



Words In Red

(an anthology)

WORDS IN RED

To every writer,
with a poem
that should be read

WORDS IN RED
(an anthology of love poems)



Published by:
FramedWords International
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Words In Red (First Edition)

Cover Design by: TonyDeoye

Compiled and Published in Nigeria by:

FramedWords Publisher

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FOREWORD

In my line of work with young people in the creative industry, I recognize and acknowledge the fact that there are thousands of talented writers who have consistently sought for, but never had, the chance to publish their poems. Leveraging the strength of a special set of very valuable, like-minded folks within my network, “Words In Red” creates a cheaper and easier platform that promotes these set of budding writers.

“Words In Red” is a collection of fifty-eight love poems from over forty writers across the length and breadth of Nigeria. With this (Words In Red – first edition), we hope to entertain readers, promote poetry appreciation and establish our belief in the limitless creativity of young writers.

‘Seyifunmi Adebote

Abuja, Nigeria.

February 2019

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WHAT DID LOVE FEEL LIKE IN THE 90s

By Doowuese Tesia Orahii

What did love feel like in the 90s,

Did the boys love aggressively or with reckless abandon?

Did the girls' stomachs flutter like butterflies dancing the swanage?

What did love feel like in the 90s,

Did it feel like Majek Fashek sounds on gritty roads?

Or sad drunk souls stumbling on sidewalks?

What did love feel like in the 90s,

Did it feel like a coming revolution?

Or was it cut short by the passing of warriors like Fela Kuti?

I need to know.

OCEAN

By Abdulrazaq Khairah

If your love was an ocean, I drowned.

Beautiful! I thought when I caught the first glimpse of you, in that moment I fell for the aura of innocence you exuded, love, lust, I felt every emotion associated with the heart, body, soul.

I was mesmerized by your beautiful eyes,

You looked delicate like petals from a rose, you came in a cloak of gold, but I had forgotten that there could be vermin within, so carried away that I forgot, that even the most beautiful roses come with thorns.

Fooled by a charm like no other, I fell for more than your beauty, you captured me in your web of deceit, lies, pain, still I felt blissful, joyous, content.

But change came after a while, after I saw the beauty become vain, felt the bliss become pain, and the joy wane.

You killed me countless times when you said "it was over, be gone I have need of you no more", you said those words with so much venom, I became numb.

You ripped off my sanity, leaving me bare, without an ounce of dignity!

I made my heart obey every command, every claim you made, yet you turned my fate into one worthy of scorn and disgrace, I couldn't grasp, couldn't hold on to the little joy I had in me.

I was shattered by your love, yet complete by the hatred I claimed, drowned in that dreadful ocean you called love, my heart was raped, cheated on and enslaved.

If your love was an ocean, then I drowned.

LUPA

By Okpaise Daniel

My dear Lupa,

(I guess you hate tags, but this is the only way I won't get lost in you, I need an anchor so I don't get swept away by the waves in this ocean of emotions you give),

I have called you many names, *Nubian Empress, Desert Flower, Eket Love, Virgo Vixen*, all in an attempt to paint a picture of all that you are, a flawed description of your aura, a cracked melody of the enchanting tunes your eyes lead me with, there are no lows, no valleys or low tides with you, only highs,

Like an hourly hit of the good stuff, the scariest part of this addiction, is that I no longer fear the highs but dread the moments of soberness and calculated thoughts,

I want to go only where your emotional tides take me, floating in the peace it brings; the tranquil has never felt better my Lupa.

This wolf looks forward to seeing you, where his moon kisses his earth, his heart.

Your howling wolf.!

THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO SAY

By Gbemileke Anthony.

There's Nothing Left to Say,
We've used all our words,
We have wooed each other with sweet words of promise,
We have cooed to each other as we took strolls on love's lane.

We have laughed as if tickled by a bird's feather even when nothing was funny,
We have danced intoxicated by our love as if it were strong drink,
We have cried oceans of tears that would have drowned our affections for each other,
Most of all, we have talked for hours on ending as if time were a foreign construct and all the universe was ours.

Today, we are lost for words,
The flames of our passion have ebbed,
The embers of the love we shared have since died,
The spring that carried our laughter has dried,
And the birds no longer sing our names.

Once, the wind swayed to the rhythm of our hearts,
Now, time has stood still, our love has run its course,
We started out as friends, transformed into lovers,
Today, we are strangers
On different paths that will never converge,
The end has come and there's nothing left to say.

FERANMI

By Elemide Gloria.

Feranmi,
teach me how to love,
teach me the depth, length and width of love,
so I will abide in your love,
and dwell in your habitat of love,
mould me my love,
so I will be able to identify love.

Feranmi,
let your cord of love join with mine,
so you will be mine,
the majority of your friends will be mine,
your parents will be mine,
your name will do mine.

Feranmi,
please take me to the altar of love,
then I will be your partner forever,
till death comes....

EUPHONY

By Juwon Adeola.

Let me whisper my sweet nothings to your ears,
Empty words that are pregnant with my feelings,
Come, let's sit and be absorbed in this calmness,
Let the quietude be heavy with emotions.

Let's abandon ourselves to the charm of this euphony,
The rhythm of our heartbeats birthing a harmony.
Let's dance to it and make our world spin,
For love is what makes the world go round.

Like the sun at dawn and moon at night,
My love for you will ever be sure.
Like the morn dew and calm of the night,
It'll be to you an ambiance of peace.

Time will pass but my love never will fade,
For in you I found my dream come true.
Seasons will change but it'll ever be true,
For you are a gift from God; the epitome of Love.

LOVE

By Oladipo Jesutoba

You have captured my heart!
Not because of the crime on sight,
But with a stronghold man cannot fight.
You made my strong defense so light;
All my resistance brought us closer.

All of you has so consumed my heart,
Streamlining my day into two parts,
Not water, not fire can quench this,
As it burns, it will groom us, not doom us.

I am the Deer; you are the water,
My soul pants after you forever,
In my mind, I am damaged,
Only you complete my image.

I was foolish to deny this at first sight;
Till sacrifices shone on me your bright light.
The works of your hands have thought me to live right,
I wish everyone could have love, as a birthright.

A MILLION MILES AWAY

By Olawoyin Faith Olamide.

Footsteps accumulated into a feet,
And feets graduated into miles.
Now, all I do is wonder from yonder,
How does absence make the heart grow fonder?
I yet ponder,
Perhaps, love has been plundered.

Though, a million miles away,
Yet close as my ribs.
This must have a strong origin,
Buried in events of ages past,
That predated the first rain.

Oh! How I long,
To sing our song,
And tie the knot,
Of ties that bind;
Of love! One of a kind.

MY SHARE OF LOVE

By Glory Fasanya

It was a one-sided love affair,
Sweet loads of love showered on me from afar,
I guess I was never enough for her,
Soon, I gave up 'cos I was choking on her fear.
So, life led me to tread another path,
I thought she was my missing part,
Others said we were best together,
Until we discovered she was older.

Still, gave up I not at the idea of love,
Soon, I met my missing rib,
A family we would build in our crib.
Mutually exclusive soon became mutually broken,
My share of love has been rough,
This war for a companion has been tough.
Now, though my heart is willing,
My mind is weak.

The Sound Of Tinini.

By Chinonso Blessing

Did you feed me drops of love portion for you?

My heart goes tinini every time we chat,

Even though I barely know you,

But with you I feel time has travelled with us.

My heart beats to the tune of tinini,

When eventually, I see you face-to-face,

Will my legs run like that of an athlete in a race?

Will my hands wrap you like rubber band when you come close?

I fear that,

My lips will jump on yours like a magnet,

I'll hug you tight and smell your breath,

With your skin glued to mine, I'll feel your pulse whisper my name in your song.

Your presence is melody to my soul,

Your words are the lines in my poems,

Your touch are the keys in my guitar,

You are my melody; the sound of tinini.

DEAREST LOVE

By Umar Shamsiyah.

Flow! Flow!! Flow!!!

Oh! you imaginary feeling, how special are you?

I recoiled each time I embrace you,

You are tender, so tender that I cower.

Quakes or shots of eruption are far,

But just your name scares me, what if I welcome you?

What if I lean back at you, even if you seem propitious?

What if I smell you like a Rose.

Will you be here forever?

Love is what they call you,

Dearest love will you track me down even if I am lost?

Even if I am so far away in a jungle of melancholy!

Are you truly worth me feeling you, are you what they call LOVE?

SYMPHONY OF LOVE

By Juwon Adeola.

There is a melody in lovers soul,
a rhythm in their heart, a duet.
There is a dance only lovers know:
a waltz; before the heptad lamp,
round about compassion's fiery flames,
where shadows dance along and,
the only watching eyes are God's.
There's a tale only lovers tell,
a story of passion, tears, and joy;
of moments that climaxed in rapture-like bliss.
There is a fellowship only lovers share-
a communion conceived before time begun,
for every true tale of love had,
been written long before now.
There is a poem only lovers can write
and it is such as this,
the muse is the breath of the Wind,
inspired by sacred moments shared together
and those yet to be shared.
There is a sound that Heaven will not detest,
It is the harmony made by two souls,
consummation of a love orchestrated by the divine;
for when two souls say Yes I do” to love unfeigned,
it is a Divine Duet, and the Heavens stand in applaud.

A MILLION STARS

By Chinonso Blessing

A million stars gathered under the canopy of the clouds,
To watch us express our love under the moonlight.
Your heart raced as your mouth uttered those words,
And my eyes were holding up tears like the rain.

Yes!

Yes!!

I will marry you.

Like a garden, you have cleared my clouds from carbon monoxide,
Like a flower, the fragrance of your presence has overshadowed my loneliness,
Like the breeze, the touch of your hands has calmed my troubled soul,
Your kiss has made me a clown; as I smiled every second holding it.

Years have gone, tears have dropped,
Yet, you remain my number one.
Though the earth fades as ink,
Yet, you are never wearing off in my heart.

My love, loving you brought light in my street,
Choosing you was never a mistake:
Over another lifetime; you'll still be my number one.
Marrying you has been an awesome adventure,
With you my hero, always unlocking my chest of hidden treasures.

I am yours always and forever,
I'll wear you around like a magical cloak,
I'll sing you as like an anthem on the lips of a soldier,
I'll whisper your name while I sleep,
Till death do us part my love.

PIRATE

By Olawoyin Faith Olamide.

Carefully, you watched the wind,
And set the sail.
Like a pirate,
You've stolen the booty of my heart,
And with the rudder of love,
You steer the ship of passion,
To the harbor of affection-
Our perfect world of sheer ecstasy.

Aye! Aye captain!
Afloat we sail,
Against all odds-
Icebergs of afflictions,
Whirlwinds of trials and temptations,
Sharks of discord lurking in wait,
We'll forge rivers,
And climb mountains.

We'll sail due east,
And see the sunrise,
We'll sail due west,
And see the beauty of the mountains,
We'll eat of its goodness,
And savor it like phoenix dactylifer.

FRAGRANCE

By Abosede Ogundare

I want to envelope you just like you captivate me.

I want to be all over you I want to be your sweet-smelling sensation.

I want to be the pleasant smell you wear,

Confidently I want to be lushly on you,

Just like your daily smile I want to be sprayed all over you.

Just in the right quantity.

HUNGER

By Nwokorie Zita

Do you think I hunger to feel loved?

Yes, I do.

I hunger to be loved.

Don't we all?

I want to look down the depth of a soul,

And know, without any flinching doubt,

that the soul and its contents,

are his and mine as well.

I want to be able to take deep breaths,

when the doubts of happiness and sanity,

creeps in,

knowing they are just what they are: doubts.

If feeling loved,

Is the certainty that you have someone,

gunning for you, absolutely and staunchly.

Then Yes: I want to feel loved.

But then again.

Don't we all?

SOOTHING RELIEF

By Michael Onyedikachi.

Oh! my love,
How you soothe my soul always,
In times of sadness you made me smile,
You strengthen my broken nerves.
In times of happiness you burst my cruise,
With your hands all around me, you set my realm on fire,
In times of despair, you bring me hope,
There's certainly not gonna be any one like you.
You're my mutual lover,
Your ability to dictate my heart desires has cast a spell in me,
In times of foolishness, you enlighten me,
Guiding me to the right path always,
I am always tripping for you and all your genres,
You say the right word at every point of mood,
You spread your waves and hug my spirit,
Though you bring tears to my eyes often times,
When we have our many conversations.
Your beauty is beyond compare,
With locks of auburn hair and skin of ivory,
Your voice as soft as summer rain and your smile a breath of spring,
Oh music how you soothe my soul.

CORAL VIGNETTE

By Paul Akujuobi.

Come with me darling,
Let us run into the boulevards of purple and white.
See! The evening clouds unroll their curtains down,
Dye the garden rooms,
In dim orange hue.

Set the plains mellow
for a choreograph blues.
Come with me darling,
the winds are lulling
softly, a serenade flute.

The petals garland in a
carousel loop.
See my precious,
the Orchids are lilting
with a jolly glee;
the grassy tufts cuddle calm

in the breezy caress.
Come with me dear,
Let us run into the midst
of this idyllic bliss.

Let us join the fields in
their delightful clime,
bedeck this hour with a lover's tryst.

Let us entwine our arms
in an eternal chain.
Let us steady eye into eye,
and feel our hearts beat
for the truth of our vulnerability.

Let us surrender ourselves,
as the surrendered evening
and unwind the sluice
of our hearts
for a mellow run.

Let our souls scamper through
the maze of their mislaying
to catch upon themselves
in unsubdued fervor.
Come with me darling,
the meadows are now at ballad.

AMOR'S GARDEN

By Juwon Adeola.

Today, I beckon my quill on an errand of words,
My heart is igniting a good matter, it is spellbound by love.
I write from the bank of deep emotions,
Searched out from the archives of hidden words,
I inscribe these on the naked scroll of a longing heart;
I need no muse today, I write under love's spell.
Pardon me if today I seem to walk on strings,
Or laugh sheepishly like one who is bewitched,
Can a god be in love and be wise?
How much more this mortal with a fragile heart.
Remind me not that feelings are fickle,
That like flames they soon vanish;
I choose to leap into the garden of love today
And play around with this other soul whom I've found.
Let the dusk come and I'd still be here,
For time cease to matter when two souls find themselves,
Let the sun scorch and I'd still be safe,
I'm reclining peacefully under my lover's shade.

BE MY VAL

By Everest Chuks

Please be my Val!

The first thing that came to my mind,
Remembering a poor man in time past,
Spoke these words to the mirror glass.

Please be my Val! Again!

It glued to my mind,
I wondered if he had gone nuts again,
With old clothes on and no dime.

Please be my Val! Huh?

I was too young to know,
His smile preached of love,
I laughed at his craziness with head low.

Please be my Val!

Now faced with my own mirror,
I was scared to ask her,
I could afford only zero.

Please be my Val!

Choked by these words all day,
I questioned myself "do I love her"?
When she's so stressed and looked pale.

Please be my Val!

Just like a rookie in a new job,

I stared at her pic like a dumb ass,

My heart skipped like movie dubbed.

Please be my Val!

"I'm not up to her admirers" I say,

Should I forget but am addicted to her,

I once pleaded don't leave me, stay.

Please be my Val!

I'm gon be the guy she wants,

Jealousy being part of love won't consume me,

I'll ignore the world, hold her hands and say:

Please be my Val!

WHEN YOU LEFT

By Samuel Oluwagbemiga

Juliet!

You left without my consent,

While I was your Romeo,

Rendered my heart on a stereo.

When you left,

You left for a greener pasture,

Leaving the brownish hay as a failure,

Losing your conscience,

Out of no prescience.

When you left,

Your departure,

Made me a caricature,

Engaged me with Daniella,

Leaving my mind in dilemma.

When you left,

My tears was a river that never dries,

Up were my eyes unto the skies,

Searching for the bone of my bone,

But our distance consumed a long man stone.

When you left,

My heart was always in dread,

Like a giant morsel of bread,

That fills a fading body dying of hunger,

Cracking my brain with no sympathizer.

When you left,
I submitted my focus to the blurred future,
Hoping a day I will find my second picture,
That will become my soul mate,
Now, I see your heart is a closed gate.

THE STORY OF LOVE

By Bukola Olusola

This is our love story,
They say love is a myth,
But who dare says that?
When you are the real definition.

Of what I had envisage it to be,
As the rain bite the dust,
And the sun set out to run.
My love for you,
Is the rainbow that shone on us.

With colors blinding us,
To realities of the world.
It's you and I against the world,
Your sweet words give orgasm,
And your sweet lips send shivers,
Down my spine with no regret,
And my heart cries for no release.

They say love is hard,
I agree it is work but with,
You, I believe I was born.

For this, being in love with you,

You make love surreal,
Forever is no longer a myth,
Because being with you,
Makes everyday a reality,
Of the forever we dreamt of.
Forever is no longer a myth,
Because I am living that life,
With you; a life of pure bliss.

Who needs forever? When,
We can have now.
Sometimes I feel I need a pinch,
Let's go on my love,
To yonder, beyond hate,
And pain that besets easily.
Let's go on,
Let's take a ride on love wings,
To perfection unto love,
And tell the story of forever.
Together, what do you say?
I am in love with you my darling!

I LIED

By Bukola Olusola

I am a serial liar,
When I told you I liked you,
I lied.
I actually loved you,
When I told you I would be gone,
I lied.
'Cos I was at the corner watching you,
When I said it was over,
I lied.
'Cos we just got started in my heart,
When I looked at you like I don't care,
I lied,
'Cos I was shedding millions of tears in my heart.

When I acted like I didn't see you,
I lied,
I had seen you way long before you did.
Now I am going to pretend,
I didn't write this for you,
I am lying, 'cos I did.

FOREVER

By Obianke Nkem

They fell on my ears,
I heard the soft whisper,
Strong words my heart could not carry,
"I love you" were the words.
He touched my eyes,

A tear rolled down my chin,
I must have been smiling not crying,
My heart was about to burst.
He touched my lips,
Never have I felt this way,
His lips on mine, honey not as sweeter.
Our love had grown so far,
With daily ritual for its continuity,
Our love has come this far,
More like a hard work.

Let me be locked in your arms,
I would never want to leave,
My lips be locked in yours,
For in you I find solace,
In you I belong.
I watched his quiet smile till I fell asleep in his arms,
Just then I slipped and fell over,

I might have been dreaming,
And I would forever want to sleep.

I CAN'T LET GO

By Azeh O' Praise

Seems like years you walked away,
Quelling the fire you had in me set burning,
I had given you all,
Even what I couldn't give myself.
You left me with questions,
You wouldn't even reply when I asked,
Couldn't even look at me when we stumbled on each other,
Now my unanswered questions taunt me.

You seem to have moved on,
How would I?
How can I?
You were my life,
Still are,
Still will.

If you ever once more give me an ear,
Ever reply my messages,
Pick my calls,
Ever what I wanted to say before you walked out,
Not much,
But four words that keep me dying and rising.
Four words: I can't let go.

A LOVE WORTH CELEBRATING

By Karo Enajemo

IFE: The sun is a beam where your smile shines,
And the moon gives way where your eyes gaze.

Nifemi,

We have loved one another since the first Adam,
Who did call you the bone of my bone,
The flesh of my flesh.

But something he didn't say,
'Cause your beauty carried him away,
Was that you are the structure of my spine.

The reason for my life plus nine,

Nifemi,

You have been the only woman,
Who dances too well to my heart beat,
When distraction took some with a tempo too quick.

Nifemi,

I have realised even more,
The grace in every sway,
The stars in every step,
The truth in every groove,
That runs from you, my all and muse.
But Nife,

Don't weep if you see little,
About our love,
In young ones,
Who have defiled the order,
By presenting lust as love,
And love as lust.

Don't weep if you hear,
There are maidens with beauty as yours,
In your 12 noon,
Now sell their pride,
For nickles and dimes.
Please Nifemi,
E ma sukun.
Don't.

NIFEMI: Ife mi!
Ha!
Your speech now stretches longer,
Than the Egyptian Nile,
And it reminds me of the minutes you took,
To tell me you loved my smile.

Ife mi!
Don't worry about that.
Times will come,
For love to be restored,

Like our days.

When you read me lines from your heart,

And proved them true with your hands,

When you sang me songs you composed,

With the talking drum.

And left me in love like one filled with rum.

Ife mi!

I won't only weep for them,

But pray for them,

That God, who brought our hands together,

And divinely made me fall for you.

Where others for my sake stood,

Will help them too.

IFE: Nifemi,

I can't forget,

That our first meeting was divine,

And how I felt,

As if the host of heaven watched me,

Proclaim my love to your coy self.

I can't forget,

How every other girl's face became yours,

And ...

NIFEMI: Ife mi!

May God forgive your sweet tongue,

Even at this age,

Leaving me hungry for all you have to say.

IFE: Nifemi!

For your sake I gave up,

The business of praise singing,

So no woman could share my lines of your beauty and grace.

NIFEMI: Ife mi!

I know, my King,

After you took my advice for free.

IFE: Nifemi...!

Hahaha...

NIFEMI: Ife mi!

I must say for all to hear,

That if I were to live in this world again,

My heart will search for you every day,

And if I don't find you,

I will remain celibate.

IFE: Nifemi! Awwn...

NIFEMI: Ife mi!

Take it from me,

You are the best thing that happened to me,

God's special design for me.

Dear OLUMIDE,

By Oduyale Mercy

Been thinking of you lately,
I pray you come to me safely,
After scaling through all the ropes.
Right now, I live in great hopes,
That in you, some workings go on,
Before we finally become one.
I also don't lay like a log of wood,
I do myself a whole lot of good,

Getting myself the needed stuff,
That'll make me sound enough
To do the required "whatever",
In the journey of forever.

You are a real man in the making
I'm a Queen still baking,
We're being formed for a love unshaking
And a life, where there'll be no faking.

When the time comes,
And we're in the right forms,
Together, over and over again,
We'll run past the pain.

Our love, red like Zain,
Will be devoid of vain,
And full of godly gain,
We'll work in full synergy.

Birthed from a God given energy,
I wait to see this reality,
So that I'll say in finality,
My hero is here; Olumide

THE ARMS OF MY LOVE

By Glory Fasanya

I crave the arms of my love,
That I may rest in her embrace,
And my head on her chest lay,
The grace of her breast soothing my head,
Retired from the day's job into her restful lap,
Her curves were my hope during the day,
As I enter the ambience of our home.
Her smile made me horny,
Her touch was cold water to my weary soul,
A shower? she asked, then dinner was set,
The matrimonial bed was next.
In this regal grace, I spend the night with kisses,
In her loving arms, I wake up,
Bathing together in the warm shower,
Breakfast was lit with my hands on my lunch box,
Straight into Lagos traffic I dashed,
As she set out to her own business.
How would I think of cheating,
Knowing the blessedness of my woman's arm?
And in that blessing spend I every night.

MY BELOVED

By UbongAbasi Jospheh

I've expressed feelings to thousands,
Walked into shades of darkness,
Cried blood! Like I faced judgment,
Just look at my eyes, my fairness,
Left my trophy, and awarded my fears.
As my emotions drained and failed,
I watched in silence and heads down in tears,
Look at my eyes, Love!

I've waited for you,
A million days,
Look into my eyes, Angel!
You brought scrolls of happiness,
Whilst sleep fell into eyes,
Like Adam I slept at your creation.

Look into my eyes, most beautiful!
A sight of you, I thank the God of creation,
Your smiles vapourizes my tears,
Drive away my fears, you pulsate my emotions,
Just look into my eyes, my completion.

Look at my eyes when I smile,
Look at my eyes when I raise melody,

Look at my eyes when I want us in air, elevate!

Close thy eyes, and breath harmony.

I wanted you, now I vouch in truth, I'm happy,

I've found wonder filled in your nature border, mystical,

Fearfully you are made of, let us be lyrical,

Look at my eyes, musically phrasing that!

I love you!

SWEETHEART

By Halima Gift Abubakar

You're my sweet heart,
The one whose thoughts sweeten my heart.
You're my scintillating Summer Sunshine,
Whose radiance brighten my day.

You're my blossoming Spring time flower,
Whose blooming pulchritude beautify my life.
Your fragrance keeps me smiling all day.
In you I have found the one I prayed for,

The one who completely completes me.
My gift from above,
My heart song,
My friend,
My love.

I feel you in every heartbeat of mine,
I see you when my eyes are closed,
I sense you in every thought,
And I miss you without knowing why.

You're not just in my thoughts,
and in my dreams,
You have found a habitation in my heart,

There to live and to die.

Which is why I love you all the more.

THREE WORDS

By Jacob Adewale

Eyes collide, emotions in sync,
Visible silence saw us wink,
Kneels sunk as pleading ones,
Then I choose to pick words apart.

Like diamonds in the sand, hard to find,
One by one at once,
To mime melodies of my heart.
Three of them came to mind:

I,
Love,
You.

BLURRED LINES

By Doowuese Tesia Orahii

Reckless abandon, hearts at random,
Finding common grounds for our madness,
Complex beings seeking freedom, yearning for love,
And ruthlessly finding ourselves within each other,
Told you I love you and you laughed,
It sounded a lot like pain.

These become the lines,
Where hearts crack and the pieces drift away,
Where the mind and body are in a quagmire of supremacy over who decides on the rules of
engagement,
Where unspoken promises are broken.
And souls left untended,
These are the blurred lines right where love sits,

BOND

By Olayemi Adeola

When I kiss you,
I want a bonding.

When I touch you,
I want to feel your pain.

Caress me in the dark,
So you can feel my scars.

Whisper my name when you moan,
My mind never forgets.

Remind me of my promises,
When I stuck with life.

When I kiss you,
I am being truthful.

Today, I took my vows,
To stay in love forever.

LOVE MOMENTS

By Peleyah Epoupa

Do you know that moment when you just wanna cuddle her, hold her tight and never let go,

Or the first name that pops into your head when you wake up and the last before you sleep,

The moment you're lost in your thoughts and a sudden grin makes its way into your face
subconsciously,

That moment when you watch her smile and you begin to wander to when it all began,

What about the magical moment when we suddenly stare into each other's eyes, with what seems
like we're trying to get into each other's minds,

That moment when you reschedule your routine just to meet up with hers.

PERFECTION

By Peleyah Epoupa

Your piercing eyes and breathtaking smile,
Your smile is nothing but perfection,
Charming face and strong body,
Beauty, mesmerizing at every dimension.

Heavenly laugh and soothing voice,
Pure heart and untainted soul,
My princess in her royal beauty,
Most enveloped in her humorous laugh,
And when our eyes meet each other,
All I see is perfection.

MY SOUL SERENADES

By Jacob Adewale

I crave to hide,
In solitude by your side,
Sing sweet songs to my soul,
Make my spirit soar and whole.

Feed my ears something new,
Let my eyes see it too;
Sink a kiss in my heart,
Show me love and my joy kick starts.

Push my pain away,
Permit peace to stay,
Make me yours my dear,
Bury my feelings of fear.

Let me slumber on your chest
As your only forever guest;
Listen, my soul serenades,
And forever will, till heaven fades.

SING ME A LOVE SONG

By Jacob Adewale

Sing me softly a love song,
So no one hears us but the stars,
Veil not your passion from the emulous moon;
Sing with your heart and heal my scars.

Slur over the lurking night,
Subdue the silence with effervescent tone;
Twirl and twirl and keep my gaze awake,
For you I live, the bone of my bone.

Your lips so airily sweet,
I long to taste, I crave to taste;
Slowly, fondly, hold me in your embrace,
Dear diadem, desire I your love in a haste.

Sing, O beauty, sing,
And chain my love forever to stay;
I know no other with grace as yours,
O beauty, sing me softly a love song today and every day.

IFEANYICHUKWU

By Adegoke Olawunmi

The man of my dreams,
Can't wait for dusk to fall,
To catch a glimpse of him,
Though the night may seem short,
It's always a feel of heaven on earth.

The man of my dreams,
An admire to all,
Gorgeous and well crafted,
Heaven knows and well speak,
His name with time, I will know and tell,
Ifeanyichuckwu I call him for now.

Ifeanyichuckwu,
His face I love to see,
I will squint my eyes to stare,
Even in darkest of night,
Till we see and meet in face,
Ifeanyichuckwu.
Ever seated amongst the kings,
A Geber for real I know,
He shall cover my under garment,
For none other save him to see,

His heart finds trust,
As he delights in me by day.

Ifeanyichuckwu,
Bends knees at rising,
And never bares his back on bed,
Without flipping through pages of script,
Little wonder he's an embodiment of wisdom.

Ifeanyichuckwu,
God's very beloved,
Whose members are kept safe,
Till that very day,
We both say I do before Him,
And all bare record to the command kept.

Ifeanyichuckwu,
I behold and see Him in him,
My heart is captured from within,
My senses intact I keep.

The man of my dreams shall come to me in due time,
Fair or dark he may be,
I will choose to care less,
For then I will know and say,
Ifeanyichuckwu is sent from God himself.

DID YOU EVER?

'Seyifunmi Adebote

did you ever stay up,
late into lonely nights
shuffling mental pictures of me
lonely too, thinking about you?

did you ever pause movies
to replay the last few seconds
then pick lines from a scene,
and say quietly,
“that’s exactly how Seyi speaks!”

now, even from a distance
we still grow fond of each other

how many times
have you caught yourself whispering
“Seyi, I love you!”

THE RISING SUN

By Maël Ben Adam.

How sweet, how true, how comforting,
Your arms in good cheer enwrap me.
How smooth, how fluid, how endearing,
Your voice in soft song enchants me.
My minstrel muse, my mistress fond,
I am the woods, you are the nymph,
The two forever must be bound,
As sound in life's orchestral symph-
Ony. One the house, one the home;
In love and rhyme, frozen in time.

So let me not away from you,
And you with me must stay in truth,
For life is mortal, but love's true.
And to live, to love, the sweet earth,
Lets us a patch of dust and space;
A loan, a lease to run our race.

Again I plead, stay bound with me,
This race, though short, is long enough,
To live and leave a legacy,
And love although the road be rough.
Now, sing to me that old-world tune,
I will verse you in old-world rune.

The end though far is nigh at hand,
The night is long but dawn creeps on,
Sweet luck with me upon the land,
Has brought me you, my rising sun.

INTIMATE

By Harriet Ifeanyi

Be gentle with me" she said,
I smiled, touched her,
The red on her was as soft as the air,
She was too delicate,
Almost unreal
But here I was, holding her.

"Be mine" I whispered,
She turned, wanting to get away,
Gently, I pulled her back.
Her scent tickled my nose,
I let my hands run down her body,
Down her legs,
She bled when I broke her.

Still she held onto me,
As tightly as I held onto her,
And from amongst the rest,
It was she I plucked,
The most beautiful of all red roses,
To propose to the girl I love the most.

I FOUND LOVE

By Ilesanmi Paul Olatunde

In the shadows of the castle,
I see the shape of love,
Calling me forth.

Oh! I see the garment of the bride,
I can hear her smile,
I can perceive the words of her mouth.

Oh! My beautiful bride,
I come forth, running to behold you,
Falling into your embrace,
There I found love.

LOVE IS A CULTURE

By Olayemi Adeola

It speaks different languages,
has different expression,
the same colour,
the same effect,
whether in the heart or head,
it has an attitude,
not only to kiss and caress,
but to make sacrifices,
It is called love and it has a culture.

PRIM AND PROPER

By Roseline Shekogaza

In you,
Prim and proper,
Nice tuxedos, fine pants,
No shabby look,
Classy meets freshness!

Prim and proper,
Charming smell- DKNY only!
Hausa perfume has got nothing on you.

Prim and proper,
Breath taking charisma,
Poised carriage, like that of a king, and so you are!

Prim and proper,
Your diction top notched, Queen's English strictly,
No blabbing and bluffing, no stammering.
Alluringly Confident!
That's my man.

An undisputable son of Yahweh,
When you kneel,
The hosts of darkness cannot raise an accusation,
You're blood-washed!

The crush of every right-thinking woman.
Who wouldn't? No, shouldn't envy me?
You're every mother's delight,
whose mother wouldn't wish she had you for a son-in-law?
It's amazing to know that you're not what I want but what I have!

Prim and proper may be in your life,
But you may not realize,
Because you may see, but you do not see!

You can make,
Prim and proper,
From the genuinely awesome man with the right qualities that can be polished.
Get to work.
Lazy not.

I'll keep working,
Till my Prim and Proper
Shines from over-polish,
It's all for the love of you, lovely one!

WHIRLS

By Adedimeji Quayyim Abdul-Hafeez

My heart races to catch up with your spirit,
that spirit that gulps and quench the thirst,
of the wild waves which sips into my being,
That reflection that shadows your image,
in depths whirling with the winds.

That reality that gleams and reflects,
your finesse through the rays of my heart,
The paradises that cling unto your being strikes,
me from the meticulousness of your strides;
whirling in me and leaving me in cascading
thoughts happily consuming my being.

My story culls in the lanes of love which
your gaze draws with your gorgeous
eyelashes; sifting through the times
and guiding our steps in the clouds of history.

My heart run wildly as I write this
as your thunder strikes me yet again;
leaving me in the paralysis which
liberates my being.

Abefe, I'm glad you gleam in my heartbeats.

MY HEARTBEAT

By Adasho Davids.

you are my lung,
that gives me breath,
my heart waits your service,
my heart longs for your Lunt;
that supplies my breath,
my heartbeat.

my heartbeat.
don't cease the beat of my heart,
without pageantry contest,
you are my miss world,
my ward, my word and my world,

my heartbeat
I'm sick only your love;
can heal me in your ward,
I'm speechless only your words;
gives me utterance
I'm lost in the grave of the dead,
only your world brings me back to life,

my heartbeat,
the apple of my eyes
I love you darling!

FORGIVE ME

By Oyebamiji Sunday

Good day,
To the lovely voice that soothes my night,
To the pretty face that hides her picture,
To the attentive ear and friendly heart who listens with passion,
Though she rejected my request.

And forced me to long in vain for what I asked,
To the one who wants solid friendship and is not easily angry,
Whose pictures complement her voice,
Hope your night was great,
I hope I am able to forgive you for giving me a sleepless night on phone.
Be not angry.

Be not angry,
With me, o dear,
For my naivety had played games,
Of shadows,
And shades on me again.

I know not what,
I did when I did,
For my mind was crowded and clouded.

My words were not mine,
When I spoke them,

But of my anger,
I had wronged thy simplicity,
Like a simpleton.
Tell me my offence,
In thy defense,
And Ill change not in presence.

Be not offended,
For I have repented,
And not defended,
But now amended.

OUR LOVE STORY

By Caleb Oluwole

She was a beauty,

She still is-

A goddess!

Always wearing a smile,

That travels thousand miles,

My shyness was unique,

My calmness too was,

What else was I? Just myself.

Our conversation started,

With a smile,

Like the Indians,

Then, I manage to say,

"My two can divide your four"

And that was all our Arithmetic.

Amidst smiles of different shades, she pleaded-

"Let not our love be an history,

Let us remain ignorant to government,

And the laws that defines " divorce "

The look on my frozen eye,

Was like I was saying-

"Princess I have done my economics,

And the profit is much,

So much, that I'll count not the cost,

I'll be deaf to alarms haters are ringing.

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

By Ihekire Steve.

Love is in the air,
It removes no hair,
An atom of it,
Leaves you no appetite to eat.
Lo! That I thought,
At last it brought wrought.
I wanted it to go,
Yet couldn't let it to,
B'hold I understood the concept,
But in the God's pretext,
On the course of writing a text,
You get filled even on a test.
Beyond the wages of debt,
You are held high and kept,
Lo!! Let love be till the days apart.

WHEN YOU SAY YOU LOVE ME

By Doowuese Tesia Orahii

When you say you love me,

Do you mean you will, when this smile falters?

When you say you love me,

Do you mean you will tarry through the lapses of my human condition?

When I say I love you,

I mean I can lay down my life for you,

I mean I can slay dragons in your name,

Carry your dreams under light,

Till stars carry them and turn them into reality.

I mean eternity,

I mean infinity,

Till angels we become.

LOVE IS THE WAY

By Olayemi Adeola

It is not a way of life,
We are doubtful,
Angered and disappointed.

Our root is faulty,
A home built on falsehood,
Broken and shattered.

It will be a way of life,
We are hopeful,
To love and be loved.

WHERE YOU LIVED

By Okpaise Daniel

Awakening to another beautiful day,
like an eagle at dawn,
the Sun's ascent heralded by cacophonous crowing,
the environment lit up by joyous faces,
ecstatic smiles on seeing another day,
showering greetings and camaraderie,
laying in my bed,
listening to the sounds,
unlocking that place where we lived in my mind,
where we declared our first words of companionship,
the air still tingling with the magic we made,
the walls still luminous reflecting the shining art we made
sitting at the table wondering how we made all this happen,
like Efe trying to figure out his luck,
wondering how we swayed Lady Luck to our camp,
reminiscing about the dulcet music our hearts made,
then the clock chimes,
reminding me of how our hearts rang out,
your voice reverberating in my mind,
saying this was our home,
"Your heart is where I belong."

Desert Wolf

YOU SHOULD KNOW

By Roseline Shekogaza

It's high time,
I let you know,
How special you're.

You should know that,
The radiance of your smile,
Brightens my world,
Your carriage makes my confidence, confident.

You should know,
That your soothing words, calms my Being in its entirety,
In inexplicably ways.

You should know,
That your charming, charmingness charms my charming heart,
Captivates it,
And makes my focus, focus on you- handsome one!
Its a distraction I cherish to have.

You should know that,
many sons have done virtuously, but you excel them all"

So Many hustles and buzzles,
Depression-causing pressures,
Pointless chasings,

In this competitive world, but, in you,
I find a partner not a punching rival.
With both of us on this team,
We can take over the world!

Headaches, heartaches are found in most,
But in you,
I find comfort with no aches,
You complete me.

COUTURE

By Ekene May

May clay pots and jars,
scented candles lit,
mats made from raffia,
pillows of Ankara prints,
handcrafted. . .
bear witness everything
you do to me.

So when you lay me down,
do it gently,
listen to my heart beat ,
only for you,
call this place our shrine if you must,
our holy ground,
the only place our hairs stood still,
in unholy worship and total surrender to our touch,
yours on my skin,
tracing every layer and follicle,
penetrating down to dermis(es),
i had no idea existed,

So when sojourners come,

may the walls tell our tales,
may they start with the whispers that made me giggle endlessly,
the curve of my back,
draping silk and tiara,
toned skin and shoulder,
I know. . .I am Royalty!

May they retell with excitement in their eyes,
the shudders of my shoulders,
throwback of my neck,
with pointed wriggly feet,
hands wrapped around your head, your neck,
on your ears,
fingers dipped into your ears,
yes. . .no,
stop. . .don't stop,
take me . . .whole!

Pray, let them remember my coyness,
your deep stares,
smirks at the corners of your lips,
half-smiles,
let them say half-smiles,
but they were very full to me,

they were the only times you smiled genuinely,
at me,
in draping silk, tiara,
curved back, shuddered shoulders,
wiggly feet, head thrown back,
endless giggles at nothing,
uneasy heartbeats, smirks,
curled in our holy place.

It was to me, a sign.

That I want to love you like this,
that i will love you,
will stay,
like roots to mother earth,
like water to roots,
like air,
like the rainbow,
or a bird with twigs,
blood on lintels,
red seas and parting curtains,
it was to me sign,

that we will forever be.

I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU

By Azeh O' Praise

I'm in love with you,
With all your little things,
Those tiny dots I really am amazed at,
Those bits of beautiful that form you,
Those little specks of wonder,
That gentle breeze of amazing.

The way you frown when I cross the line,
How your beautiful face folds suddenly,
How your eyes go golden with anger,
How your face brightens up- red,
Then I just stare- amazed- and laugh.

Your lips,
How you they gently form into a pout,
How they beautifully form when you smile,
How astonishing they make you,
How love struck they leave me.

Your gap teeth,
The one heavens left me to fill,

How they perfect your perfect,
How in awe they leave me,
Keep me going back and smiling at pictures.

Your voice- your hellos,
How it calms my nerves,
Soothes me- loves me- me, adores.
How gently you pronounce your words,
How I stay voice struck- basking in its aroma.

Your fingers,
How cutely little they are,
How warm and soft they feel in mine,
That way you run them on my body,
Stories of being loved they tell me,
Why I never *wanna* let go.

Your kiss,
Heavens meet earth- again and again- in me,
My eyes closed- my heart open,
Hearts connecting- me alive,
How I remember them countless times after and smile.

Your touch,

Your hug,
Your walk- how you walk away,
How you itch your head,
How you push back your hair.

Oh! I'm in love with you,
With all your little things.

THE NAME

By Peace Harrison

The butterflies I feel in my stomach, do they have a name?

Could it be that, the sparkles on my face, and my cheeks blushing at intervals has a name tag?

The twinkle in my eyes when my beloved walk pass, does it have a name?

We fought. I was pissed. But it keeps me awake all night, why?

The fondness my heart has grown to become has no created letters of explanation yet.

So, I stay with my doubt; Does this too have a name?

But of who can this tale be told from?

For my heart 'dingles' and 'dangles' without permission always

sometimes hurtful, oftentimes melodiously.

Maybe this isn't just with a name tag

Maybe this is a person too.

Could it be me? Or my Beloved or No!

Could it be the man: "number 3"

Yes! I've crossed the T's and dotted the I's

I know the name,

Do you?

THIS THING CALLED LOVE

By Abosede Ogundare

It plays with my heart and quarrels with my mind.

It plays with my thoughts and disturbs my soul.

This Thing Called Love,

It wraps my words around my finger,

And ties my tongue with twine.

It seals my cognition in halt motion;

Logic is nowhere in sight.

This Thing Called Love,

My heart beats in slow race,

My words long gone in submissiveness,

To the one my heart beats for,

I don't know what hits me, but I think it is.

This Thing Called Love,

It spins my head and makes me do things I know not of,

Like chasing butterflies at twilight,

And watching the moon catwalk in the sky at day time.

This Thing Called Love,

This heart speaks a language,

Only the intoxicated mouth knows intoxicated mouth, intoxicated soul,

Drowning in love with blissful glee.

This Thing Called Love,

This heart race just at the sight of my beloved,

This mouth quivers, just at the taste of his sweetness,

All because of;

This Thing Called Love

ABIKE

By Aderemi Alex

Abike, come here let me hug you,
Let me wrap my arms around you,
Hold you tight and cuddle you all night.
Put off the light,
And sing you sweet lullabies all night,
Plant a kiss on your neck so tight,
Mesmerize you with my loving all night- without sight.
You would sulk on my chest and say "Akanni if this is wrong, I don't ever wanna make it right",
Run my fingers through your hair and make you gasp for air,
Gently sucking on your lower lips,
Gradually holding your hips,
I wanna take you on a long trip.
"Akanni don't stop" and I'll be like:
"Abike mi, this is just a tip",
Come to cloud nine and have a sip.

LOVE'S CYCLE

By Priscilla Ahaiwe

A frown,

Was how it began.

A "please watch where you're going"

Met with a glaring 'I'm not blind' look.

A stare,

An "ohhhh how can I un-see you, I don't want a bad day" kind of stare.

A smirky stare right back at me.

A smile

Your 'I'm your worst nightmare' smug smile,

My 'you can't be all that bad' kind of smile.

A handshake,

My warm handshake,

Your firm gripping handshake.

A hug,

My angle 90- unsure kind of hug,

Your angle 360 'I'm a good guy' hug.

A date

You in your all-suited Arnold Swarzennege's body.

Me in my Marilyn Monroe hair in a Jolie's body.

A kiss,

A shy "I hope my breathe isn't stale", Meeting an "I want all of you" kind of kiss.

A marriage,

Pinkish white ball dress,

Barbie girl in a Barbie world,

Knight in a blue-tanned armour,

Gazes locked- unaware of the priest's sermon,

Night-filled warm thoughts.

A goodbye,

Me- standing in my white dress,

By your bloodied blue-tanned suit,

Your head on my laps,

The gash wound opened for all to see.

A glassy stare,

A dead smile,

A lifeless hug,

A stilled kiss,

And a death.

A death: how it ended,

When we had only just begun.

The End

Thank you for reading Words In Red. We would love to know your opinion of this anthology. How would you rate it? Is there something we can improve on? Do you have a friend youll like to recommend us to? Or would you want us to help you with your next editing or publication?

Please write the publishers at framedwordsintl@gmail.com

MEET THE TEAM

Ekene May is a Nigerian Poet and Storyteller who enjoys scribbling her thoughts as quickly as she can, every day, just before they disappear into nothingness, which they are a little notorious for.

She enjoys random cartwheels, especially when she is excited and a bit of good food. She also savors staying briefly with large families, just for the fun of learning a little about other people.

She grasps a line of poetry from everything.

Praise Azeh is Team Lead at You Initiative, a youth development initiative birthed by him, that seeks to develop and empower the Nigerian and African youth, into realising, maximising and effectively wielding his innate potential. A First-Class Graduate of Mass Communication. He's a Writer, Poet and Speaker, who has spoken on a number of platforms, and still is enhancing his reach.

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Priscilla Ahaiwe is a Behaviour Technician, a poet and a writer. She works with an organization that helps children living with the Autism Spectrum Disorder become independent and live functional lives. She has been teaching kids with learning difficulties for three years and counting- she's all about leading positive social change in the community.

Currently, she's working on becoming a Board Certified Assistant Behaviour Analyst to help more developmentally-challenged kids become independent in their immediate society

A graduate of Mass Communication and a lover of written and spoken words, her first book is currently in the works.

Ilesanmi Paul Olatunde has a B.A(ED) in English language from Ekiti State University. He is the Creative Director at FramedWords Intl; a writing and publishing firm based in Nigeria. Paul is passionate about helping writers get their works published. He is skilled in Research, Leadership and Public Speaking.

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Opetu Ebibote is a writer and editor with professional background in English Language from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Over the years, using her voice and creativity Opetu has greatly contributed to redefining radio broadcasting and poetry in Nigeria.

Currently, she creates content for a digital marketing firm and blogs at www.musespill.com.ng

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If your love was an ocean. I drowned Beautiful! I thought when I caught the first glimpse of you in that moment, I fell for the aura of innocence you exuded. love, lust. I felt every emotion associated with the heart, body, soul. I was mesmerized by your beautiful eyes. You looked delicate like petals from a rose. you came in a cloak of gold. but I had forgotten that there could be a vermin within. so carried away that I forgot that even the most beautiful roses come with thorns. Fooled by a charm like no other i fell for more than your beauty. you captured me in your web of deceit. lies, pain. still I felt blissful, joyous, content. But change came after a while. after I saw the beauty become vain. felt the bliss become pain. and the joy wane. You killed me countless times when you said it was over. be gone. I have need of you no more. you said those words with so much venom. i became numb. You ripped off my sanity, leaving me bare, without an ounce of dignity. I heart obey command. claim you yet you fate into one and made my every every made. turned my thy of scorn disgrace. i couldn't hold on to the little joy I had in your love. yet complete drowned in that dreadful heart was raped. cheated was an ocean. then I guess you hate tags. but this is the only way I won't get lost in you. i need an anchor so I don't get swept away by the waves in this ocean of emotions you give. I have called you many names. Russian Empress. Desert Flower. Eket Love. Virgo Vixen. all in an attempt to paint a picture of all that you are. a flawed description of your aura. a cracked melody of the enchanting times your eyes lead me with. there are no lows. no valleys or low tides with you. only highs. Like an hourly hit of the good stuff. the scariest part of this addiction. is that I no longer fear the highs but dread the moments of soberness and calculated thoughts. I want to go only where your emotional tides take me. floating in the peace it brings. the tranquil has never felt better my Lupa. This wolf looks forward to seeing you. where his moon kisses his earth. his heart. Your howling wolf. Awakening to another beautiful day. like an eagle at dawn. the Sun's ascent heralded by cacophonous crowing. the environment lit up by joyous faces. ecstatic smiles on seeing another day. showering

Words in Red