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A Human Life

a book of poems

by
PC Keefer

book one

A Human Life

BOOK ONE

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20170825

I held fear in my heart
most my life

I sweep it out
but it settles again
like dust on the sill

Eating, sleeping, washing
are not free

Loving, growing, holding
can always flee

It is the slipping
that worries me

Keeps me awake
fires the imagination

What if we give it all away
Time Gone
Possessions Gone
Love Gone

If we gave it all away
would we be empty
or would we find ourselves
full

I think we are
by the heavens
empty

Fear makes us cram
stuff in

Fear makes us carry things
we should not carry

So I sweep
and dust
and throw things out
and find again

My house is full
and I am fearful still

20171107

Hear what I say
See what I do
Don't judge me
I won't judge you

20171215

Don't tell me you love me
Don't tell me you care
Don't tell me you need me
If you won't be there

20171217

The great lottery in the sky
where we go
when we die

How can you tell
you are worshiping
the right guy

20171218.1

The world goes round and round
We're searching for some Holy Ground

20171218.2

Share this lazy day

20171218.3

Only God could kill Texas One

20171218.4

Get knocked down
get back up

But
I want to sit here awhile

20171227

Throw it in the hole
where it really go
no one really know
throw it in the hole

20180121

It's a slow down
like the end-of-day sun down
like a western showdown
like the end of us

20180125

It broke me

All I did for you

Then you left

20180224

I want to gather every good gift
and lay it at your feet

All who were important
have taken a backseat

This is love
not tidy or neat

A frenzied race
to claim your seat
to hold your hand
to hold your eyes
to whisper sweet
to grip you tight
in the passion of night

This is love
not tidy or neat

Center shifted
life off balance
thoughts pulling
into the deep
trouble sleeping
trouble keeping
my thoughts
on anything
but you

Are you in
are you out
wrestling with
the powers of doubt
love me
love me not

If you leave
what have I got

memories
a painful rift
the cavern made
by loves retreat

Do I believe
this love will keep
not cast me to the street
do you believe
this love will keep
do you believe

This is love
not tidy or neat

A mess of emotions
all tangled and deep
a rock in the pond
the ripples so sweet
our souls to capture
and to keep

This is love
not tidy or neat

This is your heart
playing in the street
love grips the chest
takes away the breath
a panic
a fear
that love
may not stay
love packed up
love gone home

Love lifts you up
to let you down
but the rise
and the fall
like your breasts
heaving deep
such a sweet memory
such a sweet story
of you
and of me

I'll jump into your love
send the ripples
as far as my reach
swim my body down
deep
deep
swim my body down
deep
into your love

20180227.1

I'm doing everything wrong

falling too fast

too soon

oversharing

overholding

overdisclosing

showing weakness

insecurity

This is a mess

I am a mess

where did the

calm

strong

ass-kicking

tree-chopping

mountain-moving

me

go

20180227.2

To live

in another's

thoughts

heart

hopes

the strangest of all foreign lands

The land of love

A language I don't speak

lost on the streets

waving shapes with my hands

trying to find a room

to lay my body down

20180304.1

I can hold you
perfectly

but share my thoughts

and I'll
fuck it up

20180304.2

There are green fields in Ireland

Yellow hot sands in Africa

Jungle waterfalls in Brazil

Earth-fulls of places

It's the Rockies for me

canyons

rivers

cliffs

giant pines

ice-cold winters

mountain beasts

My love

my home

20180308

Today I spend working

like yesterday

and tomorrow

I did not hold my love

did not hold my child

did not hold my parents

did not hold the mountains

in my arms

I did eat

and watch

part of the sunset

20180317.1

The mind runs so quickly

leaving reason and truth

behind

Live in the presence of others

The mind is a lonely place

20180317.2

Since you've been gone
I've been talking to the sky

Since you left
I've been high and dry

20180324

This is us
like Orion in the night sky
like good morning
and good night

Staying up
getting high
sleeping in
not a care

It may be on
It may be off
It may be good
It may be bad

Elton John was right
not knowing
if it is
dark out
or light

20180328

Your nose twitches
and that
if fucking adorable

Your face is symmetrical
with almond eyes
blue and dancing

Your frame is petite
every man's dream

You told me you cried
one night recently
I asked why
but I didn't fully comprehend

If I was there
at that time
your time of sorrow
would I be good for you

Would I say the right words
to comfort you
Would I sit quietly and read
to myself
my presence alone
the comfort you need
Would I take you in my arms
and there would you find
your safe place
your comfort
your peace

I've fallen for you
You know this
But you are wiser than me
you are a woman
and women feel
what men don't
women give
like men don't

You are smart
to reserve your heart
to keep safe that
which is you

I just want
someday
to be
the right place
for you
to be
when you cry

20180331.1

I want

love like honey

on my tongue

20180331.2

I don't know who
I am singing to
anymore

A song of the heart
miles apart

Love lost
or love found

Can't seem to find
the ground

20180331.3

I'm with you
but I feel alone

Time apart
miles away

How goddamn long
is this day

There are so many
that want me

The one I want
is miles away

How goddamn long
is this day

This day
yesterday
days and days before

Not tomorrow either

20180331.4

You want magic

But I'm just a Train Conductor

who wants home

at the journey's end

a roof from the rain

an embrace

a rest

20180401

You broke me into pieces
before you walked out the door
You took the best, most valuable, shiniest pieces
put them in your pocket
took them away

Now I'm here, sad, alone
looking at the unwanted
pieces of me

I'll take the pieces I have
and play them
like a Chess Champion
moving my pieces
with Master strategy

My favorite artist
painted thirty works
using dorian gray, white, and black
beautiful
powerful
portraits using three
colorless pieces

And so I'll find a new home
a new love
a new song
a new memory
to play in my mind
as I fall asleep

The gaps
the holes
from the pieces you took
are filling in
with sympathy
for the low and broken
people like me

Filling in with gratitude
for the songbird on the fence
for the moon in the sky
for the snow on my face
for the sun on my skin

Best of all
is the feeling of
love
when the woman
better than you
takes my hand
pulls me in
kisses me soft
holds me
until she sleeps

The pieces you took
I replace
with better pieces

20180528.1

Goodbye love

Hello self

I missed you

20180528.2

Women
have come
and have gone

But the moon
at 3 AM
while the world sleeps
is the same

It waits for me
to rise
and smoke

And I pray
to an inky sky
with back-light clouds
and the distant stars
telling me
I am alone

And this is okay

This is the universe

I exist
the earth exists
the moon exists
and we are all
floating alone
together

And this is more than
okay
It is perfect

As long as you
are there for me
at 3 AM
while I smoke

I will pray to you
and write to you
and we will be alone
together

20180528.3

My hands are empty

But I have held so very much

Lovers

Infants

Gold

Soil

So much as passed
through my hands

Eternity

one touch

one clasp

one grip

one caress

at a time

Even this book
will leave my hands

And I will sleep
with empty hands

20180528.4

I deleted
your photos
and erased
your contact
because you asked me to

I suppose
some chapters
are better short

Turn the page
I'm ready to hold
someone
who holds me

20180528.5

11 AM we meet
We are human
She is female
I am male

She speaks one language
more than I do

We like each other

Her laughter is music

20180616.1

May 27, 2018

June 15, 2018

Dates I

would like

to carry

in my soul

for life

death

and eternity

What will be

I cannot see

so I live with

belief and hope

20180616.2

I am tired
let me rest my head
on thee

Come forth
rest your head
on me

20180616.3

I wish I could
I wish I could
I wish I could

But all I can

Is all I can

So, let's stop
look around
and really see
what we have found

20180618

Time

Talk

Move

Sleep

Smile

Laugh

20180702.1

She is more like me
than anyone I've ever met

Needy like me
hungry like me
doubtful like me
willing to hope like me
trying like me

At what point
does gravity
lock two bodies
into orbit
around each other

Forever spinning
in the pull
of the other

When does history
stop recording
while the two
encircle
unrecorded
silently
in space
together

When does time
and noise
and the very concept of doubt
end

When do two bodies
circle together
because gravity has
set them together
forever

I see
her body
pull me in

I welcome gravity
to set me
in her orbit

20180702.2

Music keeps telling me
what I'm feeling

Money keeps me on a schedule

The Spirit
occasionally
sets me on fire

Orgasms make my flesh sweat

Sleep drowns out my voice

I am an animal

These are animal things

In what dimension
am I light
Light only

Flesh and responses
all animals have

In what dimension
is my light
Everything

20180702.3

What does it take
to be

20180702.4

I am pink
She is yellow
Go below that think layer
and you find
identical people

We do not take
comfort in color

We shelter
in love

Her holding me
Me holding her

Kiss to kiss
flesh to flesh
one love
one body
one color
one shape
one life

20180703

Not sure why this works
but it works

She says I look clean
I say her laugh is like
comforting ice
on a burning heart

Love takes a happy shape
sometimes

Sometimes love
is a hand
and a smile
and a head
resting on a chest

Sometimes love
doesn't break you
financially
emotionally
physically
spiritually

Sometimes love
is drinking instant coffee
in paper cups
late morning
in a tiny camper
on the side of the mountain
high above Clyde Lake

Love is grateful
for all things

Love is not wanting
to go home

Love is wishing a moment
to last forever

Love is missing that person
while you are with them
because you know the time is getting close
where you must part
for a while

Love is hearing
“I love you”
from your voice
then echoed back
in her voice

Love is a kiss
and the world melts away
disappears
like the sun melts away
the fog

20180708.1

She laid with me
and it was like
we were children
laying in a meadow
lost in the grasses
watching cotton clouds above
seeing dogs and dragons

She laid with me
and time passed
all morning
all afternoon
We went to the kitchen
hungry for food
in the evening

She laid with me
and we were old
bodies failing
memory skipping
like a scratched record
hands wrinkled and knotted
fingers entwined

She laid with me
and I knew no other

20180708.2

Place it down here

oh place it

oh place it

place it

place your heart down here

20180715.1

Fold me Lord
so when she wields me
I fail her not

20180715.2

God is not a constant companion
but it comes at times
I welcome it in
invite it to course through me
set me on fire
purify me
and make me so still
that the stars
and the earth
and the air
and I
are one

So still
the flesh is
for a time
suspended

And there is no body
there is the Spirit
of all things

In One

20180716

Keep me
I am your man

20180725

I don't believe in God
But God saw me slipping
God saw me tipping
God saw me falling
falling down

And there you were
with a smile
there you were
with a whisper
there you were
with your hand in mine
there you were
how divine

I don't believe in God
But God saw me slipping
God saw me tipping
God saw me falling
falling down

And there you were
with a heart broken
there you were
with a voice trembling
there you were
willing to try
I wipe away your tears
you wipe away mine
there you were
how divine

I don't believe in God
But God saw me slipping
God saw me tipping
God saw me falling
falling down

And there you were
with kisses
there you were
with I miss you
there you were
with I love you
there you were
with I want to make you mine
there you were
how divine

I don't believe in God
But God saw me slipping
God saw me tipping
God saw me falling
falling down

There you were
how divine

20180912

If you push
hard enough
long enough

You'll sit down

and see

you should have

been pulling

the whole time

20180815

When do we look at less
and say it is enough

Reaching for more
risks all you currently have

When is enough
enough

20180926

I wish the words would appear
on this page

I will simply look
and the right words appear

Telling me
what my thoughts can't find

Opening my eyes
to the truth of my life

But it's not like that
The pen is in my hand

The hand is the servant
of my thoughts

And that is where
I'm lost

We are all lost
isolated
in our thoughts

We share stories
share lives
to anchor ourselves

20190407

My Love is in Houston
and I am here

20190411

What I want
is to share coffee

And we share
so much more

Days
weeks
and a life slips by

With you by me
and me by you

It's true
all I want from you

Is to share coffee
'til the day I die

Watch our faces wrinkle
bodies move slower
across the kitchen floor
both hands holding the mug

This is the life I want
a life of coffee
with you

20190417.1

True love
is being together
through change

20190417.2

Liyan

20190417.3

Somehow

my thoughts

have slipped

onto this

page

Magic

20190417.4

.... | |

Many great songs
follow this pattern

20190418.1

Love is binary

0

1

=

Empty

Full

She is my 1

I am her 1

20190418.2

It's a great house
owned by the bank

I would rather have
a simple house
owned by me

20190418.3

Believe

then

work

Your

ass

off

20190418.4

We are all

investing our

very life

each day we spend

at work

Is it your life

20190418.5

A little gap
in time

I'm going to
wire a book

and start a
lighting company

then I'm going to
build a fucking house

20190419

Every day

is a day at sea

Check the compass

Read the stars

20190427

Because Love

is

acts of kindness

20190428.1

The path is

for two

20190428.2

Black hair
a strand of gray

Black eyes
ringed with brown

Warm skin
flawless and smooth

Resting on my
hairy, moled, body

My Chinese Queen
my everything

20190429

Yes, she is beautiful

But, she is more brave
than her beauty

And her heart is soft
which makes her beauty
shine bright as the sun

I find peace
and warmth
in her light

20190430.1

Today I belonged

to no one

but me

It was slow

and simple

I wish every day

was slow and simple

20190430.2

LPIAYUALN

PLAIUYLAN

20190508.1

I wish

I could

Be

all the time

but I'm just

not that

20190508.2

I wish

my touch

was all

it took

20190508.3

I wish

my words

would emerge

from this book

20190508.4

I wish

perfect love

was more

than a moment

in time

more than

a temporary

alignment

of an ever-shifting

kaleidoscope

of time

20190508.5

I wish

God would

visit

and put this all

into

perspective

20190508.6

I wish

I had become

more

by this age

than I am

That I had lived

simpler

and

grander

20190508.7

I wish

my dream

comes true

a life

lived simple

and pure

with

you

my

Tiger

20190508.8

I wish

sleep were a switch

I could

flip with a

thought

a release

on demand

a peace

when peace

is needed

20190508.9

I wish

I could be

all you need

all the time

but I'm not

all I need

most the time

I'm a fraction

the person

we both

need

20190508.10

I wish

I was holding

Liyan

my Chinese

Queen

20190508.11

I wish

before I ran

out of money

I discovered

something greater

than money

20190508.12

I wish

my flesh

desired

only altruism

and not

carnal pleasure

20190508.13

I wish

my children

loved

me

20190508.14

I wish

my value

was not measured

by my

time

20190508.15

I wish

I could solve

all her needs

but I will always

fall short

Will she still love me

when she sees

I fall

20190508.16

I wish

my chalice

was clean

20190508.17

I wish

I had

the resources

to make

life easy

for you

20190510

I love you Liyan

My life work now

is to protect your

soft heart

20190720.1

I'm broken

I'm lost

I'm in a play

I can't escape

and I've forgotten

all my lines

The other actors

whirl around me

confused by my presence

I'm a hurricane

of confusion

contained

barely

by paper-thin skin

20190720.2

Time apart

is open doors

for everything

to

fall

apart

20190720.3

I wish

perfect love

was more

than just a moment

I wish

perfect love

could be

visited again

I wish

perfect love memories

would stop haunting me

this night

20190720.4

It won't last

It will change

shapes

so quickly

so many times

that it will

not last

20190720.5

My flesh

is all I've held

I carry it

from lover to lover

her embrace

always slipping to another

my hands

again empty

except for my flesh

all I've ever held

20190720.6

I put music

in my ears

because my thoughts

recall the years

and I need to

escape those losses

I put other voices

in my head

hoping my voices

will fade away

into someone's melody

someone's music

in my ears

20190720.7

for now
for now
keep the course
for now

for now
for now
stand by her side
for now

for now
for now
believe she will
for now

for now
for now
settle down
for now

for now
for now
she sleeps in my arms
for now

for now
for now
Until she cries
and says goodbye
just love her
and enjoy her
and serve her
bring her gifts
for now

20190720.8

Love

is

simply

gift

giving

20190720.9

Lies

what's at risk

20190720.10

I'm so afraid
 she
 will
 hold
 another

Stupid
 I know
 to fear such a thing

But
 Isn't this
 how I came
 into the picture

So
 just breathe
 and let what
 will be
 to be

20190720.11

Eat

and

watch

the

sunset

20190720.12

God,

If I could
ask a favor

Let me see
how this ends

Sharing old age
disability
death

this being the dream

Or

does it end
with me
talking to you
in a book

20190722.1

I'm not supposed to be here

No. Really.

I'm not supposed to be here

90 days after almost dying

while giving birth

to my older brother

I was conceived

A tragedy.

I'm not supposed to be here

I was nursed on

Latex nipples

and plastic bottles

filled with a formula

the ad agencies

sold as

"Better than Mother"

I'm not supposed to be here

I was four when my sister was born

with birth defects

The next two years

Dad worked

while Mom hovered over

the hospital bed

of her baby

I'm not supposed to be here

My insecurities are massive

they ruin every relationship

Is there a woman

that can nurse me

cradle me

hold me

and tell me ten-thousand times

everything will be alright

Is there a woman

when I say

I'm not supposed to be here

Pulls me into her breast

and whispers

"Oh, Baby,

you belong

here."

20190722.2

Liyan

wants

space

time

Oh, shit

20190731

God I'm a mess

How'd I become so insecure

I'm fucking this up

like I always do

20190731

I need to master

being alone

20190808.1

It's about trust

About believing

that other person

will choose to not do

the things that will

break you

Trusting that other person

to say "No" a

hundred-thousand times

just to protect you

I struggle with trust

I'm working on it

20190808.2

Trust is naive

Absolutely

It is foolish to believe

But

in that belief

in that trust

is all the beauty

that exists in life

If you want to live

a beautiful life

you must trust

20190817.1

All stages of grief

end in acceptance

Life is absolutely

a kaleidoscope

A constantly changing

pattern

But sometimes

a pattern comes into view

that is so beautiful

so warm

so comforting

that you want

that specific pattern

forever

It does not work

that way

The view we love

the pattern we hold

changes

And our heart breaks

Painfully

as we watch

the beautiful

pattern we love

Leave

20190817.2

A Human Life

a book of poems

by
PC Keefer

book one