

Sloetry

Poems by D. Hagan

Poetry is a garden.
I planted long ago.
To justify my younger self.

To Mar,

Thanks for your gaze.

Between the lines.

Right now

I am made

Of

Sleep

Dreamy hours

Between 10pm and 10am

Made of coffee

Brewed

Under

The midnight sun

Made of

Spinning thoughts

Love making

Love starving

Bodies of salt water tears

Green sparkling lakes

I am made of

Dandelion dust

Fallen Dog hair

And filling space with time

My body creeps up on me

Weens me off of my addiction

To thought

Death is my new form of transformation
Of talking myself up
If I let this part die
Then maybe truth can win
Because I will change and change again
My Scorpio moon
Means I am made of Pluto and Chiron
The farthest reaching planets of our solar system
I am water
frozen
Only to become water again
I am made of
What lies beneath
A fruit bearing soul and truth telling body
Sometimes I forget I am fluid
And made of
An ocean that
once
had no land mass to stop it

There are times in which I only want to cry.

I want to breath in through my baby lungs
Into my child hands
I want to know that touch is not torment
Rather tenderness
I come closer and closer to the actuality of my own
transcendence
I engaged with my homosexuality before my heterosex-
uality ever knew me
Falling in love with small friends
Every minute spent together
Scary movies watched
Breakfast cereal in the morning
We felt good
Life felt good
Humour was our harmony
We sang it everyday
It was us
And our lives
Before we were defined by anything else
Growing farther
Became a protector
Of my tenderness
Walked away from my body
Now I have a best friend again
Good love again
And I realize this as nothing new
But what I was born knowing

Somewhere I was the lesbian who could of held you all up
Enabled you all to feel it was okay to be yourself
Could of been the one you talked to about boys and girls
Could of dealt with the loneliness then
But I wanted to be loved
An external validation
Felt so far from my body
I needed someone to enter it
I couldn't see what wasn't visible to me that there was
queerness
I wrote a paper about gay marriage in grade 10
The was the closest I came
To understand what my rights would turn out to be
I care a lot
I care about others
And to make them feel better in a cold world
I spread myself so thin
So many times
Said I could be everything to everyone
When all i wanted was to be home to me
I'm finding it slowly now
In the way I put on pants
And smile when I think of her
I have to say to whoever I have harmed
In the process of derailing my internalized feelings self
hate
I'm sorry
I take responsibility
And Never want anyone to feel unloved or unwanted in a
society that marginalizes the marginal and makes us hate
ourselves
Your love is real
Your body is valid
This world needs you

Im gonna tell her what I like.
a slow hand caressing my inner thigh
when she traces my spine
when we don't know who's body is whose
I like when were honest
When we cry at the end
When we realize
Its liberation
And how much we operate
Even in intimacy
In a heteronormative way
But pleasure can be our way out
I like when its her bed
Not mine
Or her floor
And we get rug burn
I like when we talk
Talk about performance
Unravleing
Dismantling
I like when we take our time
When we feel as if time is ours to take
When we feel fluid
Mixing
Making our own shapes
Even after our autostraddle research
I like when we figure out what feels good
And when we both give ourselves access to this
I like when I say no
And this is listened to
Because I am listening
I like learning that I don't need the things
I used to

That what I allow myself to feel
Is in direct correlation
With how free I am
I like to rub against you
Clothes or no clothes
Its excurashatily hot
I like it in the afternoon
Or evening
If we can still be asleep by 10
Boundaries turn me on
Unearthing desire
On our own time
I like when you pull me in by my shirt
and kiss me warmly
I like to look at you
The way queer ancestors fought to do
I can feel them fall in love with you
moving at the speed of trust

I've always wanted love to save me
And it has
And it will continue to
But it's more than that
It's a safety in the world
It's someone in their body
So you can be in yours
It's a fairness in the seasons
And that staying inside is okay
And rest is crucial to wellbeing
It's saying language is a gift
so use it wisely
You don't own anything
Except your actions
Your privilege
Creates your responsibility
And it's as simple and as complex as that
It's saying thank you
When someone corrects you on their pronouns
It's protection but not defence
Discernment not judgement
It's riding the wave, day after day
It's decolonizing gender, bodies and land
Understanding how much a colonial belief creates daily
violence to yourself and others
It's not giving up
It's continuing to try
Even when your brain feels like it can't connect the
threads
That's when you go to the heart
You say hello, are you still there?
And you go and sit in that space
With your heart
You have conversations

Of what it means for you, in your body, in your skin, in
your privilege to be here
You ask what needs to be done
You listen intently
And then You act
And continue to act in opposition
To a system and society that asks otherwise
You do what you know is right in your heart
Because we all have that capacity
To care and to show up
It's what we are here to do

Our world was always crumbling
Breaking apart
When we sat at the ferry terminal for 5 hours
Waiting to see your favourite band
When we were snowed stayed
In a town across the sea
When we panicked
In the skies
Arriving from one home to another
We were always asked to be present with each other
To relearn time on our terms
To be honest about what we need
In the moments in between
Joy and lust
To figure out
How to be human next to one another
To listen to body
To do as many buzzfeed quizzes as we could in a day
We were asked to be bored together
To feel freedom in our boredom
Those moments we never looked back
Thought about what we could of done differently
They changed us
For we were open to being changed
We knew we were trying
And that is what life liked the most
We haunted each other
And still do
Asking for growth
And understanding
I love you
The way hands caress churned earth and then my face
With a steady awareness of how to hold something that remains
unholdable

I woke you up to ask if you were sleeping.

I love the way her back
Cracks when she breathes in deep enough
Releasing the day, month, year
Knees ache
Freezing sleep
I don't know what sadness looks like to the outside world
when I can't go outside
The past lives in the parts of the body that want to move
Move through water
Move through stone
You dropped a box of matches today
I told you it had to mean something
That a fire needed to be lit
A bird flew into the window
And laid stunned on the ground
I told you it had to mean something
That a path isn't without tragedy

Relationships are an excuse to have someone to snack with.

The immediate intimacy I crave
Rocks me in every way
To know the carcass of everyone I come across
But to know yours feels too much
Feels like something I could of
Embraced but didn't
I'm stuck
Unforgiving myself
Trapping myself in lost thought
I want to avoid knowing you
Wanting to take you in just as
You are to me now
Want to know memory through skin
Rather than talk
I am hungry
And waiting
For myself to transcend
Into something
Less explosive
More stable
Less chase
More home
I am waiting
Like a creature
And her prey
Praying for something outside herself
To swallow
Every part of her
She can't hold

M.R.

I see your freshly grown in hair
Under your arms
In the places you never let me touch
Because of the tenderness
So I witness it from a far
Gazing at how you've grown
I notice how fresh each hair looks
How honestly they seem to stand
I adore what you don't seem to

Quar.

Home is leaving
And there's abandonment
And adornment in each of my bones
Becoming threaded to yours
With soft wool and used floss
My body feels best with you
Honouring all of its cracks
Your skin will be left on my sheets
If I leave them long enough
The you from seven years ago
One I didn't know
But have grew too
We'll dance to so long Marianne
I'll pet your hair
As you lean on my shoulder
Our bodies have become our past
We play like kids
Patient as to how reality folds and unfolds
Tomorrow, I'll drive you into the dark
Back to the snow
Back to roots
that will help you grow
I'll stay here
Not in fear
But In a sobering
honesty of something
bigger than us both

Quar. 2

What did you do in isolation?
Well I skyped my girlfriend
Of course
Because the truest
Part of me
The part that
I try to hide
Says I love you
A million times over
And if it dries up
Ill draw from the well again
I want to live simply with you
One room with a view
I want one day to melt into
The next forgetting
About time
To become nothing
Which becomes everything
The land
The water
The faces
We leave our egos
With capitalism
And head for the hills

Almost loving.

Believers know how to talk to god
I only know how to talk to you
In the bathtub
Late at night
No bubbles
Only murkey waters
That my body makes old shapes in
Im worried about keeping my PH levels balanced
Im worried about keeping my love intact
Im worried about being so worried
That Ill miss you
When your next to me
Forget to look in your eyes
Im worried I wont feel your touch
Because ill be thinking about how I need to be better
or that i'm the dude at the automtive shop
making you feel strange
Im worried

Influencers.

There is an image of queerness I have in my head
That is what I know of it
That is androgynous being
With the way they carry their attitude
But that's not the women I love
She's beautiful in the way that your best friend is when
you're a kid
Like the one you want to be around
Who's hair blows in the summer wind
And has the wit of an old love letter
You love her because she makes sense to you
not a lot of things in this life do
You listen to her
You breathe her in
It's contentment
To love her so

Humour me.

Plunge into something
Beautiful
Head first
At full speed
It all leaves you
At a loss
Anyways
All puts you in the middle
Of the ocean
All carries a hunger
Spill your human everywhere
Ask for a piece of cake
To sit with a friend
Tarzan will never be your boyfriend
But I will
It is not all destruction
I promise
Its unclothing
Shell shocked eyes
It's the way
A body feels
When it lives by
Governance of something else
There is no one a body knows better than itself
Except maybe a mothers
A hurt upon hurts
So you gain nothing
You unlearn everything
Until you remember

Wading.

Have I ever let my guard down
Enough to be in love
To be in it
With no walls
To let love slosh
All around me
Driving through it
Like a long winters first day off
Have I let love guide me
Choose me
Turn me on
Being in love
Is being amongst love
Is knowing you are worthy of sitting at the same table
Of eating the same food
Love is an infinite resource
It is not controlling or contorting
By change and being changed
I still live with the need to control love
To protect myself
To say you cant love me
I know I am not good enough
Isolation rather than communication
But to rejoice in love
And be voiced by love
And carry it with me
Wherever I go

my ray left me a rainbow

Yearning as productivity.

You leaked on the sheets

So you washed them

I leaked on the sheets

So you washed them

We made love the way only hands can do

With reason to move freely and softly

We made love the way only mouths do

Warm and wet

Healing your heart

Back to open

We sat

With the midnight sun

To all those who have come before. I love and respect you. Thank you for paving the way.

I acknowledge that this book was created on Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Councils traditional territories.