



## **Unfinished Stories**

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[www.qwf.org/programs/wic](http://www.qwf.org/programs/wic)

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[DM]

# Unfinished Stories

## Anti cliché

Dull as a star

Shine like a diamond

Or shine like the northern sky

Soft as a mammoth

Smooth like a dandelion

Rhythmic like twilight

Rich like the golden coast

Heavy as a turtle

Blue like fog

Sweet as a frog prince

Apathetic like history taught in  
school Excited like an owl

-S. B.

## Valentine's Letter

To women of colour  
Happy Valentine's day.  
You have made it safely,  
Single or taken, you have survived.  
So let's have a dreamy pink hug and take a ride.

We the Hispanics, Arabs, Blacks, Natives, Asians  
Any woman that isn't white,  
We have stories  
In our dense backpack  
that no one else could tell the same.

We are the women who work hard  
In what we do but still get hated  
on For the fact we aren't white. It  
is us who are exquisite For after all  
of our history We still have a glow  
for today And every other day.

We come from place  
We have immigrated  
Women who have been in a fight  
For education  
Us who have been shot  
We come from families with slaves  
Or land so beautiful they stole from us  
This lullaby is for you.

To women of colour,  
We should not hate on each other  
When we have a struggle  
We can relate some ways  
Why bring each other down  
When we have a purpose  
To make our girls bloom with blossoms.  
We need to fight for each other's rights.  
We are to this day, dealing with racism still  
We have the courage and generosity to love  
Because people haven't been kind to us  
On this red themed love day,  
Here we are, still alive  
In a world full of hate  
We have an elegant way  
that can trance others to a daze  
It comes from our hair, body and face  
And everything else we own  
We are tropical  
We are powerful  
On this day, treat yourself  
You deserve it  
Single or taken, love yourself.  
And pamper your own self with romance  
You are flawless like the blue sky  
You run the world with  
fierceness From,  
A woman of colour.  
-S.B.

## I Glow

After Maya Angelou

I may have been brought  
into a world of spite  
thunder and lightening  
*but still I rise*

Does my entertainment bother you?  
I'm all funny as the way penguins waddle  
An amazing dancer, spinning like Kim  
Yuna I leap across puddle to puddle  
I'm extraordinary cause I'm a comedy show  
My friends laugh when sad.

Does my beauty haunt you?  
I can't help it, I'm just  
beautiful I'm Exquisite.  
I am mixed with the power  
To stand up and have grace  
For my family  
I can't soothe the fact I'm so wary.

Just like the water you need,  
A beautiful fragranced flower  
Just like the sun with vitamins  
I glow, I glow

You wanna see me fall?  
I'm sorry, for you are so insecure  
Fact is, you're just not doing good  
yourself I pity you  
You're gonna love me when I'm up

You may hit me as hard  
As a slap to my face  
You may cut me like the cut up  
peaches My tia makes every day  
You may kill me with your hurtful  
words But you can't because  
Still, I glow firm

I was adopted out of jealousy  
Dealt with strong words  
And a hate for what I was born with  
I still glow

I was forced as if it was fate  
You can't change  
Roots, foundations and history  
But I'll leave alone your racism  
Because I hustle  
I glow  
Passion like the love that was supposed  
Even with the hate,  
I glow  
I shine like a highlight



I am thankful for the gift of my family  
surviving I glow even after colonization,  
Even after crossing a bridge of doubt  
I glow because we fought for our rights  
They make me glow  
And I glow  
Do I glow.

-S.B.

“Ask Not What Your Country Can Do For You”  
After Danez Smith’s *Principles*

Ask if I stand with my family

Ask what they do

Other than steal jobs and immigrate illegally

Ask me if I arrived here uninvited

I don’t want to be a citizen of fallen families

This home shouldn’t be a river

Of racism

I live in diversity, yet our family

Of people of colour is still locked down

I want the best of changes

For my American counterparts

Our people are tired of hate

I am tired of having a cop shoot one of our siblings

Every other day

Let us not be scared of equality

It was hard for people of colour to unite and stand

up We are still the same bones

Why can’t you see

Let us realize the only ones who ain’t immigrants are Natives

Because this land is all colonized and stolen.

-S.B.

The first time I set my eyes on you  
It was like a butterfly crossed paths  
With a vintage lilac

You appeared.

K.

A man goes hunting one day  
Searching for seals  
The sunlight is warm on his skin  
The snow keeps him cool  
He sees one

He shoots  
He goes to get it  
But ties a rope around himself  
So he could be found if he falls  
Walking toward it  
He hears cracking  
Anxiety and fear fill his  
emotions He falls through  
Freezing as he sinks  
The rope saves his body  
But he still drowned  
His facial expression forever fear

I miss my great-  
grandpa -K.

I come from Iqaluit

This is where the summer's light lasts all night

But too cold to wear sleeveless shirts

I have seen old farms near town

But it is not used anymore

There are no McDonald's or Dairy Queen

You won't find grass or trees

But it's my home

K.

I like my name  
I don't think it's too common  
You won't find it on keychain clips  
Or soda bottles

But there is a story to my name  
Originally, I was supposed to be named  
Mia But that is the name of my aunt, a  
person People mistake to be my mother

It was simply translated to English  
My original name was in Inuktitut, Q. M.

I live with people writing my name  
wrong But that is the story to my name.

K.

A girl lives in the arctic with her community  
Men are hunting, women are sewing and elders  
are telling stories.

One day, Europeans came in boats  
The people are surprised, wondering what's happening.

The men tell them to move away,  
They refused  
So they burn everything they own  
So they have nothing to stay for

Now they listen, taking them to a village  
but still in the arctic. They miss their  
home they miss how it used to be

The girl told her story to her children  
And grandchildren. The story lives  
For generations and generations.

This is the story of my great-great grandma

K.

Here I sit on the glass rooftop  
So high above the ground  
Staring into the dreamy pink sky  
Watching the clouds take shape  
If I fall will you catch me?  
We lay on a castle in the sky  
Watching the clouds take shape  
Not worrying about a thing  
Feeling an unusual calmness  
Will you tell anybody?

As the night turns to morning  
We go back inside  
I wish this would happen more often  
You have to leave  
Farewell, sweet dream.

K.



Are You What We Call Earth?

I can be strong as a tsunami  
That wipes away lives

Ready to cover what provides  
Us clean water

I can be tough as waves that hit the big rocks  
Pay attention to the way I can spray a lot

I am bright, cold, dusty and hard  
Can you guess who we are?  
Able to interlink to form just one

Delicate like old red rust  
Ready to just burst in one gentle rub

You would know me if you heard of my name  
I can be the mother but you don't call me Earth

A-R.

To Be A...

To be a cloud  
I would bring smiles down

Be of law  
And have hold of power

To be bitter  
And come from a family of sweet

I am me  
And how would you like to meet?

A-R.

J.A.M.E.S.

I just wanted to say I love you  
It's not always easy to talk to you

Your eyes are like shooting stars in the sky  
I promise to always contact you

I listen for the first time in a while I  
am filled with fear and love

In the quiet I stop to stare  
Evening I lay with you before I sleep

You are my future  
Something tells me you will help me forever

I thought you were a mess up  
But you have done a lot for me

That is why I just want to say I love you.

-A-R.

## Oath to the National Anthem

I am from the land and the free of Canada  
From the lies of unspoken truth

My home is not my home anymore  
And it will never be my home

I wish there was more First Nations people  
Home is where our people dance, sing

And pass down stories to one another I  
am Iroquois and I take this oath

A-R.

Sill or Serious

Netflix and chill  
Because my favorite colour is red

Rose pop art  
Because my pop tart

Blue dream  
Is a strain of weed?

Old night green  
Make me feel clean

Supernova sky  
I hope I can fly

Charming rose  
Tickling up my brill bones

Spring has sprung  
Like delicious spring rolls

Orange signature  
I have that in my pitcher

-A-R.

Ask  
After Danez Smith's *Principles*

Ask if I knew who he was  
Ask what is causing all this nonsense in our world

I don't want to be a citizen of your nature  
My home isn't where you can disrespect me  
I live to forgive and to forget  
I want equality

Let us not be scared of other races  
It's hard not to see familiar faces  
Let us come together as one  
Because the world just needs a little bit of love

A-R.

## “Fix Your Face”

I am a woman five kids in total  
A rasta to compete with  
Can you guess who I follow?

Wrapping my dreads in never a question  
Dancing and eating to our Jamaican favourites  
Looking around, feeling safe with familiar faces  
“Don’t worry ‘bout a thing” Bob once said Just  
remember what granny had said

Don’t let anyone call you bad names  
But war will always be hiding to come and play  
I won’t be the one you called slave  
But from this day we are capable for doing much more than  
you say  
Speaking broken English  
So you just call English  
Nothing in the world will ever satisfy you

You don’t like me, but you want my lips  
You don’t like me, but you want my hair  
You don’t like me, but you want my ass  
You don’t like me, but you want my brown skin

Modify as much but no one will want to touch  
But remember my five kids will have everything you  
want Come on admit you are just jealous to say

-A-R.

## School Boy

Why would you express to me like you did  
Knowing in the end you'll leave me with a frown

I don't know why you say I caused you stress  
You were the one who asked me out

Yet you walk around calling me down  
I treated you better than my mother and brother

Wasting my time to love one silly boy  
Maybe someday he'll go back to playing with his toys

I was that shy rose who hid from behind  
But now I faint like purple rust

As I watch you grow behind the mask  
I think to myself 'what an ass'

I will never forget the look on your face  
When you said "I need some space"

I won't forget you saying 'I love you'  
But you can't make me fall back for you

**Goodbye forever**

**Hello to never**

-A-R.



Fighting depression is hard when you have no real reason to fight it.

Why pretend everything is fine when everything pretty much sucks?

Six weeks since the break-up with him, he'd think I'd accept it. Move on, But all I do when I'm alone Is think about the good times with him.

I've tried to talk to him, tried to figure out exactly when everything went to hell.

It wasn't the night we had sex, It was before. It started before. I can see that now.

But what started it? The more I try to figure that out the more frustrated I become.

I work out to keep my frustration in check. But once I'm done, anger beaten down by reps upon reps.

I'm muscle sore and heart -emptied.

I have no one to talk about it with.

- ERB

Just because  
I am tall  
that doesn't mean  
I'm good at basketball.  
I come from the rez  
but that doesn't mean  
I am not clean.

Just because  
I am tall  
That doesn't mean  
I could model.

-ERB

A calm morning with some morning mist.  
I see moose tracks near the blue lake.  
The sky looks like a winter view.

It feels cozy and comfy.  
Looking out the window and it's a rainy day.  
My boots are muddy.  
I'm making tea, it feels nice and comfy.

-ERB

He can leave all he wants.  
He can bring me down all he wants.  
Because In the end I'll be stronger than I was.  
He can make out with all the girls he wants  
But once the party's over  
The drugs are gone  
And there's no one there to love him right.

-ERB

Why am I acting different?  
I'm acting different  
Because I lost my virginity  
To a boy  
And all I can think of  
Is that I'm officially a woman.  
I'm acting different  
Because I started my period today.  
I'm acting different  
Because my ex boyfriend  
Is In the same room as me  
And I know he's looking at me.

-ERB

I don't know how  
I got rid of it.  
I don't know how  
It came to me.  
I don't know  
When It started.  
I don't know how  
To talk about it.  
I don't know how  
It can take my happiness  
Just like that.  
I don't know why  
I let It get into me.

-ERB

Strong as a stormy sky  
sneaky as an arctic fox  
brighter than a campfire glow  
smooth like a lullaby  
deep as a morning mist  
fluffy as a tiger  
big as a polar bear  
fast like nightfall  
sweet like a fairy  
free like autumn leaves

-S.L.

how do I begin to say

I love you more than anything when  
feeling down I think of you you are  
the rock who holds me down

there is a smile upon my face whenever you are  
around inspired is how I feel when it comes to you  
I am who I am because of you

-S.L .

Rise Everyday  
After Maya Angelou

You can try to put me down  
But I will rise

You can try to change this smile to a frown but I will rise like a  
queen  
with her crown

You may try to bring me down  
But I will rise

You can try to be that cloud of thunder on a rainy day and crash  
down on me  
But I will rise

You can try to be like a hammer and smash me to pieces  
But I will rise

I will rise, rise, I say Everyday

You can try to change my thoughts from sunny days to dark  
rainy days  
But I will rise

Today I'm beautiful, tomorrow I'm beautiful, nothing you say can  
change that

Because I will rise

No more pain, no more dark gloomy days  
Because I will rise

You will be like ice and melt away cuz I am here to stay  
I will rise Everyday  
with a smile upon my face

I was delicate like a flower when you came around but now I  
have grown like a tree and will rise



Break my spirit is what you may try to  
do But I will rise  
I was breakable like glass  
Everything you would say  
Got to me and I shattered  
But no longer will I be that fragile piece of glass  
I will rise, rise, stand up everyday and be who I want to be  
You will no longer be that bee trying to sting me  
I will rise  
You were like a thorn jabbing me making me bleed  
But not today  
I will rise  
I am like a flower blooming more then ever

-S. L.

To Be a Bumblebee

To be a bumblebee  
I would bring the sting  
Be bossy  
And have a family  
To be in a tribe and come from the hive  
I am a bumblebee  
And I am me

-S. L.

To Be a Barn Owl

To be a barn owl  
I would bring a mouse  
Be a hunter  
And have my supper  
To be strong  
And come from a barn  
I am a barn owl and I am spreading my wings and ready to fly

-S. L.

## To Be A Winter Sky

To be a winter sky  
I would bring the ice  
Be cold  
And have long stormy nights  
To be bold  
And come from the sky  
I am a winter sky  
And I am cold and bright

-S.L.

## To Be A Frog Prince

To be a frog prince  
I would bring a princess  
Be her prince  
And have my crown  
To be loved  
And come from royalty  
I am a frog prince  
And I want to be loved

-S.L.

Before I knew...

after Mary McDonough

Just because I have fear,

Doesn't mean I don't have  
integrity If I wear a dress, I'm a slut

If I wear a sweater, I'm poor

If I don't wear makeup, I'm ugly

If I wear makeup, I'm fake.

Beauty in this generation

Is the judgements

Of this society

-Z.

To Be a...

I can be strong as a winter sky

I can be tough as tiger stripes

I can be gentle as calming breeze

I can be kind as willow trees.

To be a star, I would bring the clouds  
Be inspired and have honesty

Lost in my thoughts, thinking about the sea  
My mind is like a storm of fear, happiness and hope

-Z.



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