

Sumin Park

Age: 15, Grade: 10

School Name: Loveless Academic Magnet Program (LAMP) High School, Montgomery, AL
Educator: Helen Lee

Category: Poetry

goodbye,

*(Please leave your message after the tone,
when done hang up or—)*

before i met you, i saw the world as black and white
but now it swirls in shades of gray,
 messy and chaotic
 but full of *beauty*
 because of you

tainted green glass windows,
 reruns of Die Fete,
 pretending to be your Sophie Marceau,
 our run-down blue chevrolet,
all so crystal clear and so precious—
i was your Rose
 and you were my Jack
 we *were* the perfect item

(i will cherish these memories)

you were authentic and real
you *were* my bona fide
 yet you were always so far away
 in your alternate universe,
 orbiting away from me

you were so warm,
tender, strong, and beautifully mellow
 and i always *hated* and *resented* myself
for doubting
 and mistrusting your love
i was a fool, and *i* was so cruel
to someone so honest and charming as you

(how can you ever forgive me?)

i loved *you*,
 your beguiling smile,
 your crazy mantra,
so radiantly maternal
 and yet so delicate
 and i'm *thankful* for all our infinity,
within the limits and bounds—

you were my 0
and my 1
you brought me a *forever*
within our numbered days

(but everything cannot last forever, love)

you loved *me*,
not my masqueraded self,
not fabrications— i was raw, and ugly
you loved *me*,
my scars,
and my wounds

(but your goodbye shattered it)

you defrosted my frozen heart,
with your warmth and tender touch
you *were* like heaven,
like snow in manhattan december,
a splendor

i was a maniac,
a psychotic lover and a tragic loser
but you were my heroine, love—
you *were* the loophole to our pure euphoria

*(i was happy
to just be with you)*

.
. .
.

but as time went by, i saw our flaws,
my flaws
what have we done wrong?
what have *I* done wrong?

we diverged and dispersed apart

.
. .
.

(you never deserved that)

.

(I never deserved that)

.
. .
. .
.

before i met you, i saw the world as black and white
but now its murky and tainted

full of lies,
lies,
lies.

our wounds will take time to heal

but i'll let you go
because it's the right thing,

*(i can't, love—
i really can't)*

but i hope you knew
that it wasn't a simple infatuation—
i was truly in love
and i was grateful.

i loved you

(i still do)

i loved you

*(cliché,
cliché,
cliché)*

i love you

(don't walk away)

goodbye,

goodbye.

*(beep,
beep,
beep,
beep...)*