



### **Tall Towers**

Written by Tori Sparks. Copyright © 2009 Hand Over Foot Publishing (ASCAP).

Girls look forward  
To their tall towers  
Only to be shut up like  
Hothouse flowers

Prince came without a crown  
And with expectations  
Try and learn to love the man don't know if you can  
And he won't even take you on a week's vacation

Well that's the truth  
Though it's hard to accept it  
The prince had a gun and  
She knew where he kept it

So life dragged on like a blues song  
Dirty and long  
She never had the heart to go  
And stay gone

Love can leave you with a fever  
Like money can leave you cold  
Ten years down the line she come home to find  
He got himself a new princess to hold

Well that's the truth  
Though it's hard to accept it  
The prince had a gun and  
She knew where he kept it

So the princess  
She called her mama  
The queen she's seen  
Her share of trauma

She's ridden in the front lines  
She gave this advice  
You took the ring signed on the line  
But that don't mean you got to play nice

Well that's the truth  
Though it's hard to accept it  
The prince had a gun and  
She knew where he kept it

Girls look forward  
To their tall towers  
Pacing the floor  
Counting the hours

Now she's finishing her  
Last meal  
Flashes a smile Spanish walk down the aisle  
Freer than she's felt in years

Well that's the truth  
Though it's hard to accept it  
The prince had a gun and  
She knew where he kept it

I said that's the truth  
Though it's hard to accept it  
When the needle came down  
She barely felt it

And she was smiling  
When she went

### **Blue Tattoo**

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I wish I could get it out  
Of my mind  
Colors fade but it remains  
There in black and white

I drive my car like I drive my life  
Too fast and yes  
I drove that knife  
Into your heart

My sins my messes  
My misdeeds  
Angels I've left devils I feed  
Don't even start

Like a blue tattoo  
Like an old scar  
Too late to change  
What we were

What we are

I wish I could get it out  
Of my head  
Throw away the blood-red paint  
Be blank canvas instead

Time writes on a dirty slate  
There are some things  
I can't erase  
To my shame

Given the choice would I take  
The burnt-out blowout  
Of my mistakes  
Where I carved your name

Like a blue tattoo  
Like an old scar  
Too late to change  
What we were

What we are

I wish I could get it out  
Of my mind  
A lithograph of the past  
That haunts me at night

I wish I could get it out  
Out of my head

Like a blue tattoo  
Like an old scar  
Too late to change  
What we were

What we are

### **Penny on a Rail**

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I didn't come into your life  
Just to be your wife  
Just to be a guide to a blind man  
Just to hold the flashlight

So before the batteries go  
Before you're left on your own  
I wrote it in blood on the living room rug  
Why I got to be moving on

So before it ends  
Let me begin to explain  
I love you like a penny on a rail  
Loves the train

Through the years I've explored  
Every pore  
I thought I knew you well  
More importantly I thought I knew myself

Now I get drunk by myself  
Then pull you off the shelf  
Let the movie in my mind play and rewind  
Play and rewind and rewind

So before it ends  
Let me begin to explain  
I love you like a penny on a rail  
Loves the train

I didn't come into your life  
Just to be your wife  
Just to be a guide to a leading man  
Needing the spotlight

Now the curtain is down  
And they're clearing the stage  
And I hear those wheels running  
In the pouring rain

So before it ends  
Let me begin to explain  
I love you like a penny on a rail  
Loves the train

### **Days and Days and Nights**

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I will cry for what I've lost  
I will stop to count the cost  
I will pay for what I've bought  
On these days and days and days and nights alone

I try so hard to make peace  
But my ghosts won't speak to me  
My hands burn my feet freeze  
On these days and days and days and nights alone

Across space and all of the time  
You sleep in my soul hole up in my mind  
Ten years in the thin tie still binds  
On these days and days and days and nights alone

I still cry for what I've lost  
Because I bet on the losing horse  
I wreck on the rocks  
Of these days and days and days and days and days and nights alone

## Easy and Slow

Written by Tori Sparks. Copyright © 2009 Hand Over Foot Publishing (ASCAP).

I've met men out on the road  
With destruction in their eyes  
There's a little of that yeah that's a fact  
In me now I won't lie

I don't care what the virgins say  
There ain't nothing money can't buy  
A heart of gold like fallen snow  
Empty and white

Carry me down  
To my father's house  
Carry me down  
Easy and slow

Carry me down  
Wash me in the water  
When it's my time  
My time to go

Well there goes my Saint Christopher  
And there goes my Saint Anne  
But under my breath I mumble to Death  
Catch me if you can

I don't care what the preachers say  
About poverty and pride  
A heart of gold nothing to show  
For this journey we call life

Carry me down  
To my mother's house  
Carry me down  
Easy and slow

Carry me down  
Wash me in the water  
When it's my time  
My time to go

Don't tell me that you need me  
Tell me no more lies  
I've seen things you can't imagine  
Wouldn't want to try

So just you go on your way  
Me I'll go on mine  
My heart of gold sold long ago  
For love in the lies

My heart of gold sold long ago  
For dirt kicked in my eyes

Carry me down  
To my lover's house  
Carry me down  
Easy and slow

Carry me down  
Wash me in the ocean  
When it's my time  
My time to go

## Merry Go-Round

Written by Tori Sparks. Copyright © 2009 Hand Over Foot Publishing (ASCAP).

I am the sum  
Of my many pieces  
And a few of yours  
Do you notice them gone

I swear I'd tear  
Them right out of me  
Hand them back bloody  
If I didn't need them

You see that I need them

So okay  
One last go 'round  
On this merry  
Go-round

So dizzy  
Not so merry now  
Not so  
Merry now

Over the river  
And through all my doubts  
Rabbit chasing the fox  
Till her legs give out

The same sad game  
That we always play  
Where we're both prey  
But I've seen you fake it

I know you can fake it

So okay  
One last go 'round  
On this merry  
Go-round

So dizzy  
Not so merry now  
Not so  
Merry now

So far  
So good  
Do not  
Disturb

But weak hearts  
Won't learn  
And I feel us falling back  
To where we were

I feel it rip  
I feel it whirl

So alright okay  
One last go round  
On this merry  
Go-round

So dizzy  
Not so merry now  
Not so  
Merry now

### **Easy and Slow**

Written by Tori Sparks. Copyright © 2009 Hand Over Foot Publishing (ASCAP).

You are a train wreck  
But with my arms around your neck  
I feel  
Alright

You are a typhoon  
Destroying every home I've known  
Except the one  
I build with you in my mind

Oh I know  
That it's wrong  
Oh I know  
We been spinning circles for too long

Oh I know  
It may kill me in the end  
But for now  
Mm mm mm mm mm

You are a snake bite  
Put your mouth to me you know I like  
The feel of your  
Poison inside

You are disease  
Save the medicine the cure I need  
Is the treatment only you  
Can provide

Oh I know  
That it's wrong  
Oh I know  
We been spinning circles for too long

Oh I know  
This will kill me in the end  
But baby for now  
Mm mm mm mm mm

### **Leaving Side of Love**

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I am the woman with the horse's mane  
Who likes to run and who never came  
Around to your point of view  
And while looking straight at you  
I call someone else's name

But you love me 'cause you need me  
And I don't need anyone  
You love me 'cause you feed me  
And I eat out of your hand  
At least until my hunger is done

You'll be the cure for all that ails me  
And I'll be the poison in your blood  
You'll be my heart but when it fails me  
Just like it always does  
Then you'll know the leaving side of love

Now I ain't saying I been around  
But I got a name 'round town  
Maybe not this town or the last one  
But I broke a man in half once  
He didn't even make a sound

I can't help the way I am  
I can't help the way I act  
I am the scorpion in the story  
And we're both gonna drown  
As long as I'm sitting on your back

You are the cure for all that ails me  
And I am the poison in your blood  
You are my heart but when it fails me  
Just like it always does  
Then you'll know the leaving side of love

So I leave you beneath the streetlights  
Watch them shine on your tears  
Though you know better every word  
Sounds like gospel sounds like birdsong  
Loving every lie you hear

I say I might be back down the line  
Baby I'll be thinking about you all the time  
But the truth is I can't be fixed  
Was never whole to begin with  
We're terminal and so am I

You were the cure for all that ailed me  
And I'm still the poison in your blood  
You were be my heart but then it failed me  
Just like it always does  
Now you know the leaving side of love

You were my heart  
But then it failed me  
Just like it always does  
I am the leaving side of love

### **Elephant in the Room**

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Today I woke up to the man I love  
Asleep in my bed  
Tucked sheets around his shoulders so he wouldn't be cold  
Pillow beneath his head

I stared with the eyes of one sentenced to die  
At her last meal  
Memorized the lines though I'm free and alive  
I'm sure this is how it would feel

The bars of this cage too much contain  
I can no longer conceal  
Oh today is the day  
I go clear



You drive me to drink you drive me to think  
That I am no good  
I know that is wrong like I know that this song  
Scares you as it should

Like a boat with a hole no matter how hard I row  
We're going down  
Your face to me is the bottomless sea  
Not the harbor that I thought I'd found

So I tread water like mother like daughter  
As my lifeboat runs aground  
Oh but today is the day  
I get out

Gravity pulls thought you said we could  
Defy all its laws  
And how I believed followed where you'd lead  
Justifying the cause

But everything lovely like everything ugly  
Comes to its end  
Now here we are on opposite shores  
Both of us breaking to bend

The blood on the floor seeping under the door  
Staining everything red  
The elephant in the room is there in plain view  
Why waste the time to pretend

Oh today is the day  
That it ends  
Yes today is the day  
That it ends

Tomorrow you'll wake up the man that I love  
In someone else's bed

### **Rubbernecking**

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We joy-riders rubbernecking  
At all our friends' accidents  
What did we think what were we expecting  
That we could keep our own heads from getting wet

Now I'm soaked right through  
I shouldn't have to crawl to you  
Like an animal but these days  
That's just what I do

So we go our own ways  
Each suffering the side effects  
Too little too late too much not enough  
And you can keep everything that I left

The last time I saw you your face  
Was as hard as frozen ground  
Is that what love does to you  
Or is that just when I am around

So leave me alone I can mend on my own  
And you mend in the warmth of her skin  
There's no blame to lay we laid it out time  
And time and time and time again

Guilty of the crime when I said it at the time  
I meant against something greater  
It's not that I hate her for loving you  
I sympathize

We joyrided rubbernecking  
At all our friends' accidents  
What did we think what were we expecting  
That we could keep our own heads from getting wet

We couldn't keep our own heads  
From getting wet

### **Little Wrecking Ball**

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I'm cold but I feel good  
Start the day the way I should  
Didn't hurt no one  
Didn't spill no blood at all

You blow up like a storm  
Like an army in uniform  
As always I'm caught unarmed  
My back against the wall

But baby I love you at the strangest moments  
Heaven above you just shrugs its shoulders  
Ain't no rhyme no reason interfering  
With what I'm feeling

For my little wrecking ball  
You're my little wrecking ball

Headed north you want to run me south  
Always foaming at the mouth  
But you look so good  
When you're sinking in those claws

A rock or a hard place  
God's back or the Devil's face  
Choose to go choose to stay  
It's an impossible call

Well baby I love you at the strangest moments  
Heaven above you just shrugs its shoulders  
Ain't no rhyme no reason interfering  
With what I'm feeling

For my little wrecking ball  
You're my little wrecking ball

I suppose the Devil knows  
The how and the why  
Or maybe she just shakes her head  
And says "better you than I"

Baby I love you at the strangest moments  
Hothead with the cold shoulder  
Light it and watch it smolder  
Go ahead and knock me over

You're my little wrecking ball  
You're my little wrecking ball

### **Background Music**

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You can turn me into  
Background music if it suits you  
That's alright  
I'll play all night

You can take my colors and shapes  
Turn them into wallpaper  
That's just fine  
I don't mind

You'll never understand  
I need to be as close to you as I can

I can be the rain  
That's ruining your makeup  
And your hair  
I don't care

I can be the sun  
The warmth that you might run from  
When it's too bright  
I'll be the moon at night

You'll never understand  
I need to be as close to you as I can

Let me be your pillow  
Mopping up your tears  
Flowing free  
Rain on me

When you're crying for your reasons  
Changing with the seasons  
I'll be  
Your compass needle  
You may never understand  
But I need to be as close to you as I can

### **Tiger's Mouth**

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You're too much light  
Brilliant and blinding  
The ties that are binding me  
Are tying me down

Love you easy  
Don't you think I want to  
Don't you think I tried to  
Crawl inside you

But we always  
Jump into the tiger's mouth  
We always  
Assume we can just jump out

We always  
Do what we think  
We must do  
Just to get through

What is this hand  
That holds you tight  
Then holds you up to the light  
Eyes on the crack inside

Beautiful the whole  
The sum of your parts  
But I feel the dry ice in my heart  
And it's turning to smoke

Yes we always  
Jump into the tiger's mouth  
We always  
Assume we can just jump out

We always  
Do what we think  
We must do  
Just to get through

I hate the way  
Things are going  
Things are showing me  
What I tried so hard not to see

There are sharks in the water  
Blood in my mouth  
I try I can't figure us out  
I can't keep treading water now

I always  
Jump into the shark's mouth  
I always  
Assume I can just jump out

I always  
Do what I think  
I must do  
Just to get through

Love you easy  
Don't you think I want to

**Le Manège (Merry Go-Round)**

Written by Tori Sparks. Copyright © 2009 Hand Over Foot Publishing (ASCAP).

Je suis la somme  
De mes divers pièces et  
De quelques-unes des tiennes  
Vois-tu qu'elles ont disparues

Je te jure que  
Je me les arracherais  
Te les rendre sanglantes  
Si je n'avais pas besoin d'elles

Tu vois que j'ai besoin d'elles

Alors d'accord  
Un dernier tour  
Sur ce  
Manège

Si vertigineux  
Pas si rigolo  
Pas si  
Rigolo

Au-delà du fleuve  
Et à travers ma doute  
Le lapin chasse au renard  
Jusqu'à ce qu'il s'écroule

Le meme jeu triste  
Que nous jouons chaque nuit  
Où nous deux sommes la proie  
Mais j'ai vu que tu triches

Je sais bien que tu triches

Alors d'accord  
Un dernier tour  
Sur ce  
Manège

Si vertigineux  
Pas si rigolo  
Pas si  
Rigolo

Jusqu'ici  
Très bien  
Faut pas  
Déranger

Mais les coeurs faibles  
N'apprennent rien  
Et je sens que nous tombons  
À l'endroit où nous étions

Je sent qu'il se déchire  
Je sent qu'il tourbillonne

Alors d'accord  
Un dernier tour  
Sur ce  
Manège

Si vertigineux  
Pas si rigolo  
Pas si  
Rigolo