

First Love

Notebooks

PART ONE

nun me fa mal cu' mille parole...

open casement, opens outward
onto Neptune, Common Mother
cut flowers, full profusion
flow pristine, salt breeze

serene morning, Mary Virgin
can converse with rival playlists
knew my phasing from the others'
defends scholars which is rare

one-of-one, from among
sea when calm, jewel whose light
stream ran clear, glance Fate cast
hair so smooth sufficed to

Virgin Mother, Flora's altar
vineyard shelves, by ourselves
where we're from wine is blood
pain is love from above

crimson mantle, of good counsel
of Mount Carmel, sword of Michael
queen thrice-tearful, half-shut eyelids
obscure highlands, hazel stairs

graceful entrance, angel's trumpet
Mary youngest, rarest snowflake

passions governed, versed in Cato
break my promise? kill me first

take this woman found in Wisdom
wonder-stricken, muses' bidding
grand tradition, not since Tompkins
had an inkling become one

take this woman, Christan emblem
drank ambrosia, art reposed in
certain boyhood, slender oarblade
simple fiat, pact between

had this blessed, had it engraved
adored name, ancient flame
lets me think so, keeps me going
form of service to the poor

holy city, half-fictional
prove one's mettle, prizes goodness
poet's wingspan, different uses
please excuse my way of showing

concluded that could only be
'behold the most' occurred to me
there you were, wings-of-morning
there you were wearing white

named you Grace, recessive traits
swore to God, crossed my heart
crown-of-thorns, word made flesh
rage against remarriage

virgin page, virgin canvas
vivid dream, do I dream?
pen-in-hand, sightless eyes
phrase I want, shade I want

all-excelling, deep wellspring
breaking waves, well-loved name
for whose sake, for whose glory
prayer-offerings, painstaking

book fulfilled, seas return
famous scenes, teenage dream
parting's such, absence makes
whose real name: outerspace

Mary's heart, image bank
blue and white, sea and sky
counter where people speak
pebble beach, sun-bleached

lay together, sword between us

higher station, hence my excess
system-error, black bikini
cute yawn, home safe

sun worship, joint offering
light reading, half-sleeping
ice pitcher, club spritzer
good feeling like Eden

Good Seed, True Vine
pierced side bled wine
Christ's cross on high
black veil, pure sky

ties that bind, faith unites
lock and key, light and heat
in the works as we speak
new piece, trust me

wine-dark sea, so to speak
upper rooms, book in hand
fragrant night, me and my
conduct me, husband me

lady's face, state-of-grace
Book of Ruth, meeting you
born at sea, loose chemise

thin wrists, Van Kleeef

stately lady, look amazing

still computing, cool of evening

sent me someone, gazelle-gentle

household idol softly wove

pored over her portrait

hair loosened, hoop earrings

fleece tracksuit, side aisle

grey-eyed, grey pearl

child by, style by

motherhood, martyrdom

timely word, those in need

who you are: superstar

if I'm right, stars align

not so fast, we have time

mirrors my water sign

she divined, her will I

Queen Mary, blue mantle

most truthful, most simple

sea-idol, seems moral

gold compass led home

her person, her banner
some semblance of order
well fashioned, wore glasses
tall column, straight-limbed

simple Mary, some concealer
stood a while, lit a candle
said a decade by the window
good to people, golden rule

sense of wonder when you enter
cardinal virtues, seven pillars
graceful manners, avid reader
centered gem, one bpm

love is calm, love is kind
gentler side, friendly smile
grown so close, no one knows
modern home of our own

Cosmic Key, eighties synth
not till then, not since
piercing orb, sunlike disc
blue vault, blue abyss

void-filling, smoke veiling
leaves screening three bathing

dressed all in, slept clad in
shared passion, shared past

every corner, Virgin's picture
the archangel, from all evil
rightful titles, for example
flowerlike, powerful

all my love offered up
pair of doves, hearts as one
call my name, call me home
am I scared? not at all

poet's seal, broken seal
sound decides, Fate decides
Mystic Rose, switch my flow
studded veil, eyes shone

God made woman, woman's sacred
things in common, both love music
sadness traffic, favorite pastime
point of life, make you cry

children of light, time on our side
Birds in the Night, speak with our eyes
stood in the rain, cut from the same
realest I've wrote, stuck to the code

word eternal, word enduring
desperate sophists barred from Eden
those who traffic, King James version
help most constant, masked herself

lots of people, one who mattered
darkness of her natural color
absent from her, one condition
regret nothing, write me back

truth's nudity, decked in mystery
Vulcan Island, her own sovereign
bleached cascade, lightest frame
needed time, I obliged

word-of-honor, word is bond
however hard, however long
white complexion, bright icon
true love springs from

new chapter, dress older
shapeshifter, same person
hate waiting, just saying
hold on, be strong

rib cage, my bae

the search, the wait

two joined, one clay

one day, someday

our story, first morning

first summer, first instant

first reader, first stranger

first love, part one

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incarnate love, certain someone

dance ambitions, sharp antenna

stately bearings, flaring nostrils

Queen of Spades, royal scorn

head held high, righteous mind

pure aggression, self-respecting

auto portrait, auto destruct

proud reserve, hard façade

fountain pen, pointlessness

bored to death, dangerous when

haughty stance, tossed her head

broke the Web with her angst

instinctive, triumphant

dark passion, grave beauty
high forehead, strange emblem
burn bright, pale bride

love is war in our culture
cyber warfare, shadow warfare
blowing kisses, birthday wishes
deemed unsafe, seems ok

III Communication, no explanation
perhaps because, in part because
deserves the best, urban heiress
felt somehow, felt bound

midriff showing, always smoking
latex tube top, don't mind tacky
trusted no one in her wisdom
hair shone bright, tied back tight

Jasmine-baggy, joggers sagging
rather backwards, rather gangster
countercultures, called vulgar
whole babels left standing

genius-of-love, likely oblivious
perennial Beatrice, microphone soloist
Division and Eldridge, North-East Eleventh

say what they want followed my heart

man you love grows courageous
feels immortal, thinks he's Shakespeare
made me almost challenge Neptune
chance encounter cost me dear

as if you were some warlock's daughter
pseudo-scholar, forelock curling
she not only stole my birthright
not that deep? I disagree

found my eyes across Jolene's
when I saw her: seventh seal
go together, many waters
all I wanted in the world

Echo, answer, spleen affected
bound in conscience, abovementioned
one in question, owner of those
craft demands blandishments

Yung Miami, don't compare me
pockets legion, brilliant speaker
rather gorgeous, not important
faithful servant, can't renege

enter Author, applies pressure
knew my birthstone, knew beforehand
catholic dagger, solemn promise
streaming ribbon, beaming eyes

Common Mother, hid her northern
miss my demon, made me selfless
honor system, her own stuntman
fail me not, abandoned all

genius-scribe trap, perfect double
flyweight title, hyper-learned
famous couples, dense collages
missing siblings, swimming eyes

feared her malice, bore me ill-will
female rapper, knew Stillmatic
Racine's heiress, remained mounted
fifth dimension lily-stem

whose turn is it? angered matrix
sky's the limit, certain logic
moved her bishop, eyelash did the
nylon gym-bag, ninja-stars

hardest diamond, took my hood off
welcome shackle, martyr complex

pleiade wrote you, symptoms include
open sanctum, something blonde

cupid's shaft, but a scratch
Pompeii once, kingdom-come
changeful moon, still too soon?
likes of whom yet to meet

viper's bite, night after night
marquee lights next to mine
formed a bond, a special one
had my heart from Shadow

kindred spirit, mirror image
jagged syntax, abstract artist
Stendhal Syndrome, advanced stages
well-loved name in chains

lone naiad, lone Echo
rose symbol, long jersey
dress silken, Saint Bridgit
twin sister I authored

archeress, can attest
arrowhead indirect
analogue, doubly hot
one I want, what I want

guard was down, shaft got through
saw Blue Velvet, thought of you
eyes found mine before the womb
sixteen summers, dancer from

nocturnal, white marble
space creature made contact
stern woman, born leader
nine-tenths submerged

object of my, reason that I
bring the drama, want it harsher?
countless pages, Love Foundation
knows exactly what I mean

faerie queen, lost in me
oversized modesty
sense-of-dress double-edged
mood swings who weep

her or not? hard to say
hovercraft, floating hair
many times lookalikes
sad-eyed, full-lipped

noble soul, always alone

shapely bow, tragic vein
dream come true, me plus you
perfect math, us against

woman-judge, bridled tongue
timeless love or lack thereof
set us up, someone, please
have a fête, tell us both

in whose midst, do the most
who she kings, eyes live coal
with such skill, with all speed
at whose name all but swoon

quick-witted, quick study
does party, does body
black onyx, white ivory
half-raven, half-dove

all-seeing, all fire
white bather, slim-ankled
pierced temples, intenso
fake blonde, long braid

camcorder, basketballer
driest humor, are we even?
had the pager, had the spoiler

ankles broken, all mystique

great passer, black panther

stooped shoulders, pure glamor

turned into Cheetara

long stride, my kind

speed demon, deep crimson

well-sculpted, well-contoured

girl's pressure, boy's boxers

new grill, self-willed

A1 jersey, F1 jersey

hidden symbols, second person

there in spirit, do you hear me?

dye it back, all I ask

at my loom, at my work

missing her, sighed after

wonder who tagged my stoop?

stole my moves, love you too

donned a halo, poet's laurel

Palma Violets, deal righteous

vial's contents, vow of silence

on the corner, there's a place

found love, what now?
high mass, long veil
tempt death, sleek skiff
faint sketch, signed Chris

oxblood, oxtongue
white plume, white arm
grape's strength, winepress
first fruits, first yield

free verse, lost tapes
new moon, first phase
whose shrine, can't lie
kind face, kind eyes

my voice sent raw
sketchbook unruled
heart bare on wax
one take, my bae

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all this time, all this while
walled city, I'm plotting
my next move back to you
wish I knew you approved

used your eyes, do you mind?
blue and white, costume design
meant no harm, reckless heart
warm regards from afar

driven slave hardly conveys
cherished face, been detained
in good faith, my good name
running late, what's taking?

been my favorite, been my lodestar
filled with wonder, can't be sundered
chaste desire, seeking higher
knowing eyes, before Time

can do nothing, you'll be taken
what's the difference? choose whoever
best-foot-forward, don't sound bitter
send my wishes, send my best

can't be replaced, can't take your place
can't let you down, if time runs out
gravest brow, favorite girl
loved you, utter truth

from sign to sign, from star to star
a certain charm, foundation stone

sometimes wonder what's become of
love and cherish my delinquent

passing sadness, under Saturn
while Fate aided, rare exception
drove me forward, prolonged absence
soul fused into choicest pearl

sake of culture, not for ducats
words are nothing, do you love me?
word-of-sultans, prone to excess
had amnesia, who said what?

Mass of Elsa, Wines of Gala
poet's bower, upper stories
modern triptychs on installment
London Terrace, moon's a jewel

must get this all the time
quiet eyes returned my
head of hair to one side
well so pure brought order

voice notes, whisper close
monuments, permanence
phrase that thrill, windowsills
back again, never left

meant-to-be, respectfully
hand-of-fate decides for me
beauty mine, demiurge
strand of hair conspired

certain island, strong connection
how much further? how much longer?
think the world of, brightest mental
want your music, waste mirage

wonder if you, highly doubtful
single-minded, return journey
many mansions, lost without her
how I wandered, rain came down

strange communing, sail vermilion
sweet inscription, keep rereading
load of questions when I lose you
prayer unceasing, pure finesse

special Echo, made symmetric
newly wedded, Mount of Olives
would I know her? Fame's resemblance
nearer to you each new piece

scorn prosaics, for safe passage

frankly matchless, brought the drama
terse quotations, insults lavished
sole thing needful: time alone

fell in love, felt at once
distant dream, voice distinct
thing of ours, magi's star
first began with a glance

spoke tender, with power
wallflower, observant
Sky Dweller, heart locket
headpiece: wave cap

needle work, detail work
polished bars, solid gold
piece by piece, questing beast
meet me halfway

partial to her, hardly knew her
one another's, one step closer
yours sincerely, do you hear me?
hope deferred's the worst

strong for you, belong to you
idea of you guides me through
won for you with my words

used force, used stealth

yes, mean you, archetype too
spoke my truth, was convinced
self-same fawn Tristram saw
one I sought, one accord

down to earth from now on
choice of song, did love call?
when you're free, when you can
when we meet, whole again

are you mine? Fate reply
saddest lines, beauty's key
nearness of, dearer than
hear me now, trade it all

naked isle, Sweet New Style
gave out flyers, same aesthetic
Janus-headed, think we'll ever?
edit number, file name

tender night, send her my
writing home, Rio's own
rose as sweet, speak heavy
call on me, come running

night is space, strange to think
precious gem set therein
three gazelles by themselves
bard's conceits, glass darkly

drawing you, what is truth?
lesser lights pale besides
highly mine, recall why
first time saw signs

on my mind all July
English name cannot fade
whose long reign still unmatched
can withstand tons and tons

Madame X, latest sketch
seven veils, her real self
biblic roe hid in smoke
I won't say who is bae

former convent, Bay of Naples
greatest student was a woman
night of Pompeii was a proxy
Psyche's body, Soft Machine

Ovid's muses, we're exclusive
like Canova's marble shoulders

we're the envy though unhappy
have Miami, have we met?

said we're fated, said whatever
made the valley, zone of Mary
Latin plural, Vermeer murals
fickle laurels commend me

island home, against hope
complex soul, find enclosed
feel the same? lost my mind?
bow my eyes as you pass

second earth, say the word
break my wand, choose instead
soft wave's crest, pen set down
dreamt so long might not wake

art was faithful, found life mundane
rose from concrete, Lethe's embrace
been forbidden, need permission
cruel age-difference, God my witness

name of love, English tongue
Mnemosyne came riding
peerless bride in her prime
knighted me, bended knee

held my peace, left to chance
have this dance? hardest part
certain spark, sat across
others' bars in the cause

does she read? guess we'll see
Sheba's queen, sybil-vague
books are sane, no mind-games
want one thing, ask your hand

oath I swore, first will serve
name in vain? furthest thing
read too much, can't help but
one thing's sure, came prepared

don't mind me, born this way
with that said, truth in what
should I die, shed no tear
heard it here, I'll calm down

and I love her, the third hour
psychic powers, the near future
no half-measures, write her octave
down the aisle stood in awe

suffer me, apostrophe

oxblood ink, tithe is due
too turnt-up, who more so?
at great pains, placed my bid

much like us peninsulas
game and I, respective sides
hate you too, it's mutual
sovereigness, what tension

love between equal parts
who can boast rules my pen
peerless one, cause of all
hate the fact there's a wall

will dawn never, sail until there's
zephyrs' quarters, one's own peril
thought love fable, great the distance
who lets nothing come between

to be with you, have that title
state my passion, I'm not acting
love your carriage, boyish athlete
face that launched, not her fault

last we met almost said
wear my pledge, mistress-mine
glad you're well, deign to click

in three acts, it's a mood

I was hiding, hiding from her
reverse stalker, funny concept
where you'll find me, early spring day
quiet café, few people

kind of waved, Mary's grace
gulf between, shouldn't be
doesn't know, love her so
all was still, said little

quiet eyes, frame so light
sitting there, plaited hair
Raiders cap, hate you back
you're the best, no contest

ancient token seldom happens
thought throughout: should be mine
pieced together Fate's opinion
muses wouldn't grant respite

famous Davids gave me power
midway on the beggar's opera
never wavered nor considered
one that was and is to be