a forest green tshirt you left at my place
and now penciled hearts aren't all that i trace
i could water it down and throw in some sense
but missing you's my new favorite fragrance*

*i have the best of intentions
i only want you
i hope that you mean it
that you want me, too
i'm fighting each day
to see to the facts
but when my mind goes there
i overreact
and then you come smiling
like nothing is wrong
singing some line
from a taylor swift song
you twirl me around
and give me a kiss
another blue checkmark
on my little list
i hope when you leave me
you miss me a lot
or when you step out
that you have second thoughts
i hope that i'm lying
and it's all from my past
but surely your interest
in me couldn't last
i did it again
i swear i have hope
but i feel like i'm walking
on the lowest of rope
cause you said it's all fine
and that should set me free
but good enough for you
i will never be
i'm lying again
my intentions are pure
i'm sorry if sometimes
i make you unsure
if you're playing with fire
or struck some good luck
but for me a hand to hold
is always enough
so please just be true
or you'll cement my fears
i want to be laughing
in a couple years
about what i said
in that poem one time
about how you'd leave
i'll be yours, u be mine*

*my greatest heartbreak isn't that guy
who left me alone when i turned twenty-five
it isn't that fuck down in south florida, either
or the one who i loved in empty movie theatres
it's the one that i sang through the night with for years
who i soon may forget cause we loved to drink beer
who would drive me around while i looked at the road
to the soundtrack we loved covered in indigo
who's the funniest person that i've ever met
tonight i played perfect places once again
and i walked in my door
and i knew you weren't there
but for the first time in a while i decided to care
so i put ella on and i'm singing our songs
sometimes you're lucky for just way too long
and tomorrow i'll go back to hating your guts
and lying through white teeth as shiny as us
i'm happier now and i guess that's what matters
you'd love him, too
then my champagne glass shatters
sometimes this bass is too heavy for me
to take on my own
when i'm missing my Steve*

11/18/23 2:17am