

**A love  
Your love  
My heart**

Poems for Wendy

Ry Southard  
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## Before You

I traveled across the universe aimlessly  
Nation to planet then comet and constellation  
I never tired for adventure  
I tired of being alone

A man can have a thousand experiences  
A lover or more  
A map without a destination  
A destination without meaning

A journey empty for love  
is no adventure

Tramping each step toward history  
Memories turn to foresight  
Undulating time  
through the valley and cavern of souls

A thousand years have passed  
my horses whinnied for the way station

my heart ached for whispers with you  
only to disappear and become morning stars  
a new cosmos

spring appeared and  
astronomers awoke so proud of their new discovery

smiling

we awoke together where we always wanted to be  
so occupied

blossom

discovery of something  
even the same thing  
is joy  
sometimes bliss

walk through the garden  
intricate mystery  
designs we could never imagine  
a kaleidoscope could never jumble

color only exists because of flowers  
which birth dawn  
and pulse dusk to bed

were i to sing  
as someday I hope  
songs of texture and hue  
the palette of you  
the sunlit silken web of our love  
a permanence of desire

let's walk the arbor  
awash in spring's tulips and azaleas  
cardinals' crimson mating rituals  
await replication  
and knowing smiles

you

the one time I asked  
myself for a big favor i  
hesitated for reasons i later rationalized as hubris  
a word i despise

then your romance called and i became  
the reason I am so lucky hoping  
jonquils for your every daydream

i'd just about given up  
when abandon was abandoned  
oh my

You

## November of us

I forgive myself for trepidation  
I forgive my self for longing  
Absolving for truth  
Such a fiasco  
Should I perjure myself as is so common  
Or live in the back-story never told  
I can't attend that festival nor ask you to join me

I ask you to drive for

Kisses In the orchard  
Oh so wonderful  
Crisp apples and cider to tang our lovemaking

Pressed deep onto your lips  
My lips taste a vision, licking a passion  
Juicy as a Fuji  
I'm hard just wanting  
I'm so lucky when luck is important

When the color of the day is maple  
We are sweet with it sugar  
Call me sappy baby  
And I will call you forever

## Questions and Castles

How can there be no questions between us  
no superficial agendas  
history confounded  
and I'm so happy

Are we so unique as to be perfect together  
It has been four months and  
there are no seams to tear  
and if there were  
we would sew as one

Distance is only a magic carpet  
lofting above yearning  
Longing is heightened as  
lust will envelope us every day until  
the moments together square the time apart

Geometries of missing you remain  
yet my love cannot be measured by any formula  
We are waves washing  
cross currents in syncopation  
desire melding with sand castles to be built

Walk with me on the sand my love  
Sit with me and touch toes as the tide  
washes over our bucket carved structures  
knowing their melting is our memory  
of strength and dreams

confluence

as you celebrate with your family  
and i do mine  
i want to converge with you  
two streams of love  
join as our river of life

peace has been elusive for me  
then with an october kiss  
the universe shifted  
algonquin moon smiled

let's take that river walk  
and journey together  
past the land of make believe  
toward the horizon's perfect western sky

valleys and mountains co-exist  
our cabin is warm and secure  
your horse has no better pasture  
our confluence grows stronger  
each day each spring  
a delta of joy

christmas eve 2014

chevron

I am Hebrides  
I am a chevron unfurling  
ready to advance the charge

I am a battalion of mortality  
fearing death without choice or pity

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An archipelago trails down your spine  
waving asymmetrical perfection

My lips tongue the architect tracing your curves  
we dance in warm canyons  
a bath of love

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my commander  
stands on the ledge of tomorrow  
leading me to know that which was never here

Only now and forever  
only there and those every other places

Words weave baskets of bones  
to pick up dying and  
carry our burdens

We are sorrow together

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Spooning we smile and laugh  
about some earlier frailty

Life is sacred for now  
Truth is us  
not then

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I return from war  
The gods have spared me  
to honor me with you  
brick and sod for our home



poems to create life and renew love

Hods of joy  
Banners that shout fertility

We are the stream  
that flows barely untroubled  
through the battlefield

The iron that once separated us  
is just a crease in history

our story

the legend of love  
was written before us  
folklore of an unsettled time  
heralded by apostles of  
beauty and gardens and kindness and caring

there were several versions  
of mythical castles or knights on unicorns  
and all had a princess and of course a wizard  
concocting spells and potions to create that  
dearest emotion of affection

but it was just a common myth  
an unfulfilled wonderment  
until we kissed

the world gasped  
and scribes scurried to re-write the story  
of the lunacy of disbelief

and evermore  
our kisses smile

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celebrating our first new year's together  
2014

## Awash

Awash in your vined symphony  
Bathing in desire a cloth to clean us  
We remember Padua and Apricale

When tomorrow happens  
I shall not be there coddling yesterday  
As a lonesome fellow

Backlight today  
Avocadoes and pears  
Luggage and quilts and

There is no passion to explain us  
Droplets rising to heaven  
Clouds cover our insecurities  
A yard of longing sharing a hammock  
Smiles teasing in the vineyard

Come to me love in chorus  
Swaying in sounds of joy  
Sashay only you  
I lift the windowsill  
The breeze licks  
our dreams

epiphany

rendered like a sixteenth century fresco  
a gauze of windswept memory  
seduction across the courtyard's twilight

a fountain gently babbled your presence

time-indented cobblestone steps  
up curious sidewalks  
cascading down into the village  
perhaps we met in that landing's enclave  
there was magic I can't remember  
magic is just that

our room was above a two hundred year old café  
painted wafts of coffee and poetry  
songs of passion and longing  
wanting and waiting for you

i trip and fumble to the stage  
just a pad of a spot  
and gather up my emotions

i profess my love for you  
my life is now with you  
as no other woman has ever done  
my promise is history and future  
joyous as every poem

embrace

pleasure parked in the rain  
sipping wine and being

it was ordinary and perfect  
as if sitting on our settee

listening to the patter  
embrace  
and wonder nothing

you smile when you sleep  
ruling dreams  
another way I love you

For My Valentine Wendy

I was an adventurer  
on a lonesome mountain  
foraging for love  
Walking toward the horizon  
where union beckoned

Time curled up the path  
Oceans lapped my skies  
Fingers fumbled forward

Fog warped perspective  
the real distance to the harbor  
When it lifted you were sitting  
under a sweet honeysuckle arbor

Now we are home  
nestled in petals of affection  
and the soft joy of love

our garden

i've summoned an academy of poets  
to assist with my lyrics  
affection for you  
twenty of the best to test my words  
beautiful tangles of emotions  
all ending in smiles

the world did in fact stop this weekend  
not evolving just revolving as  
we held each other

my garden chaperoned our desire  
just barely  
trees swayed in rhythmic accord  
a new us born

perfect camellia blossoms  
surround our essence  
a sensuous room of surrender  
to what should be between

enduring and us  
nothing becomes a whole lot of something

## A new nation

I would have abandoned my nation  
If not for the notion of civility and  
society and justice arm-in-arm  
and the kind peace of you

Oh commanders of constitution  
why did my nation dump me

Freedom and equality plead  
Seeming frivolous in another day  
Now favors for a new king

I stand by an old barn  
big doors so russet  
a singular purpose with a cat or two  
That seemed to work for two hundred years  
The hay stayed dry in most storms

Why tear down the buildings we most need  
My head spins not knowing  
Why

I ache for reason  
I question regression  
I lust for passion

Oh my love, send me your fireplace  
We will have light and heat  
sharing bowls of cheesy grits  
When the turmoil is upon us  
and fears' ingredients supplant trust

With firelight's fingerlings  
and warm kisses all about now  
banking peace for an unknown tomorrow  
a new nation



## Foolish me

I dare to be a hero  
And end up as a fool

Fenced from reason  
I labor for reason silly me  
Abrupt conversations  
Awash in humid sandscape  
Petrified imagination  
Ten overdue books the library calls

Where do I go from here  
An expedition to the Falklands  
A jaunt for milk  
Dreaming of Samaritans  
Craving you  
Let's venture to the Blue Note

Causing wistfulness without purpose  
So easy to reverie upon the Outer Banks  
Simple peace with you in a chair  
waiting for surf to tickle cool waves of laughter

Do not be heroic  
Lust and harmony are not foolish  
Desire and contentment send congratulations

## museum revelations

let's qualify our love  
without speaking or writing lithe words  
writhing in complicated syntax

just posture, mime, and gesture  
or even better just facial expression  
reading

smiling across our café table  
we resonate freedom and faith  
touching finger tones of truth that  
laugh hopping strife and boundaries of history  
no fences to replicate

i watch your eyes watch the hawk  
in the silver tree or on the lamp post  
images merge aviaries  
love opens to a sky that we have never seen

paintings of confusion and absurdity  
monumental collages like living wallpaper  
visions we understand or playfully mock  
fabrics anointed with colored oils  
canvasses of intimate messages  
we walk entwined toward surrender and acceptance

leaves fly across the moon  
shadows fall away uncertain about the future

we seek parasols to temper the sun  
heating up forests of our desire  
to store inside another universe

straight lines curve into pinecones  
from seeds to stars and back again  
comets of exuberance  
flashlight our journey

## Equation

I searched my bed for you  
The oaks have still not let go some very dry leaves  
The first tomato is ready  
There is no happenstance with us

When you are away my meaning gets askew  
I stand arms akimbo and look for the horizon  
Our tower in Paris our castle in Apricale  
Times that can't create reason  
Only perfect moments  
Succumbing to us

Down the hall turning on lights  
Opening cabinets and drawers  
Loneliness is understood as never before  
Traipsing back to my movie  
I count the minutes until you return

The theorem has been proven  
I miss you in the rain

## of Clouds

I am no better than the sunshine  
Clouds search for my shadow  
Portals to nowhere I wanted to go

Into the abyss I created  
History rearranged over a cutting board  
So many Kirigami dreams

A handsome wish as to order fulfillment  
Naïve as to pretend tomorrow  
Cloudless and without distraction

We landed in the seam of forgiveness  
Gifts from another universe  
Shadows slice dreams  
Clouds will peel open truth if we really wish

The pleasure of remembrance  
Embracing peace on the beach with you  
Casting bottles with love notes  
We will treasure each tide

## Paris

Wendy, what is the reason for love  
a perspective  
a meaning  
The relationship between indescribable  
and perfect rainbows

Tell me about your longing  
Sing to me lullabies  
Fragrance your blouse with harmony  
Discover a galaxy inside your heart

Love hath no dimension or form or purpose  
it is an element not on the periodic table  
yet we know it like o

oozing smiles  
lip syncing joy  
in my every song  
magical bells above the cathedral  
pulse our breath  
our kisses dapple the Seine

## Susceptible

i am so susceptible to your fragrance  
my tongue tasting your neck  
fingers a flutter tantalizing  
I roam your wonder

i am wanting without wanton  
a stable for your horse  
a house for your nest  
lust

your breasts sing to my eyes  
curves of every teardrop  
a photograph from the garden  
joyous blossoms with no straight lines

join me  
we will fossilize pleasure  
imprinting our desire  
fingers upon lips  
abandon to smiles

## Shelter

We shall not part based upon a day  
When things weren't right as rain  
And nary a cloud in the sky

Dabbles of discord rumble about the neighborhood  
So of naught  
Let us not tarry there

The pleasure of life with you, intrinsic joy  
No ladder needed to shingle the roof  
Shelter of love

Who would have thought that I would live to share such devotion  
Blessed by the trees  
And the greens from your garden

Nourish us

simple

Its going to get complicated  
weaving resonance with a star  
An abundance of purple will only get you so far

Push into the passion baby  
Strings and songs and silhouettes  
interlace our dreams and sew up our seams  
Fold me into you like crepe suzettes

so many moons we will never miss  
under the covers  
floating above

casting off a long shadow  
drifting in glee  
the aurora croons



that us

moments from perfection, idylls of you  
i was encouraged to breathe  
humbly stepping back

from infinity and wonder  
which had settled on my front porch  
they pushed and shoved for the swing

my house is now blessed with emanations  
stained glass reflections mostly blue  
cathedrals of love  
ceilings waiting for signs

that us is ours  
abundant acceptance  
we are the source of all rivers  
soothing exhale delta joy

translucence

i see my translucence  
bodies passing through me so small as not to tickle  
tiny soothing blankets of moss  
re-greening my soul my legs craving your invisible caress  
we fold in and about each other's shadows wearing aprons of ether  
a crystal clear needle weaves us through alabaster black holes

another cloud another signal to choose to hear  
beware of any beanstalks or cumulus fables  
washing the sky with notes  
harmonics of swatch kiss me plaid baby  
gesso backlights your lips  
sheer wonder drips sound hugging melody

wishes and dreams and other untouchables  
lighter than gauze  
porous whispers fulfilling tomorrow morning's coffee

we sing invisible love carols  
a cappella like the wind

## Windows

I mull on and on  
Drapes so heavy and unwilling to open  
weeds vagrant in every yard  
Songs of fortitude echo from the pub

Destiny is water you never get to drink  
Fate is the glass before you

Sharing wine olives and cheese  
Goats forage on the hillside  
First the pleasure  
Then what we don't want

I sense glory between us  
A space of treasure  
Can I kiss you (everywhere)  
with light breezes  
and caresses of knowing on the sand

Open windows to the ocean

## It is time

It is time for a new constitution  
at least for us  
of love of kindness  
enduring morals long sought

Years spent fruitlessly researching  
this and that about the nonsense of conflict  
and the search for just amity  
resulted in new statistics  
The jury will be out until next year  
per executive order

Have I told you about the woman I love  
You  
The minute I knew  
and then with wondrous evolution  
joy and friendship  
endearment boundless and sustainable

We both embrace that desire  
a peace that most don't know  
and many don't want

Immigrants vying for passage  
Politicians denying our destiny  
I want to be President but won't carry  
the spin to win  
and none of this matters

So marry me Wendy  
And bless my soul and heart  
I pray our lives will never part  
And in some way we can rebuild our nation  
even as we start our family