

Poetry Series

Gainor Ventresco Laney
- poems -

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Gainor Ventresco Laney(March 29,1963)

A Farewell To Spring

As Persephone to Hades
lower, lower into the fire
but this time, there will be no Spring
Let the Great Mother wander the barren earth
she will not find me
No fresh and dewey morning
can lure me from this grave
No greening bud or trickling waters
seduce me or open my eyes
There is comfort beneath the moss covered soil
A lullaby of finality
a dirge of somber freedom
Spring holds no beauty now
only eternity can redeem such a life as this
My sin is mortal
my punishment Divine

Gainor Ventresco Laney

A Perfect Shade Of Blue

Somewhere between the light and the dark
having cried, but not all of my tears
I found a shade of blue to call my own
Vibrant lemon yellows,
the green of Sicilian olives,
sunsets orange dazzle,
the blackest, ripest plum
have already been splashed across my inner canvas
But today
and maybe now for always
It's a Mediterranean blue spilling from my heart
filling me up
Cool, deep, fathomless
between light and dark
a perfect shade of blue
to call my own

Gainor Ventresco Laney

A Summer Evening In February

Emerging from this timeless tomb of desperate ironies
I too, feel
intuit
know my perceptions are biased
towards the unreal
I forgot to remember you have to come down slowly
from the isolation of the soul
Can't let go now
Want to bathe in the light
to burn deep scars into my memory
to never lose this

Gainor Ventresco Laney

All That Is Good Dies Before You

You're going to kill this for me
I can tell.

Your black, insidious presence
will strangle this love.
The deranged familiarity of your destructive words
paralyzes me.
Every last morsel of my fragile psyche,
that you violently tore away,
is now stuck in my throat
along with my pride.
Each tender, hopeful blossom
which has had the will to bloom here,
in the barren poisoned earth of my soul
you crush.
You force me to embrace my insignificance,
teach me to be untrusting
to doubt beauty
to question truth
to endlessly look for the hidden meaning
to listen for the dirge
inside the symphony.

You are in bed with my lover and me,
violating my mind
reminding me I'm unloveable
worthless
ugly
And then your the empty place beside me
smug and self righteous.

I want to kill you more than ever
deafen my mind to your maniacal voice
But my methods of exorcism only make you stronger
Once again
all that is good dies before you
Once again
you prove me to be a weak and cowardly opponent
Your hands around my throat

wrenching the love from my heart.

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Amaze Me

Sometimes you amaze me
You with your quiet strength
wisdom, insights
You inspire and excite me
Draw me into your world
so different, so new
Open my eyes, renew my faith
in myself
in you
in love and honesty and trust
tenderness inciting passion
Elemental yet elusive to me
before you
before us
Never thought my soul could hold so much
that my mind could wrap so tightly around an ideal
The spark, the flame, the muse of my heart
my here and now
Sublime pleasure has freed me
once caged, now soaring
A ray of light, a song on the breeze

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Anthem

Sing an anthem to the sky today
an ode to the vastness and infinite beauty of the universe
stretch your mind to embrace a new view
from a window made of shattered glass
find the prism there
Beyond our fragile, narrowed scope of reality
lies the mystery
the ecstatic experience
Focus and ponder the yet unimagined
allow the fractured, trodden dream you once held closely
to reinvent itself deep within
In that place where you dared not seek it
In that silent, sacred vault
Inside your ragged, gypsy heart
reborn
Chant your mantra to the sky today
and let your parched and wounded spirit answer

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Arizona Dreaming

When I finally let it go
after being desert wanderer to your oasis
I found my parched heart
absorbed with you
All of me has bathed in that light
transcended time and space
A desert rose
warm within cracked stone

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Baptism By Fire

How long will this go on?
Consumed daily by this passionate fire
...the way I tempt fate
tease the flame closer to my eager skin
I have taken this nameless obsession
and set it to music
For each year that has passed
when my heart remained frozen
I have taken a vow
dedicating myself to the thawing
I feel, touch, taste each exquisite moment
Whether stolen or given as a gift
Mine now, to wrap in black velvet
keep as a treasure
One by one, I lit the candles
watched them burn
Blue, for my soul in turmoil
Red, for my one true love
Black, for that place unspoken
White....
I save for you alone
Although logic and history dispute this:
we will light it together on the darkest night
illuminate eachothers shadow
at the alter of my desire

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Be The Sunset

No longer satisfied simply watching the sunset
I feel compelled to stretch fiery fingers of light
across the universe
Radiate red and orange brilliance
Glow and shimmer as diamonds
on a watery palette

Be amazing

Be the sunset

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Breathing Under Water

I don't want to be so crazy
Can't stand to feel this murky blue wave slide over my mind
pulling me down into the dark and haunted places
The fear that binds me
angry anxious tears that choke me
just another way to undermine and falsify my true beliefs
another slippery stepping stone
slows me from reaching the light on the other side
self doubt burns me raw
exposes my weakness
making me vulnerable, naked, untrusting

Deep within lays the answer to a prayer
gentle rain for an arid heart

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Common Ground

The black women poets sang to me
white as sand
of flower eyes and caged birds
love and freedom
Down inside
they crushed me 'till I bled

The words I write now
too shallow
too empty
Cannot explain my need
to meet again on common ground

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Delilah To Sampson

No more will you find me
on the sun scorched sands of time
dancing to the music of our hearts
You scorned and shamed me
forced me to steal your desire
to bury our passion
deep within my pagan soul
Other women who you loved
with transient rapture
seek you, nevermore
It is me
temptress of your soul
scarlett queen
jilted, jaded lover of your beauty
The hands of fate
which now captivate you
are mine
No Goddess can release you
from this bondage
Eternal lover
sleep now and dream
with ageless memories of Paradise

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Desire

If desire, falling down from her mountaintop
should wrap herself around me
and bind my drenching
I could not want you more
Among us, you are the inky running words
and blistered pages
the burned and burning moments
when arid bodies bless the rain
and gasping mouths receive grace
from the highest branch
black berry, dripping sunshine
and only after quenching
does music reach within
touch the chord
only in the drowning moment
does our chanted prayer
become the dream eternal.

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Desire (If She Fell Down)

□

If desire, falling down from her mountaintop
should wrap herself around me
and bind my drenching
I could not want you more
Among us, you are the inky running words
and blistered pages
the burned and burning moments
when arid bodies bless the rain
and gasping mouths receive grace
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black berry, dripping sunshine
and only after quenching
does music reach within
touch the chord
only in the drowning moment
does our chanted prayer
become the dream eternal.

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Eclipse

O luv, how foolish I must seem to you
torturing myself over each imagined rebuff
sulking and shutting down
my response to the casual remark
internalized
You know me
heart carelessly on sleeve
hoping for the best...
expecting the worst
Such a pity you arrived late
in a long line of disappointments
The innocent always pay the emotional debt
incurred by transgressors
But I believe one thing....
if anyone can:
talk me
laugh me
dance me
love me back to my truest self
it is you
my temple in the midst of chaos
brilliant, enlightened passion
a rare and healing gift
My evening star,
shining for an eclipsed heart

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Every Time And Never

every time and never over and above the whispering trees and rolling surf
of an open mind
in the stream
i lept through the fire and became another person in my mind
i never saw the truth until it bit me and then i never saw the truth
once again i stay locked in the hole and my only comfort the other locked down
ones who have been waiting there for me
several years of contentment and then the magic will go to the furtherest
recesses only to reappear in forms unattainable
to taunt me and to run through my reality with a sword of truth
delivering to me my truth which is a lie
'his flower eyes crushed me till i bled'
'never give your heart to a heart hungry lover'
sorry alice
but you don't live here anymore and i do
so f*** off and give me your words
i have my own but cannot bring them out
only want to make them see it is me
i want to be that un noticed and that necessary
sorry M. i did it again

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Far From This Place

Imagining, imagining
dreaming of a world all my own
Rising from a misty moonlit night
far from this place
Forgetting everything now
every star as it burns and falls
echoes through the vastness
of some spacious tomorrow
and only in my mind
where I live
do they shine again
Only on a misty moonlit night
this place a memory now
All the world inside my dream

Gainor Ventresco Laney

February 27 Afterglow

Where do I put this feeling?
As ancient walls crumble
and my heart beats again
after it's long, frozen winter
Every word
touch
echoes my fathomless sea
The moon has followed me home again
Illuminating
exposing in her cool, white river
The ethereal light I now carry

Gainor Ventresco Laney

For S., With Love

I wanted to write for you
about you
A poem to show my love
as conventional ways have become obsolete now
and songs die on the muted tongue
I wanted to move your heart
to change something
Not you, perfect in your imperfection
I wanted to plant myself inside you
so you could feel my need and echo it
through the sunrise
to want me as your own
to bind me here with silken dreams
that only we could share
I wanted to write for you
a poem to show my love

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Giving In

I'm shutting down again
Building the wall with your silence
filling in every sweet crack that had formed
For a moment, I allowed myself a glimpse of what could be
if only happiness wasn't so fleeting
And now your bored with me
I sense the door closing between our hearts
Silently, I push it shut
Down, down into the black
so familiar and cold
I can not let myself believe
any light will again find me here
Giving in is so easy

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Haunted

I remember mornings like this
drawn curtains in a shadowless room
bodies entwined and dreamless
disposable lovers
temporary
soothing as a band aid on a broken bone
Wine drenched memories
and a longing to forget
the common ground they danced on
a found intimacy
greedily snatched like stale candy from a bowl
sticky and grainy
with only a hint of long lost sweetness
Ghosts move behind them in the candle glow
nothing really dies;
The heart has a conjuring memory-
and mornings like these....
haunted.

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Heart Full Of Love

I was cursed with a heart full of love
open and trusting
unaware and innocent
a lamb to slaughter

Better by far to be born with a hollow empty chest
a black and vacant shell
a flinty heart
Then love might find no where to rest
and turn away, repelled

But my heart is plump and inviting
and when words
like razor blades
draw their deep red ribbons into my flesh
the pain is not new or unexpected
simply the result of a heart full of love

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Heart On A String

This morning, I chose life
Summer is gone
with her she has taken my seaside dreams
I stood too long at the shore
in the moonlight
I let the falling stars
find their way into my eyes
and the reflection there was blinding
All I could do was listen
...to the rolling surf as it covered me
...to the song an August breeze played in the highest branches
My heart a kite at the end of a weathered string
And when the string broke.....
All I heard was the laughter of the Gods

Gainor Ventresco Laney

If This Is How I'M Meant To Die

If this is how I'm meant to die
let it happen now
Before harsh realities and tainted memories
consume me
Entangled in mornings empty arms
once again
changed forever
no souvenirs
no hushed words from lofty bar stools
no kisses
dissapating in the air like smoke rings
I long for absolution

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Immortalized

You brought me here to show me something
thinking I had forgotten?
Impossible.....
The nuances run through my veins like a slow morphine drip
incideous
surging
I am ensconsed in a familiar hazy reverie
Daily
nightly
at noon
and every hour, on the hour
So save the guided tour of a broken hearted misery
I live my grand folly
my mistake
my misguided, misunderstood misadventure
I am immortalized
not in stone or cold, heartless marble
But a flesh and blood effigy
a shadow
a whisper

Gainor Ventresco Laney

In your Eyes

In your eyes
I found myself
drenched in your beautiful soul
in languid depths
shimmering, warm
oceans of green tranquility
There, I find my answers
to questions my lips can not form
and no longer desire to
It is enough now
to swim silently among your dreams
to follow them to the place
where they blend with my own
For I have seen the dark beauty
the magic behind your eyes
Holding my breath
I immersed myself in the depths of your mystery
and found a treasure there
which I hold next to my heart
The gentle waves of bliss carry me along
Changed forever

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Just Go

I have wandered alone
Through the dust flecked light shafts
of half truths
and undisguised lies
Sifted and sorted the remnants
of my prophets revelations
Clung to the drunken ramblings
of unfortunate muses
Only to arrive
full circle
where the journey began
Along the way i have buried
then ressurected
graceless saviors
so we could pray together for absolution
or at the very least redemption
Now, I am ready
to stand at the crossroad of my fate
once again choose a direction
and just go

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Let It Flow

I am writing again today
And it's a morning when words flow seductively
and stick to the pages like honey
I'm not trying so hard to choose a phrase
to please another poet
I am writing today for the poet of my heart
The critic who sleeps within

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Lost

What difference does it make now to try and be brave
every day for no one but God, who doesn't care and has lost track of my soul
Even the Prophet can not move me to some deeper meaning anymore
I'm black and blue on the inside this time and no one can save me
from myself
I cry my silent tears for no one now
Because No One is the only love I have
Cold hearted lover of mine
metering out affection like a drug
Taking from my soul, one bite at a time
I kill you every night and every misty morning you return stronger
My weakness is a deep desire
to saturate myself in contradiction
to live in the dark embrace of my longing
One day I will transcend, I know
I will trade in these worn out desires
for wings

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Lover

I scattered your words across the beach tonight
under a three quarter moon
while gentle waves lapped at my toes
and the whole evening seemed to vibrate
The words, you had written urgently
on plain white paper
so filled with emotion
and longing
astounded me; resounded in my soul
The love you spelled out so plainly
I never knew
a feeling so raw, the depth of your heart
And it was then I tore the pages from your notebook
tore and scattered them into the thick, salty August night
sorry I had found them
words to break my heart
those achingly beautiful words
written for another lover

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Morning

With mornings gauzy dream
web'd across the eyes of sleep
and tender, perfect ribbons
of amber and rust
tracing, solemn fingertips
I found you
stolen by the night
broken by the day
lingering upon beggars lips
I will crawl
my slow soul awoken
as daybreak claims all
we can not surrender.

Gainor Ventresco Laney

My Poison

The question I long to ask you
spills over my tongue
hits my teeth
And I swallow it down like Cuervo and lime
How long can I stand to savor
this salt encrusted parody of life?
To have these questions burn my throat
all the way to my toes
and back again
Just this one time I would like to be brave
to spit out this masticated obsession
purge my soul
empty as an Easter morning tomb
regain my purity
and never be sated
For the question is my poison
Cleopatra's asp and Shakespearean hemlock
But instead I binge on self doubt
and continue to let the questions
(which my heart has already answered)
kill me by degrees

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Questions

Perhaps alone was better
...more predictable
Then waiting for my distorted perceptions to be realized
Never been so happy
never before cared if something was lost
Afraid....
to wake in the morning
and find him gone
To look with honest eyes
and see only my love
reflected in his soul
Am I trying too hard to show my love
or have I failed to be sincere?
Can a woman ever truly know
when her lover is in love
or does the blind desire
cloud her mind
make things seem solid
when she's standing on mud
Are the swirling stars in my mind
the heady, drunken insanity of love
or the inevitable confusion
of that final, crushing blow

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Saved

For being here and staying
when i felt abandoned, even by my own heart
Let me thank you now
After all the years I held my breath
couldn't move
couldn't fly
For all the times I was afraid
and lost
and praying for deliverance
Let me tell you now
how you came into my heart
and swept it all away
in spite of me
And how you live there now
every day and all through the night
Showing me that the mysterious hazy shades
are the most vibrant
when you shine them across my heart
With you here, I can bury the bad dreams
tell my secrets
share my truths
forget to lie
Because I'm living in a new world we created
from the shattered pieces of me you saved

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Seasons Of Exile

Solemnly, I have cast my circle
summoned my Goddess
chanted and prayed to the blackened skies
Standing alone, as from habit
or circumstance
trusting only my familiar
mouthing words for the deaf
From which of the four directions shall come my bliss?
Candles lit, sparking midwinter thaw
I can gaze beyond this illuminated exile
Once there was a place inside
where magic lived
unbeckoned
unconjured
Ambivalence wounds the child within the poet
Indifference kills the fragile spirit
Curse me instead
better damned than forgotten

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Seeing U Again

Seeing you, my reluctant muse, has restored me once again
You remembered the day we met and i took you home in the rain
on your birthday and we found ourselves in eachother
In the morning with our coffee and tangerines, walking to the beach
because you did not want to go home□
after all this time and space and madness
my heart remembered all my mind had forgotten
you gave me a book, you had carried in your bag since that first night on the
Point
The pages and pages i wrote u then now seem insincere and common
i re read that poetry now only on your birthday, the day you set me free
Fate and my sleeping demons allowed me to find you again
Again you found me empty and lost
Again you restored me
Again and again and again.....

Gainor Ventresco Laney

The Abyss Revisited

Walking away from the ashes
I took one long look back
closed my eyes
stood on the edge
and with your arms around me,
jumped into the clear and crystal promise of the abyss
And for the first time
in a long time
maybe never before
the ground has not rushed up to meet me
The storm has broken and the wind against my face is carressing
The clouds part for us-
Love is raining in my heart

Gainor Ventresco Laney

The End Of The Dream

At the end of the dream i never wake up
I live on in a thousand different scenes
from a play un acted
only felt
once there was a way
to dropp the curtain on my madness
now it only duplicates in my heart
once there was a word
to bring me back
but the deafness of fear and the mute black throat have won
it's 5 am
lovers sleep, real and remembered
and i only dance while i die

Gainor Ventresco Laney

The Untelling

My heart and my feet long to travel
I woke at 3am and lay with my dreams
held them close
wrapped them warmly around my lover and me
let them seep into our skin
permiating the cold November morning

By this time next week
I'll have put so many miles between myself and this life
Waking up far from this barren and unforgiving place
too far for memories or persistent
zombie eyed ghosts to follow

Along the way I will untell my story
and
at last
free the bird in me

Gainor Ventresco Laney

This Maine Morning

I do not want to write anymore of my pain
I have shed the blood of my heart for much too long
And still, there is more
I am seeking, every moment that I breathe
For the magic connection with another like me
Another who's eyes look inward
Another who has stood so alone against the inner storm
I have sought, found and lost that one in a thousand ways
I have come to this place to collect my dreams
I scattered them here once and they ran from me
I have been afraid to seek them out
To find them small and hollow
Not as I remembered
Although the nights become so long now
And I can not quiet the maniac in my head
This one morning in Maine may restore me
I feel inspired now to create a new dream
To search for the lost among the missing

I will write today for you, a love song for the forgotten

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Timeless

Sweet, I think
that your best work refers to the ocean
the very thing I love the most
It runs salty in my veins
crashes in my ears at night
Calls me siren-like to its edge
and draws me in
as you have
A cool embrace on hot, weary skin
a watery blue tempest
spilling shells and sand
Treasures-
precious to me
timeless

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Toward Bliss

Trust is a small bird
in two cupped hands
a rare exotic totem
for the longing to fly
for the courage to spread dewey wings
and escape

Faith is a whisper in my ear
an urging to raise my head
to listen for the prayer
chanted for me on the wind

Love is a memory tapping at my skull
a shiver on the back of my neck
a reminder that somethings coming
an invitation to the ecstatic experience

Hope is the spider in my chest
creating a web within my heart
a delicate sparkling ladder
for my soul must travel upward
liberated

Gainor Ventresco Laney

We Will Always Have The Ocean

And she said,
while he stood there
with tomorrow in his suitcase
and yesterday disappearing as vapor on the hot street

'We will always have the ocean'

The trees
with their branches swaying overhead, lied
shedding their leaves like tears at summers end

Warm breezes, carressing and seducing
as we lay in the dark with our secrets
became fickle and turned cold and unforgiving

Even the moon
which bathed us in her cool, white river
betrayed us in the end

But the ocean is our constant-
Our rushing forward and our standing apart
The salty crashing together
and now
our falling back
our steady flow to another shore

Let all of nature break the promises she made
We will always have the ocean

Gainor Ventresco Laney

Wings

A feeling this morning
an ethereal rapturous moment
has infected my twilight mind
and hesitant as I am to free this bird
she beats her wings
and pleads with black pearl eyes
Her silenced song was more familiar and comforting
than the heartsick melody she has begun
What if I reached into her cage
held my fingers on her tiny beak....
clipped her wings...
avoided the dark and pleading eyes...

Some voices cannot be muted
Visions can become clearer behind closed eyes....

Look up....up!

See her sparkle as a jewel
flying away into the morning sun

Gainor Ventresco Laney

You Again

It's you again
in the gray dawn
Moving like a shadow across my heart
From the corner of my mind
I feel a presence
a fading memory
of a moment in time
unchanging
elusive
thick as honey
with a bittersweet afterglow
Eyes closed
I can see clearly
as you drift away
Only to reappear in my dreams

Gainor Ventresco Laney

You Didn'T Ask

You didn't ask me 'How are you'
and for that I am grateful
Because, you being you
I would have told you honestly
how I am

I'm falling apart
I'm confused
I'm just hanging on
to what's left of me
I may have told you
I feel solitary
misunderstood
tricked and betrayed
that tears threaten to spring
from my disbelieving eyes

I could have said
my search for the Divine
has led me further from it
That my heart aches for beauty
for truth
for justice
yet, I'm assaulted with chaos

My honesty evokes lies
my love is returned with ambivalence
I would have told you I am disappearing
and goodbye

But you didn't ask...
and for that I am grateful

Gainor Ventresco Laney