

***THE HEART OF EROS:
A COLLECTION OF 100 HAIKUS
BY CANDICE HOLDORF***



PHOTOGRAPHY BY WENDY YALOM & SEQUOIA EMMANUELLE

**"I TAKE PLEASURE IN MY TRANSFORMATIONS. I LOOK QUIET AND
CONSISTENT, BUT FEW KNOW HOW MANY WOMEN THERE ARE IN ME."
~ANAÏS NIN~**

1~GENESIS~

IN THE BEGINNING
THERE WAS DESIRE—AND SHE BIRTHED
ALL OF CREATION.

2~OBSESSION~

YOUR NAME GRIPS MY THOUGHTS
BY DAY; YOUR BODY'S ABSENCE
HAUNTS MY SOUL BY NIGHT.

3~EPHEMERAL~

RELISHING YOUR BREATH
ON MY SKIN, I'M REMINDED
ALL WE HAVE IS NOW.

4~SOUTHERN BELLE~

PLUCKING PEACHES FROM
MY RIPE GARDEN, YOU KISS ME
JUICE SMEARED ON MY LIPS.

5~SHADOW~

IF YOU WANT MY HEART
MAKE LOVE TO ALL OF MY SELVES
THE DARK AND THE LIGHT.

6~INTIMATION~

WE MAY SAY NO WORDS
BUT I HEAR OUR BODIES CALL
THROUGH THE SOUNDLESS NIGHT.

7~FAITHFUL (FOR A.G.)~

THESE HOLY VOWS HOLD
MY HEART—TUCKED INSIDE A LOVE
UNCONDITIONAL.

8~CARNIVORE~

I MAY LOOK DOCILE
BUT YOUR SWEET TASTE REMINDS ME
THAT I LONG FOR FLESH.

9~AMBROSIA~

YOUR LUSH WETNESS POURS
DOWN MY THROAT LIKE HOLY WINE
SLAKING DIVINE THIRST.

10~CONTRADICTION~
THE QUEEN IN ME STANDS
FOR FREEDOM—BUT THE WOMAN
HUNGERS TO BE CLAIMED.

11~EARTHQUAKE~
YOUR KISS AWAKENED
FAULT LINES IN MY DORMANT HEART
AND SWALLOWED ME WHOLE.

12~SHE~
HANDS SLIP BETWEEN THIGHS
HER DESIRE MIRRORS MY OWN
PERFECT REFLECTION.

13~PEEK-A-BOO~
YOU MAY HIDE YOUR FACE
BUT I SEE YOUR HEART YEARNING
TO COME OUT AND PLAY.

14~WALTZES~
STRIKING UP THE BAND
HEARTS BEAT IN RHYTHM AS HANDS
DANCE ACROSS MY BREASTS.

15~TENDERNESS~
AS YOU STEP ONTO
THE PATH TOWARDS MY WOUNDED HEART
TREAD LIGHTLY, LOVER.

16~UNION~
I LOSE MYSELF WHEN
OUR BODIES COME TOGETHER
SOULS MERGING AS ONE.

17~RETREAT~
IN MY SOLITUDE
GOD SLIPS THROUGH MY WET FINGERS
I AM NOT ALONE.

18~RIVER~
TONGUES LICK THE DELTA
TORRENTS RUSH BETWEEN MY THIGHS
BATHE IN THESE WATERS.

19~PARADOX~

THIS HEART-GRIEF TELLS ME
THAT OUR LOVE IS AN ENDING
DYING TO BEGIN.

20~MASOCHIST~

YOU DEMAND NO WORDS
WHILE BITING MY SILVER TONGUE
YOUR LOVE LEAVES A MARK.

21~WIZARD~

YOUR FLAMES SURROUND ME
BUT I LONG TO KNOW THE MAN
BEHIND THE CURTAIN.

22~MERCY~

RUN YOUR SWORD THROUGH ME
RELEASE ME FROM THIS TORMENT
OF MY WRITHING NEED.

23~TIN MAN~

RETIRE YOUR LAMENT
"IF I ONLY HAD A HEART!"
YOU HAVE MINE, LOVER.

24~BEYOND~

LOST IN RUMI'S FIELD
MY SOUL LIES DOWN IN THE GRASS
YEARNING TO BE MET.

25~ENDINGS~

I DO NOT REGRET
HOW YOUR KISS CRACKED ME OPEN
THANKS FOR THE HEARTBREAK.

26~LONGING~

ALONE IN MY BED
HOT TEARS ONLY FAN THE FLAMES
OF MY BURNING HEART.

27~TRUST~

BLINDED BY THIS LOVE
YOUR SKIN BECOMES MY COMPASS
FEELING MY WAY HOME.

28~STORM~

THE LIGHTNING OUTSIDE
HAS GOT NOTHING ON YOUR SKIN'S
ELECTRICITY.

29~CONJURED~

ON THESE EMPTY NIGHTS
IT'S YOUR TOUCH I REMEMBER
AND FORGET MYSELF.

30~SWEPT~

I STUMBLED ON YOU
AND TRIPPED HEART-FIRST INTO LOVE
CATCH ME AS I FALL.

31~SATURATED~

RAINDROPS ON PETALS
I SPREAD TOWARDS THE OPEN SKY
THIRSTING TO TASTE YOU.

32~EASTER~

PUT YOUR LIPS ON MINE
REVIVE THIS COLD, LIFELESS FLESH
WITH YOUR HALLOWED BREATH.

33~AUTHOR~

DIP YOUR NAKED QUILL
INTO MY UNSEALED INKWELL
WRITE OUR LOVE'S STORY.

34~PRODIGAL~

MOUTH WELCOMING ME
FINGERS TWISTING TEAR-STAINED SHEETS
HEART RETURNING HOME.

35~UNBOUND~

ROPES CINCHED AROUND WRISTS
WITH YOUR MOUTH BETWEEN MY THIGHS
I HAVE COME—UNDONE.

36~LUNACY~

FULL MOON BETWEEN US
DRIVING ME MAD WITH WANTING
TIDES SWELL WITH DESIRE.

37~PRIDE~

DROP YOUR HEART-ARMOR
YOUR HUMBLE NAKEDNESS IS
LOVE'S PRICE OF ENTRY.

38~REVERENCE~

MY APPETITE WHETS
AS THE ALTAR OF YOUR COCK
BRINGS ME TO MY KNEES.

39~TIDES~

IN PATIENT LONGING
I RIDE MOUNTING SWELLS BEFORE
CRASHING INTO YOU.

40~KARMA~

ON THIS SOUL-JOURNEY
I WOULD TAKE THE LONG WAY HOME
FOR A GLIMPSE OF YOU.

41~SIREN~

MY SONG BECKONS YOU
PULLING US UNDER THE TIDES
DROWNING IN DESIRE.

42~EMPTINESS~

WITHIN THESE HOLLOWS
CAVES ECHO THEIR FERVENCY
LONGING TO BE FILLED.

43~CUPID~

I AM NOT AFRAID
AS YOUR KEEN ARROW TAKES AIM
I RELISH THE PAIN.

44~PELE~

YOUR KISS FANS THE FLAMES
LIQUID POOLS BETWEEN MY THIGHS
THIS LOVE—VOLCANIC.

45~CAFÉ FLIRT~

MY EYES PEEK OVER
THE BOOK'S EDGE—HOPING THAT YOU
READ BETWEEN THE LINES.

46~BAPTISM~

CHRISTEN ME, LOVER
LAY MY HEAD INSIDE YOUR FONT
SAVE MY THIRSTY SOUL.

47~VOYEUR~

OPENING MY THIGHS
MY HANDS TAKE THEIR WET PLEASURE
YOU HUNGRILY WATCH.

48~RAPTURE~

SOME CHOOSE ASCENSION
I PREFER YOUR EARTHBOUND TOUCH
HEAVEN IN THE FLESH.

49~GRECIAN URN~

GRIPPING MY STAINED NECK
YOU CLAIM THIS UNRAVISH'D BRIDE
LIFTING LIFE FROM CLAY.

50~MOTHER~

CRADLING HOLLOW BONES
MY BREASTS HOLD YOUR HUNGRY MOUTH
MILKING FLESH TO LIFE.

51~RESURRECTION~

COME DOWN FROM THAT CROSS
LET MY MOUTH'S SOFT, WET PRAYER
BRING YOU BACK TO LIFE.

52~JEALOUSY~

I FEARED HER POWER
'TIL I MADE FAITHFUL LOVE TO
YOUR OTHER WOMAN.

53~ANGEL~

BIND MY WINGS, LOVER
TIE ME TO ST. ANDREW'S CROSS
GUIDE MY FALL TOWARDS GRACE.

54~TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS~

HAND OVER YOUR SWORD
NO NEED TO LICK YOUR WAR WOUNDS
THAT'S WHY I AM HERE.

55~NOËL~

FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH
PERFUME OUR SKIN AS OUR CRIES
PIERCE THE SILENT NIGHT.

56~NOSTALGIA~

MEMORIES OF YOU
PRESSED WITHIN THE PAGES OF
MY SEPIA HEART.

57~HIBERNATION~

ENTERING MY CAVE
YOUR TOUCH'S AN INVITATION
FOR AWAKENING.

58~SOLSTICE~

TREES DROP THEIR CURLED LEAVES
SEASONS TEACH US HOW TO LOVE
CONSTANT LETTING GO.

59~CHURCH~

JESUS GAZES DOWN
FROM A SUNLIT WINDOW PANE
MY STAINED-GLASS LOVER.

60~CLOISTERED~

YOUR LIPS BRUSH MY SKIN
EACH KISS A SILENT PRAYER
LOVE WHISPERS OUR NAMES.

61~CORPOREAL COMPOSITIONS~

OUR NAKED BODIES
FALL IN SPACES BETWEEN NOTES
SILENT SYMPHONIES.

62~ARIADNE~

SLIPPING THOUGH MY WALLS
YOU FOLLOW THE THREAD TO WHERE
MY BEAST AWAKENS.

63~UNDER THE COVERS~

LIGHT PENETRATES DARK
AS ENTANGLED LIMBS KEEP US
HIDING FROM THE DAWN.

64~NAKED WET~

RAIN FALLING ON ME
SLIPPING DOWN TRAILS OF KISSES
THAT YOU'VE LEFT BEHIND.

65~DEVOTION~

BODIES EMBRACING
LIKE HANDS FOLDED IN PRAYER
CARNAL COMMUNION.

66~TEASE~

YOUR WET TONGUE HOVERS
THIS DELICIOUS AGONY
TORTURES ME TO LIFE.

67~ALCHEMY~

BURN YOUR VANITY
ON THE LIPS OF ONE WHO KNOWS
THE WAYS OF DESIRE.

68~BOUNDARY~

SOUL CONFINED BY FLESH
I'D CAST IT OFF—BUT THEN THERE'S
EXQUISITE FRICTION.

69~BREAKFAST~

FORGOTTEN TOAST BURNS
MY SCENT ON YOUR THICK FINGERS
AS YOU SPILL COFFEE.

70~SEEKER~

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED
CHASING COLD ENLIGHTENMENT
MY WARM DARKNESS WAITS.

71~LUST~

AS EVIDENCED BY
TORN CLOTHES LITTERING THE FLOOR
WE HAVE LOST CONTROL.

72~CATHEDRALS~

SLIP INTO THE NAVE
MY BARE ALTAR BECKONING
FOR YOUR OFFERING.

73~WANTING~

LIPS BRUSH IN PASSING
DESIRE GROWS IN EMPTY SPACE
PATIENCE IS A VICE.

74~PROMISED LAND~

WARM MILK FROM MY BREASTS
HONEYCOMBS BETWEEN MY LEGS
FEAST YOUR FAMISHED SOUL.

75~LAST RITES~

DYING IN YOUR ARMS
YOUR HANDS AND LIPS HAVE SLAIN ME
SHROUD MY HEART WITH YOURS.

76~MAESTRO~

YOU PLAY MY BODY
LIKE A HOLY INSTRUMENT
FROM GOD'S HANDS TO YOURS.

77~WINTER~

LIPS TOUCH IN STILLNESS
OUR DESIRE FROZEN IN TIME
SPRING CAN WAIT HER TURN.

78~MATURITY~

THESE BOY-TRICKS BORE ME
COME FOR ME LIKE A GROWN MAN
IF YOU WANT TO PLAY.

79~TABOO~

TAKE ME TO THE EDGE
UNDRESS YOUR WOUNDED DARKNESS
I CAN KEEP SECRETS.

80~HOLY GRAIL~

SALTY-SWEET WETNESS
FILLING MY EMPTY CHALICE.
DRINK OF ME, LOVER.

81~MOTHER TONGUE~

HUSH...WHERE I COME FROM
NO WORDS ARE NECESSARY.
LET OUR BODIES SPEAK.

82~HUNTED~

CAUGHT IN MY OWN WEB
NOW PREDATOR BECOMES PREY
DEVOUR ME, LOVER.

83~ODYSSEUS~

WEARY WANDERER
REST YOUR HEAD BETWEEN MY THIGHS
IT'S TIME TO COME HOME.

84~SPRING~

TIGHT-BUDDERED FLOWERS
SIT UNTOUCHED BY MY BEDSIDE
YEARNING TO BLOSSOM.

85~MENDING HEARTS~

TRUST IS LOVING YOU
AS YOU REST YOUR HEAD UPON
FOOTPRINTS ON MY CHEST.

86~INTIMACY~

NAKED HEARTS TEACH US:
"BARE IT ALL TO BEAR IT ALL."
KEEP UNDRRESSING ME.

87~CELIBACY~

GOD AS MY LOVER
FILLING EVERY INCH OF ME
CHASTE CARNALITY.

88~OASIS~

YOUR WETNESS FILLS ME
LIKE A DESERT WANDERER
DYING OF LOVE-THIRST.

89~EUCCHARIST~

YOUR BLOOD STAINS MY MOUTH
WHILE SHE TAKES OF MY BODY
HOLY TRINITY.

90~HEART ART~

BODY AS CANVAS
COLOR THE WAYS YOU LOVE ME
WITH YOUR PAINTED TONGUE.

91~SHADOW LOVER~

ASLEEP IN OUR BED
GHOST-FINGERS TANGLED IN HAIR
I WAKE FROM THE DREAM.

92~JOAN OF ARC (FOR L. COHEN)

WHEN FLESH IS MELTED
FLAMES LICK ME LIKE A LOVER
SOULS BURNING AS ONE.

93~SUBMISSION~

ARMS, LIKE ROPES, BIND ME
I SURRENDER TO YOUR GRASP
FREEDOM IN BONDAGE.

94~NOSTALGIA~

DAWN BREAKS THROUGH WINDOWS
LIGHT CARESSES MY WET LIPS
REMINDERS OF YOU.

95~SKIN POETRY~

LOVE LETTERS TO GOD
WRITTEN ACROSS MY BODY
BY YOUR HOLY MOUTH.

96~HOLY FUCK~

BREATH MIXING WITH BLOOD
SINNERS FIND ABSOLUTION
IN GOD'S HALLOWED BED.

97~LAST NIGHT~

SCENTS OF YOU LINGER
BEDSHEETS—EMPTY AND RUMPLED
LOVE IS LETTING GO.

98~OCTOBER~

RAIN ON THE WINDOW
THE SOUND OF OUR HEARTS BEATING
LOVERS SYMPHONY.

99~RADICAL LOVE~

FOLD THE EDGE OF "YES"
INTO THE ORIGAMI
OF MY PAPER HEART.

100~THE EROTIC~
WET FLOWER PETALS
JUST BEYOND MY FINGERTIPS.
THE CONTENT VOYEUR.

