

Poetry Series

**Jemima Rivas**  
**- poems -**

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# Jemima Rivas()

# Ant

Oh beautiful ant;  
How precious art thee?  
You make me look in wonder enviously  
As you look viciously  
Your clippers drag the ground as you take the lead  
Then you grasp at a very huge cricket indeed  
Oh what marvellous faith  
Then others come to help suddenly  
Oh what marvellous unity  
I have lost track now, you are all the same  
Alert me next time you drag a cricket to your nest again

Jemima Rivas

# Contemplation Upon Advice (Taken To The Extreme)

Good gosh she must proclaim  
A strange unbelievable stress  
A brick wall she built, I take  
Good gosh I must say she made a big mistake

□

There was this fellow who claimed she interested him  
That I spoke not of before  
His hope she defused, she did refuse  
I must say that his woos, she did ignore

This guy sat near her in the taxi  
He bounced he winked and smiled  
She caught a panic attack  
And started trembling fearfully

There are many instances  
Where she also faltered still  
Her best friend tossed her his heart  
And she broke up with him

Memories of her papa  
When she was but a kid:  
"Keep your virtues child  
And cherish them with all your will"

His lessons she kept dearest to her heart  
Even though they were decades apart:  
"Careful who you let handle your heart"

In church she met this lad  
He was the cutest heavenly thing  
Once he said he liked her  
She became the knottiest thing  
At that very instant she was done with him

Was her papa wrong when he told her,  
Shield her heart?  
Will she never be able to laugh and smile and  
Toss her curls?

Would she ever be like those other girls?

Is she a pole?

Or is she as useless as rare old stone?

Good gosh I am sure it couldn't be

For she says;

"My knight would soon come rescue me."

Jemima Rivas

# Coy The Woman

Drama. Talk about DRAMA!  
Yesterday she had a production.  
The coy mistress she was  
well, They wanted her to play the woman  
her. The woman  
Well she played it and she was awesome  
talk about her. walking in there  
dressed like Olive Senior's  
Snake woman.  
her hair loose and tossed back  
like she never wore it before  
well she gave her tutor a fright  
dressed all slicked down and tight  
she an angel all in white  
could transform  
curves in places she herself had never seed before  
Of course she gave herself a fright  
She took a step out of the light  
and you bet she was a breath taking sight  
but she gave them quite a fright.

Jemima Rivas

# Fate

I am scared of my fate  
Going at this fast paste  
Not knowing what to expect  
So much tragic incidents I met  
Oh my fate my fate  
I have to hold faith for my fate  
Oh my fate my fate

Jemima Rivas

# Fireworks

In the gloominess of night  
Hearts shivered continuously  
Like magnets they pulled together quickly  
In a car park filled of cars  
Where drizzled waters had left remnants  
Plastered across the shining windscreens  
One was the lighter  
The other was the bum  
Then together they made a colorful night  
By creating fireworks  
They made such strange noises  
That attracted nearby passerby's....  
But fireworks never last forever it's a sadly costly joy....  
For another day I saw her on the spot  
Didn't realize at first I was thinking a lot  
"Hi doll sup"  
I trembled when I saw her stare up at me  
For she was crying bitterly  
Then she did the scariest thing  
She snatched me and emptied her trouble  
I guess all who likes fireworks should decline  
For all they leave is rubbish behind

Jemima Rivas



# Good Morning

Good morning the sun is peeping  
Waiting to welcome the new day  
Good morning, good morning the trees are swaying  
The morning is fresh, oh beautiful morning;  
Waiting to welcome a new day  
Now that the day has broken  
What a beautiful open  
It has pushed away the blackness of night  
Only that we might  
Enjoy a beautiful day

Jemima Rivas

# Happy Times

You have got my face  
Got my nose got my body, curves  
And curls  
And still you adored for the cuter one  
It's unfair but I don't care  
Once I know we are having fun  
Popcorn to the movies  
Sister Sister at the schoolies  
The call us double, call us twin  
All the games they say you win  
Am just glad to tag along  
Once I know we are having fun  
You do the talking  
I will do the smiling  
After school when we are liming  
I don't have to think I am always time out  
While you plan our whereabouts  
Sister Sister Dance's poses and the rhyming  
My head in a book  
You give me that look  
Yet you are always the one to ace that science test  
When we are going out you already picked out my clothes  
Brushed my hair rearranged my curls  
And everywhere I go people call out our names  
I owe you big for this exciting fame  
Same eyes, same clothes, same look, same pose  
Pairing off playing love  
Doing switching tricks on stupid boys  
Arm in arm we leave the school  
Those school days were really cool

Jemima Rivas

# Hidden Intentions

Hidden Intentions

You looked at me

I had no idea who you be

To me you be what you looked

My heart you taught you took

I was wrong; tis my song

Every time I think

I am glad I did not sink.

Jemima Rivas

# I Have More To Live For

The car scattered  
They all looked battered.  
But on me  
The only thing  
That was truly battered  
Was my fate  
While I sat there  
At heavens gates  
I realized I had more to live for  
As he said authoritatively  
What are you doing?  
Slow down or you will get killed?  
And I realized I have lost control  
I know now that I have more to live for  
Although I have lost my car  
I have more to live for  
If he hadn't took the steering  
I would have been gone  
I know now that I have more to live for  
Although I hadn't died  
I have wounded my pride  
But I have more to live for  
I've met God.

Jemima Rivas

# Kindness

Faith

Virtue

Knowledge

temperance

Patience

Godliness...and

Brotherly kindness

If Jesus calls me now

I'll cross the river Jordan

Going to meet my lord

And I don't need ah golden casket

keep your monies in your pocket

I know you would want to fix my hair

bring me roses show you care

but

I can't smell fresh roses in there

I don't need tux

can't look pretty in that box

Over in Glory land I'll be holding Jesus hand

an I don't need a golden casket for my cities are now in gold

I cant smell fresh roses in there

so while

am spending time with you bring me roses now

we need to open up show out your love bring me treasures of gold

while I can enjoy

Don't you shed your tears save them for sorrows in years

cause am happy with my lord

Don't you dear say you would miss me

cause i'll be happy with my heavenly family

so why not share tears of joy now

don't you dear feel you have to cover me up and pat me down

cause I wouldn't be able to thank you

so why don't you take me to town and show me all around

come come come

am right here you can stare, tell me am beautiful

and I've been a good girl

but please

don't stare over that box

and weep and cry and say

she was very very good  
I've been to ceremonies like these and  
I can plainly see its pure dishonesty...

Jemima Rivas

# Knock

A knock on the door  
Who could it be?  
Coming this hour to visit me  
Knock! Knock!

I think I will go out to see  
Knock! Knock!  
Because that person is knocking endlessly  
Don't they not think I would be busy?

Knock Knock KNOCK?  
Coming?  
But why do they come  
And knock on my door?  
my feet are tired  
my hair is not neat  
I've got to find shoes for my feet  
AND  
I'm in the middle of a very special treat  
Knock knock knock KNOCK!  
coming!

Jemima Rivas

# My Heart Belongs To All Of You

How cans one love  
So tenderly and sweet  
The glamour the fight  
The useless gripe  
Love songs that make one hate their life  
How cans one love  
So tender and sweet  
When the eyes all idolise her beauty  
How can one stay faithful?  
So pure so true when  
Their heart belongs to all of you?  
How can one say,  
You are my one and only  
Let me take you to the sanctuary  
Our marriage vows to tie;  
Our love to bind together  
The knot to tie  
That rope that the wind  
Looses or taketh away  
How can one stay true to distant loves  
When closer: At heart are they  
How can one abstain; when  
Vain lust beckons?  
How can a vile be so empty,  
If many bottles fill?

Jemima Rivas



# Only Sad People Write Poetry

Only sad people write poetry,  
Is what she said  
Is what he said  
is what you said

You screamed at me; you said that only sad people write poetry,  
You said that I'm sad because I write  
I'm I deficit because I love it too?

Because it helps me to cool my mind  
That I scribble what I feel?  
That I lose control in this twisted world and I run for pen and paper  
that I save myself while you die  
because I cope while you on some kind of dope  
Refusing to try or just gives up and cry?

You said that 'I'm dark and hopeless and lifeless and homeless? ...while only you  
are  
That I lock myself out by blacking you out by freeing myself  
that I? am? twisted? in theory?

But  
Let me tell you that  
Poetry  
Is my way of breeding  
My way of living  
My way of saying I'm sorry  
It's not some twisted dark fantasy but my way of living.  
Say youre sorry.

Jemima Rivas

# Reflecting

I wasn't always like this  
I was just like you  
I had heartaches and pains and worries to.

I carried stress  
I was so depressed  
It didn't take long  
Before it all turned around

It takes courage I know  
You must believe so  
True courage they became history  
True courage I earned my victory

Believing enhances  
Great experiences  
Great miracles are there to achieve  
Once we believe

I pity my friends  
Who have known me so,  
With memories of me from long ago

I had my troubles  
I have my fears  
But I shall not shed anymore tears

I had a victory  
Then a miracle  
Then troubles end  
This I would gladly loan a friend

Your hopes cannot die  
Tis no lie  
Seeking death is for cowards  
Or strangers from nowards

Your belief makes dreams real

Your world would open up  
Just believe  
Believe in your dreams

Jemima Rivas

# Shy Agony

Secluded inside this flower abide  
a complex bud that would huddle and hide  
hide because its tangled deep  
inside  
covered by flowery petals of smiles  
why?  
is it not a pretty site  
is it not part of a beautiful flower  
Why does it hide its ugliness  
giving out sweet perfume from day to day  
it hurts to hide  
like all the ugliness  
that holds my petals together  
all the painful thorns that shield me as a beautiful flower.

Jemima Rivas

## Shy Agony (By Me)

Secluded inside this flower abide  
a complex bud that would huddle and hide  
hide because its tangled deep  
inside  
covered by flowery petals of smiles  
why?  
is it not a pretty site  
is it not part of a beautiful flower  
Why does it hide its ugliness  
giving out sweet perfume from day to day  
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Jemima Rivas

# Snacks

Buy Grains for Me

Cause You Owe Me Money

I Not Buying Any Grains

I Will Give You Back Your Money

Cause I Only Buying Grains Grains

What Happen

Your Name Is Grainsy

But You Always Buying RAISAN BRAN

It is my money

But I don't call you Bransy

Jemima Rivas

# South

I went south  
To my father's house  
With scary boots and airy trousers the trees didn't need to learn fashion  
I am sad to say the bush wasn't my passion  
Oh why did she marry a country man?  
I went south  
I saw green pastures and gigantic trees  
I planted seeds, father plough the land  
And I helped him dig bags of yam  
Then I met with the banana man  
I went south  
And I felt ill  
I felt dizzy and released my fill  
I fainted  
Mom said I felt face front on the floor  
I got bitten by monster ants  
A size I have never seen before  
Oh why did she marry a countryman?  
Papa is funny and cute too  
He can show you things you never new  
But Where I live is fun  
For there are people around  
And even the ants and mosquitoes are friendly  
There are airplanes and so much more  
Tell me what I went south for

Jemima Rivas

# The Nightmare

Last night I had a nightmare  
I crept under my comforters  
For the night was cold  
I was scared and home alone

I heard echoes of laughter from under the bed  
Monsters came I am sure cause they said  
Tonight you are dead

They laughed out loudly and echoed my name  
And spat fire of burning flame  
I screamed and shouted let me be  
But they grinned and chanted continuously

Jemima Rivas



# The Weird Question

There was this question I couldn't answer  
It was totally weird  
I am sure I found it on a crumpled paper  
In a library book I thought I'd read later  
Was it in Finnish or French or Spanish or Dutch?  
Had it have been I would have known the answer  
Was it scribbled or typed written or had it meant much  
Had it have been I would have known the answer  
It just said: "? "

Jemima Rivas

# The Wretch

The first time they met  
She knew not who he be  
As his lyrics he sang beautifully

He promised to give her what she wanted  
But her life he viciously torn and haunted  
Had she had known who he had been  
She would not have ever let him in

For he trashed her and bruised her  
And spread her name  
And open her eyes to this shameless fame

She was a damsel  
Quite immature mama said  
I feel her pain  
It's so insane  
Oh what ah shameless beauty!

The first time they met  
She knew not who he be  
As his lyrics he sang beautifully

He promised to give her what she wanted  
But her life he viciously torn and haunted  
Had she had known who he had been  
She would not have ever let him in

For he trashed her and bruised her  
And spread her name  
And open her eyes to this shameless fame

She was a damsel  
Quite immature mama said  
I feel her pain  
It's so insane  
Oh what ah flawless beauty!



# This Is Why

This is why  
This is why I am this way  
You look at me and say  
What a shame look how he has sank  
It hurts this is why I cry  
I remember you well scoffing at my pain  
This is why  
I will stamp on my past  
Step on my edge  
Lift up my wings and fly away  
I can be  
Whatever I want to be  
This is why  
I will be me  
And Live to my fullest potentiality.

Jemima Rivas

# This Toy Is Broken

Life is this road I'm walking  
Still is this peace am feeling  
When am down am down  
When am up am up  
When am walking this road, empty is this hate am feeling  
I've lost my twin not to marriage but to a broken heart  
Can but two broken hearts mend?  
I'm on the shelf am waiting  
People past and stare and envy at my outstanding marvellous beauty  
What they don't know is that I'm on the shelf because I'm broken ?

Jemima Rivas

# Unhealthy Relations

Me Alone, in this cold, cold world  
You don't want me to be happy, don't want me to succeed.  
Just want to use my skills, use my body use my, everything.  
You are my ghostly possession conforming me to your will.

Want to crush my make me bleed  
I'm a prune in your fruit juice  
I'm nothing for myself.

Everybody's around me growing  
And you cut me when I grow? ?  
- - - - -

Me alone in this cold, cold world  
Just trying to keep from dying  
And nothing seems to work.

Have me trapped in this box where I'm nothing for myself  
Where nothing seems to work  
Just, banging on some walls  
Your play toy  
Your pet  
Your machine

I'm alone in this box  
Feeling to give up  
Yes, me alone in this cold, cold world  
I'm try-na keep from dying  
You. Have. Me. Trapped. Inside of here

LET ME OUT  
Let me be  
Don't take off after me.

Drop the rules  
Drop the games  
I don't want to play these games.  
You want me -die But I want to stay alive.

Torture on the guillotine  
Sleeping on a bed full of nails  
Smashing my face on glass windows yet putting napkins on my wounds?

Is it because I talk too much?  
Do I play too much?  
Do you think I pray enough?

You, are the fire in my hands, burning me up  
You! Are the fire that I'm holding the one that's burning me up.  
Leaving my hands blistered, they are bleeding and I would never let you go

You make me cry so my heart is bleeding  
You are the one regret that I'm living  
You are the knife on my lifeline and you hug me while I sleep.

You are the pain and my sorrow yet the reason I face tomorrow.  
You are the reason my heart is aching and you never see the pain I'm facing.  
You are the rope swinging in my head, you only want me dead.

Yet I will trust you forever I would bless you forever  
And when everything feels like I it's crashing down on me I would ask you but  
one favour  
And it's: Let me live till tomorrow, let me live while I'm dead.

It's like banging my head on a wall to soon to fall. Let me go or kill me now  
In this box that you have me. no way to escape,  
Nothing belongs to me  
Not even my life  
I banged my head on your walls again #don'tshootme  
Isolated under your jurisdiction  
No freedom for ambition

Anything you try to achieve you are sourcing out of me.  
I'm exhausted I'm tired  
Okay shoot me please.

Take everything I have. Taken everything you need?  
Just don't let me suffer- to die  
Free me let me go or  
Shoot me let me stay.

Young Caribbean Poet: Jemima Rivas

Jemima Rivas



# When He Ask You The Question

When he asks you the question;  
Do you love me?  
You might say yes  
Or you might say no  
But the lucky guess  
You know is yes  
Cause next thing waiting there  
Is somebody who don't care  
Oh! you better say yes now  
Oh! You better not say no

Jemima Rivas