

# The Caretaker

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He had pilfered it years before.  
Set it on fire then boxed its charred remains,  
My reflection fading each night.  
Returning shadowed with the light  
False endearment  
Rewarded deception  
Manipulation  
Tears of hydraulic action that sting  
Pain, jealousy, anger, self loathing,  
This was love.

Then I met you.  
The accidental prince in my unhappily ever after  
An illusive creature stealing through the light  
With a captivating presence  
Beautifully kind and quietly confident.  
I expectantly survey the site  
Nauseated by this pitiless carousel

Your words draw life to my lungs  
Your rhythmic breath  
Your idioms, your smile. Your laugh  
Forcing rusty keys into cobwebbed locks  
Exposing rooms of dusty memories  
Irreversibly immersed  
Unboxing bubble wrapped packages of strength,  
love, aspirations, self-respect  
Pure notions of love, of life  
Gradually reassembling my forgotten jigsaw  
Humbly reigniting my dying embers

I willingly entrust you with the keys,  
Until my strength returns upon its completion  
My unsuspecting Samaritan.  
My caretaker.