

SELF-IMPOSED EXILE

Stephen R. Isaac

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Dedication

Intersecting Paths

Life is a collection of intersecting paths.
Some paths intersect for a mere moment;
 Some for a lifetime.
We can both create and end a path.
 However, we can control no
 Path's direction, but our own.
All you can do is embrace the path
 Before it veers away
And hope that someday our paths meet again,
 In this life or the next

Dedicated to
Scott W. Shepardson
1983-2014

The Self-Imposed Exile I

(Freestyle)

A self-imposed exile
An inch, a foot, a mile

Death has succumb my mind
And true worth I will not find

Pulling to the depths below
They say you reap what you sew

You are born, live and you die
The tortured need not ask why

For the man in exile knows
Where the black, wicked soul goes

The Life Lost

(Freestyle)

Born with a twinkled eye

Learned to play the little tune

Now life is gone too soon

The grieving mother's cry

A bright soul dying brave

Destine for the shallow grave

The dear friends missed goodbye

The Wretched Heart

(Freestyle)

How long does it take for someone
To be pulled from your heart?
Not considering from end to start

But from that moment when you
Know something is wrong
And the words no longer sound like a song

And the fights keep you from
Getting to sleep
And your thoughts are pulling you
Into the deep

And when the smiles are a passing phase
And your heart is lost in a self-made maze

And when you wonder what your
Future may hold
And if by some chance it was your
Love that was sold

So how long will this torment take
And what new life will this
One man make?

A Youthful Rage

(Villanelle)

No one can know at such a tender age
A chance encounter would birth a great friend
It was created through a youthful rage

We were once both locked in the exact cage
We both had the same demons to defend
No one can know at such a tender age

We both spilled our meek souls on the same stage
And through the same struggles we both transcend
It was created through a youthful rage

But things happened which make it hard to gauge
Something that you cannot simply suspend
No one can know at such a tender age

Something that you can't replace with a wage
Something that you cannot even pretend
It was created through a youthful rage

He was taken from us and brought offstage
And I was left with pain that will not bend
No one can know at such a tender age
It was created through a youthful rage

The Ship

(Freestyle)

The days creep forward
With unforeseen destination
On a ship heading shoreward
With no human causation

Look as it sails aimlessly
On large, crashing waves
Onward and shamelessly
Too dark and solemn caves

Will you stay or jump ship?
For the sea is unforgiving
So you must now equip
For this life is not for reliving

Take a stance, man the helm
Stand strong on the bow
Create your new realm
And savor the here and now

Death Smiles

(Hay-Na-Ku)

Death,
It smiles
Upon us all

Like
Rome, you
To will fall

There's
No safety
Net to install

And
No escape
Tunnel to crawl

Of Love

(Triolet)

Why do I need to write of love?
Is it something you can obtain?
Does it rain from heaven above?

Why do I need to write of love?
Is it found on the wings of a dove?
Or is it a time bomb of pain?

Why do I need to write of love?
Is it something you can obtain?

Broken Eyes

(Freestyle)

Here I sit with broken eyes
Twisted thoughts, blatant lies
Fierce contempt, long goodbyes
Cruel lows, vanished highs
So, take a deep breath, release a deep sigh

The Self-Imposed Exile II

(Freestyle)

A self-imposed exile
Of torn and wretched style

I'm mute, dumb, deaf, and blind
My soul a twisted bind

Travel to the below
Hoping the soul will grow

A mere passing goodbye
Departing time draws nigh

To the land of the froze
To dissipate my lows

The Creature

(Freestyle)

My body is beaten blue
Exile and torment ensue
Heart has been pulled from my chest
Left dead with all the rest

But the tides are now turning
No more fortress left burning
No more soul left wandering
Nothing more for pondering

I am standing one man strong
Fist to the sky like a song
Feet planted firm to the ground
It's a new life I have found

So fuck all those who naysay
Blasting through in a new way
And go find yourself a preacher
Coming through like a creature

Gone In 60 Seconds

(Kyrielle)

Yes, it was my love at first sight
Yes, it consumed both day and night
This unwavering, pure delight
But it was gone in 60 seconds

There was no want or need for flight
There was no need to fuss and fight
And I held on with all my might
Yet, it was gone in 60 seconds

Now the emotions flow outright
Now sparks of fury will ignite
Causing the flames of selfish spite
And it was gone in 60 seconds

So, it's a hopeless life of fright
So, it's speech that is not polite
There's no chance love will reunite
'Cause it was gone in 60 seconds

The Phoenix I

(Freestyle Sonnet)

On the wings of a Phoenix, I rise
Shaking off all that I despise
Rebirth, cut ties
And the end of all the lies

Soaring back up to the skies
Once falling, now flies
No more long goodbyes
And no real reason to revise

Now the air up here is sweet
But getting there is no easy feat

Trip through Hell

(Freestyle Sonnet)

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
It's more like the stench of summer decay
More like the bodies floating in Tonkin's Bay
Of no kind words I long to say

Or...

Shall I compare thee to a summer's rain?
It's more like the fists of fury and pain
More of the endless, soul-sucking mundane
Emotions like a derailed train

Or...

Shall I compare thee to a summer's breeze?
It's more like the feeling of a death squeeze
More like the furious Northern freeze
Only bringing us to our knees

And...

It's not a sip from a summer well
More like a trip through a summer hell

The Unwanted Guest

(Freestyle)

There is an unwanted guest
Knocking at my mind's door
An old friend on a quest
Someone whom you don't adore

Begging and begging to be let in
Promises he's a changed man
Long forgotten are the days of sin
But remember when it all began

Total disregard for anyone
At a level that is dangerous
Consumed by endless fun
It is purely cancerous

So try to keep him at bay
Lock the door, throw away the key
Send him away for another day
Stay true to who you need to be

In Limbo

(Shadorma)

In limbo
Neither here nor there
Where to go?
Who will know?
It's life with little purpose
No means to repair

But...

Maybe perhaps
This life will recover
No more traps
No mishaps
And send away the "circus"
Transform like no other?

To Whom It May Concern

(Quatern)

This is to whom it may concern
Know the world is not what it seems
It's not all fantasies and dreams
It's more so full of vast extremes

So be wary of what you do
This is to whom it may concern
Because the chaos may ensue
And we will not all make it through

Make sure that you chose the right side
And don't forget those who have cried
This is to whom it may concern
And don't forget those who have died

Take a stance before you're too late
Don't pass the expiration date
For you cannot escape this fate
This is to whom it may concern

The Life Lost II

(Freestyle)

Minutes, hours, and days
My mind wanders and strays
Through dark caves and deep bays
Lost of the better ways

You, my friend, have passed? yes...
Do you know of the stress?
Fragile minds, mental mess
Of things, we can't contest

You are still with us? no...
But will you help me grow?
Pull me from the below
A better life, bestow

The days, the weeks, the years
Will help erase our tears
And help deplete our fears
As the gloom disappears

The Self-Imposed Exile III

(Freestyle Sonnet)

Not leaving on a jet plane,
More like a slow northbound train
Not looking for riches, fame
But to rid what I can't tame

Busting from my desperate cage
Armed with my killswitch engage
Leaving the two lights I love
They're a torn and tattered dove

Traveling alone, fearless
Hoping to make it tearless
As I progress to new heights
This feeling overexcites

It's a feeling like no other
Like an infant's new mother
Like a deep void filled at last
Like a love that will not pass

It's a self-imposed exile indeed
But it is truly what the soul will need

The Phoenix II

(Freestyle)

Reborn like a Phoenix from the ashes
It's a painful transition indeed
My flesh is torn as pain slowly passes
Hellfire comes from the wounds that bleed

It's a mental battle that clashes
With those who are longing to be freed
The desperate hearts and throats with slashes
No one listens as your soul does plead

But I push through all the lashes
I try to harness their endless greed
Swoop up, as the enemy dashes
It's best known as Assassin's Creed

I am soaring as my wing bashes
Killing off those who don't concede
Ending off the oppressive masses
Conquering with the wrath of Godspeed

The Drums of Hell

(Mirror Fibonacci)

Drums
Beat
From the
Hell below
They're drumming for me
Coming to take my feeble soul
Beat them back with the will of God
But it's not enough
It's the end
Defeat
Lost
Stuck

Endless Darkness

(Linked Hay-Na-Ku)

I
Cannot see
Through endless darkness

For
Shadows cast
Veils over eyes

How
Can I
Pull them aside

And
Live my
Wonderful, shining life?

The Ship II

(Freestyle)

So I have taken over the helm
But this ship is still adrift
Without a map or star to gaze
It's something to overwhelm
Pain and agony are swift
Should I set this ship ablaze?

Where can I look for guidance?
Should I go at it alone?
Do I really have a choice?
Should I form some sort of alliance?
Someone to help me atone
Together we can rejoice

But still, I am drifting afar
To the end of the Earth
Set to sail over the edge
Please tell me where you are
I'll show you what I am worth
You can pull me from this ledge

Now am I simply being delusional?
Is there someone who can save me?
Or am I too far gone for anyone?
This is no Broadway musical
It's the ship of zero destiny
No laughter, love, or fun

Four Eyes Glare

(Double Shadorma)

Four eyes glare
Of brown and green hue
They gaze, stare
A little pair
My love is all they ever need
Only pure and true

All “beware”
Vanished as they grew
Rocking chairs
Teddy bears
It is their blood that I bleed
And all I live through

Black Bird of Death

(Freestyle)

It was once I do recall
The blackbirds of death
Soared above the heads of all
Sucked out the last breath
Our flesh, their beaks pecked and maul

You may try and try and try
To escape, perhaps
With sounds of a battle cry
Reign of man, collapse
As the blackbirds scream and fly

The Addict

(Freestyle)

This nagging urge is real
Coming from the breast, deep
It's too strong to conceal
I cannot let it seep
Out into the world

Many lives it does steal
How do I make it keep
From numbing what I feel?
The slope is far too steep
Addiction has unfurled

It's a prick in the vein
Little pills down the hatch
Puffing to kill the pain
Deadly crystal meth batch
Square paper on the tongue

I tell you this today
There is light at the end
It is not all decay
Your life, you must defend
The survivors, I'm among

Battlefield

(Kyrielle)

Now it's back to the battlefield
I am without a sword or shield
It's only my words that I wield
Until the bitter end

What's in my heart is still concealed
I keep it zipped up, tied off, sealed
So you better keep one eye peeled
Until the bitter end

And pray to God you will be healed
Your sentence may be appealed
Or at least the truth be revealed
Until the bitter end

The Thirst

(Freestyle)

Mmm wine
What's the fine?
For the obscenities that follow
No memories for tomorrow
Crossing that thin line

An excuse? What's mine?
I'll blame it on the bloodline
Drinking all I can swallow
May lead to endless sorrow
But I'd rather our hearts intertwine

When the Cloud Pours

(Freestyle Sonnet)

When the cloud pours
The anguish soars
A painful dissection
Cutting every direction
Through every open pore
Leaving you battered and sore
A full-body breakdown

The rain, river rises
Within love, it disguises
It hides in happy gestures
In smiles, it festers
Leaving you open for attack
A knife stabbed in the back
Crippled, you drown

It causes mass infliction
A mental rape conviction
Jailed like a bird
Caged, lonely, and absurd
Left for the maximum sentence
Just begging for repentance
Or to simply leave this town

But the rain will wash you out to sea
And you will never be able to flee

The Infernal Doll Factory

(Freestyle)

A stage fit for hell
The creatures, infernal
Dolls and flesh they sell
Lust and rage internal
An erotic freak show

Is it pain or pleasure?
I sit off in the distance
Engulfed in foreign treasure
Can't escape the sinful persistence
But do I truly want to go?

Something New

(Mirror Fibonacci)

It
Is
Funny
How the world
Can chew you up whole
Just so it can spit out your soul
Then the next day fills you with joy
A complete one-eighty
Something new
So fresh
Like
Rain

The Deep

(Freestyle)

Deep useless empty well
Deep stories I do tell
Deep in love I once fell
Deep price, they've tried to sell

Deep was her endless lust
Deep urge, a sinful must
Deep betrayal of trust
Deep, its love will soon bust

So...
Care before it is gone
And...
Treat it like a love song

Self-Imposed Exile IV

(Freestyle Sonnet)

So, I took the northbound train
To the land of “love”
Yet all I feel is vain
No warmth beaming from above
They still torture and drain
No beautiful white dove

It is still all regression

But I do know of the sign
That one day I will heal from this
The torment must resign
And the pain will dismiss
The true light will finally shine
Of better days, we will reminisce

But I am still plagued with this question

When will I be able to reconcile
And fulfill this self-imposed exile?

Red Sin

(Lune)

Your lips are red sin
Bittersweet
Killing from within

Night Creates Bliss

(Haiku)

How night creates bliss
The dark radiates wisdom
Of eternity

The Raging Storm

(Haiku)

Mad as the black sky
The fierce, dark storm came ashore
Run, run if you can

The Earthquake

(Haiku)

From below I burst
Splitting ground like an Earthquake
Destroying cities

Dry Land

(Haiku)

The pouring rain floods
My brain full of thoughts of doubt
Swim fast to dry land

Lonely

(Freestyle)

Lonely
Desperate tone, nothing to see
Empty home, lost key
Action sown, woe is me
No way to atone, what to be?

Double-Broken Heart

(BOP)

A heart broke not once, but twice
Throw out the rules for what is nice
Meaningful appreciation
One broken without causation
The other broken out of spite
Or at least out of lost delight
How to mend a double-broken heart?

Can I flee the lands with no care?
NO! Leave my kids, I would not dare
Can I beg for shattered pieces?
NO! You can't when one life ceases
Can I collect from the other?
NO! Not one who is a torn mother
Can I simply cut this life short?
NO! Only the weak will abort!
How to mend a double-broken heart?

So, I sit with unanswered lines
No epiphany that refines
Yet this peace is raging through me
Like a river to a vast sea
I hold this peace with a death grip
And I'll complete this exile trip
How to mend a double-broken heart?

The Unwanted Guest II

(Freestyle)

Engage the self destruct
My demons run amuck
Sell my soul for a buck
Not giving an endless fuck

The dark passenger roams free
Passing from you to me
Drowning in the Dead Sea
Consuming what I need to be

This unwanted guest
Who knows me the best
Sent forth on this quest
The wicked get no rest

Just hope it's a passing phase
Utterly lost in this maze
A crazed mental haze
Lasting hours or days?

To The Gates of White
(Linked Haiku)

The clouds lift me up
On mist, my body soars high
But how can this be?

Weightless like a feather
And this all really makes no sense
How this mass drifts free?

Yet winds propel me
To grand destinations
Through gates of white

Please let this be real
For this breeze, I don't deserve
I only deserve smite

Two Little Lights

(Freestyle)

Two little lights
One of blood
One of luxury
Deprived of natural rights
Dragged through the mud
By forces, they cannot see

As the lights grow old
Will they know the truth?
Or will the forces keep them blind?
Never will the truth be told
Of their ever-decaying youth
The answers, impossible to find

But hope seems to serve me well
One day the lights will be too bright
They'll see with their own illumination
And the true story, they will tell
Of sorrow, pity, and fright
And their search for true causation

Castle Cage
(Linked Lune)

Of the things you do
You should be
Locked in a castle cage

It's not deviant
Oh no, no
It's more like pure bliss

Overwhelming joy
Engulfing
All my bodily senses

So, I must keep you
Like a bird
In this castle cage

Wake Up!

(Freestyle)

Wake up, raise your fist, resist
Like a raging machine
Or a deep slit wrist
A bottle full of kerosene
I am blazing through the system

Smashing through a mental wall
Forcing the meek to their feet
Strong-willed and standing tall
Averting all of the deceit
I am separating you from the dumb

Will you help take to the street
Or will you herd like the sheep?
Will you take a feeble seat
Or make the great needed leap?
I am pushing on with vast momentum

Just do what is true inside
It will not lead you astray
We can turn the endless tide
We do not need to be the prey
Or just another faceless victim

The Selfie Nation

(Freestyle)

Selfie nation
Sole creation
Look at me, look at me!
Attention is the only key

Big tits, duck lips
Party time, wine sips
Look at me, look at me
Now ask me what I see

Shallow heart!
Great start?
How about selfish bitch?
You're not rich
Not in soul or mind
True love, you cannot find
Only vanity
Lost sanity

Look at me, look at me
I only feel piety
Most of you are simply fake
And you need to go eat some f'n cake

The 21st Century Fox

(Freestyle)

21st Century Fox
No better than the prior
Alcohol, drugs, cocks
Pretty Little Liar
Give us our freedom
But degraded to the dumb

Only the stronghold firm
Household values exist
But most cannot fulfill the term
A little black book list
More concerned with fun,
And lust; not a daughter or a son

The Throne

(Freestyle Sonnet)

Wandering in the endless night
No sight, no touch, no sound
Void of the daily delight
A dark hallowed ground
Fear vanished through might
And wisdom I have found

I come to where the path veers
Both paths lead to the unknown
In a car where no one stares
Over bodies wherever they are thrown
Hoping to clear the tears
And conquer this new throne

King of soul, body, and mind
Killing off all the blind

From Far Below

(Freestyle)

Cookie cut from heaven
Or someplace far below
Not just one of seven
Far too many to know
Like clones they populate
Longing to copulate

Programmed to one false view
They will not understand
Just waiting for their cue
To steal what they demand
They will then suck you dry
You must not dare defy

Speaking without knowledge
Naïve sense of what's right
They will never acknowledge
They smother all the light
They decimate your will
And crush your only thrill

How to escape them fast
Grips like the Jaws of Life
Freedom will never last
A double-bladed knife
Suck up the endless grief
For there is no relief

The End

(Cascade)

This is the end
My beautiful friend
Of death and pain I transcend

So until we meet again
Just try to mend
This is the end

Do not try and pretend
Embrace it and defend
My beautiful friend

For a lifetime you can spend
Fighting the inevitable descend
Of death and pain I transcend