

You and Her...

*I hate the way you disappear for months at a time,
And still don't crave the intimate father-daughter time I do.
You come home with such cool stories but;
But all I can hear that's where you'd prefer to be.*

*This constant fear of abandonment now taunts me.
I picture her as the devil on my shoulder yet...
She acts as my shadow and follows my every move.
Given to me by you, forcing me to grow resentful of you both.*

*I hate the way you cash out to account for your mistakes,
Like my love is an item to be bought.
This insufficient love language forces me to grow resentful,
As gifts from you only symbolize your pity.*

*Now every unseasonal present feels like a parting gift.
"I'm not worried about the cost" you say.
She then reminds me that I must be instead,
Because bare pockets lead to broken promises.*

*I hate the way you blame your father's death for your absence,
As if being the victim dissipates your role as the antagonist.
I'm one for leniency but...
Inches become miles that I'm struggling to condone.*

*She tells me I'm selfish and that I need to be patient...
But after 17 years my patience is growing thin.
Hurt people often hurt people she says,
But that reasoning has transformed into an intolerable excuse.*

*I hate the way you gaslight my expressed heartache,
Like I am too young to identify a bull in my china shop.
"Remember when...remember how..." No I do not,
and 10 memories do not obligate me to be grateful to you.*

*You tell me my thoughts and emotions aren't my own,
Yet you try to replace them with yours.
She yells hypocrisy in my ear...
daring me to be her voice.*

*I hate that no matter how much you stand me up,
I still expect you to come every time.
That sheer and persistent optimism is the very
Things that break my heart constantly.*

*Not knowing if reading this poem is the right choice,
I know that she has come to listen to my speech.
She serves as a reminder that you always leave,
And that my very words could be the reason you don't return.*

*But what I hate most of all, Dad,
Is that you invited her into my life
And when I tried to tell you this...
Rather than just leave, you didn't listen.*

*Meanwhile, she took it upon herself
To form a tether between the two of us.
But I've learned our shadows never leave us,
Therefore, maybe she'll give me the consistency you didn't.*