

Poetry Series

Karen TeichCluster
- poems -

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Karen TeichCluster(10-9-58)

I am an Army brat born and bred; have lived in Europe and LOVED it; my passions are writing, antique books, my 2 granddaughters, and of course, their parents, my extended family, and life in general because it could ALWAYS be worse, so my mother reminds me if I whine! !

At Last, My Son

Momma's kiss their baby boys
And sends them off to war.
Daddy says 'Be Brave, my son,
Stand proud at Freedoms' Door.

Put away your childhood dreams
And kiss your girl good-bye,
Then turn around and walk away
So you won't see them cry.

One night in Hell can last for days
And you'll never be the same;
You'd sell your soul to stay alive
Then wonder, who to blame?

Dreams die easy in the morning light
and the road back home is a lonely flight.
'You're home now, son;
Stop singing the blues,
The price was high but we ALL pay our dues.'

No questions asked we fought your war,
We gave our lives guarding Freedoms' Door.
Yet still we fight; can you tell me why?
Stand proud, my friend, Let them see YOU cry.

God bless the lost, the boys who died,
Keep by your side those still alive.
Forgive our shame, the wrong we've done;
Welcome home, at last my son.

Dedicated to the Veterans, the MIA/POW's/KIA's especially of the Viet Nam war,
and also to ALL service men & women who have given and do give so much for
all Americans'.

(3-14-90

Karen TeichCluster

Crying Eyes

Crying eyes don't see the signs
And empty arms get cold sometime;
But broken hearts are worst of all,
You cannot catch them when they fall.

It's bound to happen every time,
Yet there you go, you're first in line.
Chasing endless empty dreams;
Never knowing what they mean.

Crying eyes see through the years,
There's nothing left and no one there.
Sleepless nights and broken rules
Suffered by loves' lonely fools.

Crying eyes, outlined in blue
Shadowed by the loss of you.
Seeing nothing but the pain;
Crying eyes begin to rain.

(1-6-90)

Karen TeichCluster

Death

Your sting seeks us, everywhere;
Our names....our faith.
In desperate nightmares we hide,
Yet still you come.
With lying words,
In fog, in pain,
In legions.

We've turned our cheeks,
Time, and time again.
we seek not your sweet release;
For you have none.
With our faith
We beg,
Save us.....
Your name swallows man's souls
And spits them out
With no mercy.

Turn away, Death.
Take your mysterious misery and go.
No answers come now...or ever.
For there are none.
Your hand grips millions,
Ceasing our breath.
Yet still we are one,
In name or in death,
You have found us.

(In Memory of the Holocaust Victims)
(5-29-06)

Karen TeichCluster

Dreams

In the soothing silent dark of night
they come quietly creeping from the corners of our minds.
Weaving in and out of the patterns of reality,
Planting seeds of the unknown
They so tenderly bring forth.

(4-16-89)

Karen TeichCluster

Fading Stars

We never made it to the moon,
But we caught a few falling stars.
We'd hold them lovingly near our hearts,
And then watch helplessly as they faded away.

Like the fire-flies we chased
On those warm summer nights;
Wanting them to burn brightly forever,
And knowing they'd be gone in the morning light,
Because we'd selfishly kept them from flying free.

4-16-89

Karen TeichCluster

Game Over.

End...

No time remaining.

I lost.

Again.

I didn't know I was playing

And nobody told me the rules.

Whose game is this anyway?

I thought this was real;

And I thought it meant something.

Anything...

Except another good-bye.

You started this,

and you knew it was winner take all.

You crossed the line

and you never looked back.

You wouldn't have seen`

2772 me anyway,

in the moonlight,

burying butterflies.

Game over.

(12-1-02)

Karen TeichCluster

Ghosts Of Yesterday

She stands in the moonlight
shrouded in silence
And time stands still, because in the moonlight
there is no light of tomorrow.
Only the ghosts of yesterday move about,
floating, dancing in her heart.
They steal her soul, as only they can.
And she laughs, and she lets them.

She stands in the moonlight
and closes her eyes
so she won't see it fade;
so she won't see the ghosts fly away
As they always do,
because they have no tomorrow.

She stands in the moonlight
and her soul cries
for the yesterdays of her heart.

Karen TeichCluster

Hearts Know

Hearts know nothing of time.
A lifetime of passion evolves in a moment;
Good-bye,
Whispered in a heart beat
Lasts forever.
Days and nights float away in the wind;
Fading...forgotten.

Hearts know nothing of time.

Endlessly waiting
Quietly breaking.

Alone.

Karen TeichCluster

Hurricane Hearts

We have weathered many storms,
We have knelt in fear,
and prayed for our souls;
And cried to the heavens above,
To save us...
from ourselves.

We have weathered many storms.
Our hearts, in agony, and in passion,
have surfed in the waters of life...
and death.
And we have grown stronger,
yet always, achingly tender;
for having risen from the depths
of the waves of Fate.

We have weathered many storms,
And still we break the surface.
We remember, and we weep
for our past, ever flowing;
sometimes softly, sometimes raging,
we survive.
We stand on our foundations of faith,
reaching,
we face our future.

We have weathered many storms.

(10-11-99)

Karen TeichCluster

One Last Tear

A thousand stars in the sky
To light the way
But the eyes of her soul
Have been blinded
By false words spoken
Under half moons of love.

A thousand wishes fade away
To float forever on wings of want.
So fragile
So close
But always
Always
So far away and out of her reach.

A thousand memories haunt her
Melting in flames of forgotten hopes.
The ashes of echoes
Of cries unheard
In shame
And sorrow
Silent.

A thousand dreams die
Alone.
She reaches out
Again,
And again.
Surrounded.
No one sees
Or hears
Or cares
One last tear falls.

(4-10-2002)

Karen TeichCluster

Silent Hearts

This conversations' killing me.
Your silent heart says it all.
It begins to rain as you walk away;
If you looked at me now would you see my tears?

Your footsteps echo long after you're gone;
I sit by the window, cold,
Tracing broken hearts on frozen panes.
The sun begins to rise,
And I dream of days gone by.

My heart still calls to you.
The time passes, no longer standing still.
The wind blows gently,
Carrying forgotten promises down empty roads.

I wave good-bye, but no one sees.
Listen closely:
Silent hearts speak forever.

Karen Teich-Cluster
1/5/90
COPR

Karen TeichCluster

Slowly I Surrender

Slowly I surrender and I lose my self control.
I'm heading for a heart-ache but there's no where else to go.
I've everything to lose and not a single thing to gain;
My destination seems to be a one way street of pain,

There's no use trying to fight it,
You don't play by any rules.
You shoot me down and helpless
I come beggin; like a fool.
Seems to me I oughta know by now
That you're just passing time,
And holding my heart hostage
Without hopes' a shameless crime.

Karen TeichCluster

Snow Whites' Got The Blues

Fairy tales and wishing wells
And knights in shining armor;
Kiss a frog and dream a prince
And hope a little longer.

Rainbow castles in the sky
And carriages of gold;
Happily ever after was a dream once,
she was told.

Cinderella doesn't dance
Her babies need new shoes;
Red Riding Hoods' lost again
And Snow Whites' got the blues.

Midnight comes too early,
The laundry's still not done.
Say a prayer and close her eyes
And start again with the morning sun.

Cinderella doesn't dance,
Her babies need new shoes;
Red Riding Hood is lost again
And even Snow Whites' got the blues.

Cinderella doesn't dance.....

3-9-95

Karen TeichCluster

Sun Moon Life Love

You are the sun that warms me
on cold lonely days.
And you are the moon that shines down
upon me at night as I sleep;
Caressing me gently from so far away.

You brought love into my life
when I thought it was lost forever.
You wiped away my tears
And replaced them with smiles.
You picked up pieces of me that I'd left behind, And you gave me courage, and
strength to trust again,
To grow, to thrive.

You are every hope and dream,
And desire that I've ever had.
You are the prince in every
fairy tale ever written.

You are the heart of my heart
The one love of my life.
And until I draw my last breath upon this earth
I will care for you,
I will cherish you
I will love you.

3/23/93

Karen TeichCluster

Who Will Care?

Who will hear if a baby cries?
And who will answer when a child asks why?
Who will feed the hungry man;
And who will dare to take a stand?
Who will mend the broken heart
Of a woman afraid,
Alone, apart?

Who cares enough to hold the hand
of the soldier dying on foreign land?
Who'll dry the tears that a mother cries?
Who will remember their sacrifice?

Who will pray to God above
To show us Grace, and how to love?
Who'll build a fire to keep us warm,
To lead us home from the raging storm?

Who will care if the truth is told,
Of the lives that were bought
And the souls that were sold?
Who will pay the ultimate cost
Of nothing gained
And everything lost?

Who will care?

(12-29-02)

Karen TeichCluster

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

We look back and relive the birth of memories of the lives we shared,
We look back and hear the laughter and feel the pain and taste the tears,
Of our joys, and our sorrows.
We look back and know we will always walk in the shadows of yesterday.

We look back and retrace our footsteps
Down the paths of hopes and dreams and promises.
We remember the good and the bad and the if's and the maybe's;
And we sigh and say 'If only we'd known.'
We look back and and we wonder about the roads not traveled that led to today.

We look back and know that not all of us would live our lives
For better or worse or richer or poorer.
We look back at the passing of time
And know that an end would come before all of us made it to tomorrow.

We look back because we will never forget
And our hearts will honor forever
Who we were,

Who we are,
And who we've yet to become.

We look back and see how far we've come,
What we've lost, what we've gained,
And despite everything
And because of everything,
We will remain strong
And remain standing
Together as one
Under God.....
We will always be united.

11-12-10

In Honor and Memory of our September 11 Heroes

Karen TeichCluster