

"Serum Soliloquy" -- This is a more personal piece done in a very trying period of my life as I struggled with self-harm (cutting). I actually penned this while cutting in administrative segregation.


"Shining Starr" -- Was written for my fiancé Erica Starr Myers, the most amazing woman, to express to her my love and appreciation for sticking by my side these last seven years. It also conveys that it is only a matter of months until I am finally home.

"Sunshine and Rain" -- This was something I wrote when I was single and it was meant to have a two-fold meaning in the form of the two elements. Life itself would be nonexistent in absence of them, and it gives voice to what I see a healthy marriage being.

"Reflections" -- Was written for my oldest niece for her graduation. The thought was reflecting on life and its obstacles.

This is the first time I have ever shared my writings outside of my family. Regardless of the outcome I would certainly appreciate some type of feedback, if that is possible, as I have had no formal instruction or critique thus far. Thank you for this opportunity and your interest in those whose lives have been impacted by incarceration.

Sincerely,



Here's to Fifty Years

Lonnie Carrol Griffin

and Joycelyn Kay,

He a strong silent Oak,

She a Dove under His boughs to stay.

They left mother and father
to join and become one,
What God has bound together
let it never be undone.

They made their vows
She built her nest,
Will the haven that She's chosen
withstand the test?

As the years pass by
there are trials to come,
She looks to Him for solace
at the loss of their first born son.

Promoted by a need to feel near
She moves Her nest in,
two years hence
She gives birth to Tamra Lynn.

'Tis alas a product
of this union of Love,
Rekindling the union
of "Oak" and "Dove".

The years pass by
Spring of '81 is here,
ushering in the coming

of new offspring to rear.

'Though the births of a beautiful daughter,
and a handsome son,
A desire still remains
for "Oak" and "Dove" to become one.

Strong and silent the "Oak"
weathered life's seasons
Enduring His inner struggles,
but what were the reasons?

A question the "Dove"
asked Herself many a night,
"Should I stay or should I go
making haste, taking flight?"

His branches laid bare
one cold, dark night,
The result of this state
came as a fright.

A miracle of God
though His Bark now marred,
God saw fit to give Him life
as an Angel stood guard.

God's grace and mercy
doth ever abide,

It pleased HIM that Lonnie and Joyce
remain groom and bride.

Their young now gone
having spread their wings and flown,
"Oak" and "Dove" reflect,
"Oh how our love has grown!"

The storms raged on
the winds of life blew,
Yet the love of Lonnie and Joyce Griffin
has held strong and true.

Not many years past
the chink in his bark laid bare,
"Dove" ventures in exclaiming,
"Alas I am there!"

God's grace is sufficient
and proved that "Dove" would,
Endure these fifty years
At last nesting in "Oak's" heartwood.

This paradigm of matrimony
one I have grown to admire,
impurities burnt away,
"Oak" and "Dove's" love purified by fire.