

A soft-focus photograph of a lavender field under a pale sky. The lavender plants are in the foreground and middle ground, with some in sharp focus and others blurred. The overall tone is gentle and nostalgic.

Ahava Mama

NEVER
KNEW
LOVE

A Collection of Poetic Memoirs

Never Knew Love

NEVER KNEW LOVE
A Collection of Poetic Memoirs

written & Revised
by Ahava Mama

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*to every brown woman
who has ever been hurt,
abused, misused, and mistreated;*

*to every brown woman
who has given of herself to the wrong people,
and now harbors resentment towards herself;*

*to every brown woman
who has lost,
yet seeks to find,
the desire to love again:*

I see you.

LIVICATION

I have spent my entire existence
engulfed within
the pursuit of unconditional love.
And now that I have found *myself*
in that pursuit,
I have also found *you*.

I appreciate your essence,
and I love all that you are.
I will never attempt to limit your experiences,
nor will I attempt to restrict
your expressions of who you are.
I want you to experience all
that you think, feel, and know
is essential and vital for growth,
and I will be present,
showing up,
both as I am
and as you need me to be,
for you each time.

For all that you've grown through and created,
and all that you will continue to bring forth,
I am here with and for you.

The truth of Love is *balance*,
and without true balance,
there will be no *outstanding*.

*I livicate these words
to the wholeness of Love,
and to the restoration of the
Balance between the
Divine Masculine and Feminine.*

FORWARD REASONING: AN ODE TO LOVE

Have you ever truly known Love?

Would you recognize it if it looked you in the eyes,
grazing upon your essence in the mirror of Life?

To position yourself to even begin to know love is to strip yourself of everything that you have ever been taught to think defined you, and shifting your view of the world that surrounds you. Strip your mind of everything that you were ever conditioned to believe that you are. What are you left with? Some may say nothing. I'm here to remind you that *that* is love. The true essence of being; the core of darkness.

There, present, we find the empty fulfillment of **nothingness**. *That* is love. The essence of you that has gone unseen, unfelt, and unheard of. That is God. That is the Most i, *the source of Love that has manifested into the physical to experience itself the form of you*. That is love.

Many of us have lived our entire lives in resistance to who we are, and taught to view this resistance and lack of knowing as a natural occurrence. This space of ignorance, and resistance, towards Love and ourselves is a space where Love is not aware of itself, thus not able to thrive. This space, consumed by lack and empty knowing, is not where human beings *naturally* dwell. This space of illusion and falsehood showcases our innate nature and desire to know ourselves, love ourselves, to love and be loved.

But, we have become complacent and comfortable within the fear of uncertainty; we doubt our ability, and worthiness, to love and be loved. When you doubt yourself, you doubt the creative will of Life; of the Most i. To dishonor Life in such a way is to dishonor God. It is a smack in the face to the whole of creation. It is the greatest way to dishonor yourself. There is nothing more powerful, or worthy, than you. For you are All that exists, and All is love..

..and Love is you.

But, you will *never truly know Love*; you will *never recognize yourself*, until you **let go** of what no longer serves you.

Never Knew Love

SECTION I:

A Collection of Poetry & Prose

Never Knew Love

The only way out is through;
through the ashes of the flower petals
that your foolish heart set ablaze,
enraged at the unraveling of the truth of your pain.

With the decolonization of your soul,
and the liberation of your voice,
you must be bold,
as you trip and trample
over the blind remnants of eternity.

You must be brave,
as you attempt to set fire to the chains
that keep you bound to your ancestors' pain.

You must submit yourself to this;
you must become infatuated with how it feels
to truly feel your petals bloom
through the mud.

From a seed,
nurtured in the darkness of Earth,
roots firmly grounded in the
etheric soil of eternity.

There is no other way to become free.
Like the rose that grew from the concrete,
you will always be beautiful.

*We are brown,
just as the mud in
which the lotus grows.*

Never Knew Love

When the chains
on your heart
make your bones ache,

what shall it take
for you to remember love?

Never Knew Love

The ignorance
of humans eludes me.

It angers me;
and beneath that anger,
there lies the fear of being just like them.

Revisit the places that scare you.

Never Knew Love

The redemption
of my demons
manifests through
the acceptance
of their resemblance
to me.

I know why
the caged bird
sings,
for I
was once
in the same cage.

Never Knew Love

The psychotic
drowns in the sweat produced
by the sweetness of toxicity.

The seemingly everlasting,
lingering taste of what it means to be vulnerable-
perceived as a weakness,
rather than a variable of apparent strength.

The psychotic,
who wears pain and victimhood as a cloak,
is hiding from the truest expression of one's soul.

*The mystic is the psychotic,
aware of its psychosis.*

Never Knew Love

The staleness of bones,
the screeching of eyes,
hearts are stiff and souls stale.

The suffocation of love;
the murky spirit of disdain
puts stillness in a headlock.
The voice of truth
chokes on a hate filled tongue.

There's no vengeance greater
than the scorn
of a Life unsung.

This is the madness of a lost species.

Never Knew Love

She screamed,
and he screamed back-
but they ignored my screams.

To be neglected
by those who are there to guard me
is the epitome of the worst of my dreams;
to scream so loud
and have no one acknowledge me.

With each other,
they were fighting,
but violating me.

Am I not worthy of my screams?
Am I not worthy of such pearls for tears?

Never Knew Love

Visions blurred,
she yearns for understanding.

The abyss of her existence
is the breeding ground of all truths
she has ever known and felt.

She's not meant
to be understood by mediocrity,
but by the grace of emotional fluidity,
she will be outstood-

by truth.

Never Knew Love

I gave myself,
easily, to them.
I submitted, blindly,
to each of them.

In the end,
I was left with mere fragments
of each of them...

...assuming that they would each
make me whole again.

Could the fool be loved?

Never Knew Love

She loved him,
unconditionally.

And in return,
he discarded of her love
as he wrote their bond
in the sand to be erased and never felt again-

not by the will
of the rigged barrier of ice
that now guards her heart.

Never Knew Love

She should have flown elegantly
by the bush of self negligence and hate
in which she found him.

But, instead, she chose to entangle herself
in his eccentric web
of pain, sex, lies, and deceit,
as he proceeded to weave
a sequence of emotional consequences
that her beautiful wings would get trapped in.

She ain't no butterfly;
just another caterpillar in a costume
wishing to be allowed
into a garden of flowers
in full bloom.

To pimp a butterfly.

Never Knew Love

I was convinced
he loved the beautifully brutal sounds
of my tears beating against the concrete floor of his heart.

To think that I loved a man
more than he even loved himself,
striving to become far more knowledgeable of *him*
than he was even willing to be aware of himself-
all while simultaneously
disregarding my own worth.

Consumed by insecurities and greed,
the desperation for love
and the comfort of acceptance
was weighing heavily on my being.

*What did I expect from him,
that I couldn't give myself?*

Never Knew Love

She trusted him,
after years of not trusting anyone.
She welcomed him into her holy space,
legs open and heart wide,
with no shame-

until he began to unveil
his true face.

The mask he wore was so beautiful,
even *her* demons were blinded
by his potential.

She should've known better
than to doubt his resemblance
to those who came before him.

She should've known better
than to feel that she was any different
from the ones who've thrown themselves at him,
before and after her.

Never Knew Love

Spreading your legs
for a man that
you barely even knew;
inviting him into heaven
when he only brings hell
wherever he goes.

Your body wouldn't open up to him,
a lack of genuine arousal-
because from the beginning,
he wasn't welcome.

Now, you walk around with guilt
and the bitter taste of shame, embarrassment,
and disdain on your tongue-

all while he carries the fame
of stealing another womb's glory.

Never Knew Love

I wanted to give you all of me-
in return for all of your pain and insecurities.

I wanted to love you
how I thought I loved me,
but you wouldn't let me.

I wanted to understand you.

I wanted you to be free,
but I also wanted you to love me for me.

I wanted you to be free
from all of your inequities,
as I loved you for all of the things
that you couldn't see.

I wanted to give you all of me-
which resulted in you leaving me,
as I attempted to piece myself back together,
viewing myself through the mirror
that you shattered into a million pieces.

Never Knew Love

I should have told you what I wanted.

With your level of dishonesty,
and my lack of forwardness,
not only did we fail the relationship-
we failed ourselves.

I was lying to myself,
and you were afraid to be forward.
We mirrored the worst of each other.

And together,
we failed at love.

Never Knew Love

Yes.

Yes, you made my heart soar
and my mind skip thoughts.

Yes,
the touch of your eyes,
and the radiance of your primal scent
sent my being into the
depths of wonder.

I wondered;
did you truly adore me,
or did my willingness to submit
adorn your flawed ego?

Never Knew Love

Thank you,
for showing me
what a man is not.

The image of you,
and the imprint of your character
on my psyche is what formulated
the blueprint for my pursuit
of true love.

*Daddy's
little girl,
I am.*

Never Knew Love

I resented you.
I didn't recognize the gifts that
you bestowed upon me;
the perceived emotional neglect was heavy,
but it revealed my most potent strength to me.

My desire for codependency
was shattered.

In the ugliest way,
you taught me
the most beautiful thing.

Not to be an independent woman,
but to be self-sufficient
within wholeness
as a divine being.

*Dear mama,
you are appreciated.*

Never Knew Love

I forgive you.
You never saw
the beauty in me,
as I was presented
in my rawness.

You wanted me to conform,
trading my authenticity
for flawed approval,
but I would only perform
to the best of my inability
to do so.

You resented me,
and all I ever did
was love you.

I must forgive,
as we will forever coexist-
but with understanding.

A note to my lower self.

Never Knew Love

I wanted to love-
beyond what I was shown.

Kicks and screams,
proud outbursts of saliva,
and streams of mucus filled tears,
all filled my ears
with horror.

As I grew older,
the attempt to swim
through the muck that stifled the glow
of my aura grew excruciatingly gruesome.

I never truly knew them,
only the parts of them
that they created to protect themselves
from people like me-
people who wanted to see them.

I was born
a different type of being.
And I choose to love-
beyond what I was shown.

I am love,
and I am seen,
more than I have ever known.

Never Knew Love

They hated
to see her become this
beautifully wild rendition
of what it means to be free.

She was the personification
of their own inner strength
and rebellious creativity,
which they had yet to harness
within their own being.

What is jealousy and resistance,
but manifestations of
the illusions of separation and powerlessness?

Never Knew Love

Dynamically undefined-
her worth could not be limited
to a single word of tangible definition.

Their floods of admiration
do not penetrate her heart,
yet the energetic depth
of her soul essence
stirs the existing resistance within theirs.

*Intimidated by Love,
they cannot handle her.*

Never Knew Love

I never knew
how it felt to trust someone;
someone worthy to be trusted.

She embodied
every part of me
that I never knew existed.

The rest of them betrayed me,
or so I thought.

But, her..
her essence was everything
that I thought I was missing-

good vibes and divine sisterhood.

Never Knew Love

You adore
all of the parts
of her that you feel you lack.

You condemn yourself
for your past decisions,
and lessons,
afraid and wishing that she won't see you
the same as you see yourself.

This is what happens
when you put others
on a pedestal,
and reduce yourself
to the God turned peasant
who once sat there.

Never Knew Love

The *image* of her
conjures an insecurity
from the depth of my being.
She appears happy,
but is she truly?

I just wanted someone
to love me for me,
honoring who I am, **naturally**.

Will he still think I'm beautiful,
once he sees her?
She is everywhere,
but there is only one me.

The image of her
is a reminder of who I used to be-
natural beauty vs vanity.

Never Knew Love

My heart
has trapped itself
within these walls.

If these walls had a voice,
they would tell their story;
the story
of how they insist on falling away.

though,
my heart says no.
“Please stay.
Please don’t leave me exposed.
I do not trust myself
and you make me feel safe.”

If these walls had a voice,
they will say to my heart,
“You are too big,
and we cannot contain you.
You take up too much space.”

My heart is too big
to fit within these walls.
My heart
has made a home
within these walls,
and within these walls,
my heart
has overstood its stay.

Never Knew Love

There is a naturalness
that my heart yearns to experience
within the precise flow of Love.

This excitement to fly sometimes yields
to the anxiety
of not being ready,
or deserving.

So I focus on my lotus,
flower blooming;
mind becoming clear,
being void of fear.

There is an openness
that I breathe to experience.
With clarity and precision,
lucid imagination,
I see;
therefore, I am.

Never Knew Love

When are you going
to open yourself to me?

When are you going
to empty yourself
and receive all of me?

When are you going
to give your all to me?

When are you going
to invite me in,
so I can see
all of who you are for me?

Love;
when will we?

Never Knew Love

I wonder
if he thinks of me
as much as I think of him.

I wonder if he fears losing me
as much as I fear loving him.

I wonder if he knows
that these fears we feel
actually reveal the fear, and desire,
of loving ourselves.

Never Knew Love

One day,
I'll be honest about how I feel,
revealing the truth of the fullness
that I feel when thinking
of our union.

Maybe *that* will wash away
the fear that says we won't experience each other.
When it comes to love,
I talk a good game;
but, I'm afraid-

*afraid that I'll be
forced to play
without you.*

Never Knew Love

To think that I still sometimes
sit with these insecurities.
Sometimes, I wonder;
do I want to be understood,
or do I want you to worship me?

Am I really okay with not owning your love?
Do I really not care if you admire someone,
other than me?

To love an Alpha.

Never Knew Love

I just want you to be happy,
however that looks for you.

The love that you are is formless,
and the infinite nature of your love
does not intimidate me,
for you are free-
as I am.

Never pressuring you to sacrifice
who you are just for my sanity.

I want you to be,
in love with who you are.

I want you to be happy,
loving you in such a way that
nurtures your heart
as your being basks
in the glory
of freedom.

Never Knew Love

The breath of him
is a sacred meditation,
unlocking ancestral energies within me,
flowing so freely as it penetrates my being.

The breath of him
thrives as it plants the seed of Union,
transferring memories of us from a past life-
visions of our past strife
and emotions we returned to alchemize.

The breath of him
is warm and vibrant as the eternal flame
that lights up my life and sparks my fire.

The breath of him
nurtures my femininity-

*oh, how I love the sweet taste
of a primordial God's loving.*

Never Knew Love

I love all of your being.
The taste of your name
lingers on my tongue,
and the breath of you fills my heart
with blissful vibrations of ecstasy;
your essence is all that I am.

I love admiring my beauty
in the presence
of *you*.

Never Knew Love

You see.

I am the love that is both tangible and intangible.

Seen and unseen, yet felt.

You don't see the air you breathe,

and somehow you don't doubt or believe that it's there.

You just breathe.

I know how the earth feels.

To be raped, pillaged, drained of herself by those who see how much she willingly gives.

To be such a source of love, a sanctuary even, and get no appreciation.

I know how the earth feels.

She doesn't even need or expect anything in return.

Only appreciation.

"I don't need for you to give me anything.

Simply show me that you appreciate my effortless expression

of a love so nurturing that you always feel at home even when you are away.

My selfish child.

My delinquent child.

You will feel my wrath.

You will hear my screeches in the wind.

I will torture you.

I will dry up the sea,

and make you dance erratically on the land

in search of something to quench your thirst for my Love.

You will not drink from my bosom.

You will perish with your greed.

Your eggs will be spoiled.

I will not replicate your seeds.

You will perish,

for dishonoring me."

This is the song that the Earth will sing,

until the day comes that she fully purges herself

of this disease called humanity.

Never Knew Love

I have cultivated a habit of tucking myself away,
and then attempting to pull me out of other people.
I have always been one to hold on so tightly to my sense of self,
as if my own essence was the most precious gift.
Until one day,
I lost my grip,
causing me to slip through my own hands.

I have cultivated a habit of misplacing myself,
storing the jewels that form my heart
into the most inconvenient boxes of other people's minds,
mistaking them to be treasure chests and jewelry cases.
And when I return to retrieve the scattered pieces of myself,
I am repulsed by my absence.
No more,
will I break my own heart to repair someone else's,
only to look to them to share a piece of myself with me
when I too could use some fixing.

I am cultivating the habit of refilling my own cup,
rather than seeking help
to fill elusive voids that I myself created
by breaking myself into pieces to be someone else's peace.

Now that I have rediscovered my wholeness,
I will cherish all of me,
because my essence is the most precious gift.

Now that I have rediscovered my wholeness,
no longer will I shatter the mirrors in front of me;
rather I will swim,
and float amongst the waves
that they project to me

Never Knew Love

Beware of the wombman
who knows her worth;
for she does not bow
to the concrete floor,
nor is she dependent
on the security
of falsehood.

Care for the wombman
who knows her worth,
for just as well
as she is the nurturer
of the Earth,
she is the purest manifestation
of dark love.

Divine femi-nine.

Never Knew Love

SECTION II:

Chants and Affirmations

FAITH

In this moment, I submit and surrender to the will of my higher i, and I relinquish all doubt and the fear of uncertainty.

I have faith, and trust, in myself; in the strength of my heart, that I am not easily broken.

I know that I am always guided and protected in each moment.

COURAGE

I choose to be honest and transparent with myself, and no longer hide or reject my true emotional responses or heart's desires.

I choose to detach myself from the comfort of all that brings me pain, and be fearless in the face of all that has the potential to cause me harm.

I relinquish the fear of facing and feeling the many thoughts and emotions that make my heart heavy, shaping my perception of myself and others.

I embrace the truth that beneath every uncomfortable and heavy emotion is a natural desire that has been misunderstood and neglected.

I embrace the truth that with honesty and transparency, I will reveal and embody my true strengths, hopes, and desires.

I choose to be true to myself, and I relinquish the fear of rejection and misunderstanding.

FORGIVENESS

I forgive myself for not being fully present, strategic and intentional with the sharing of my love.

I forgive myself for not making wise decisions as it pertains to my wellbeing.

I relinquish all feelings and thoughts of resentment and bitterness towards myself, which manifests as resentment, bitterness, and suspicion towards others.

I relinquish the need and desire to harden or close my heart, as well as the resistance to the experience of harmonious relationships with myself and others.

I embrace the truth that it is I who has the power to choose with whom I share my love and give of my heart to, and that it does not serve me to resent myself or others for any reason.

PATIENCE

In this moment, I surrender to true unconditional Love.

I relinquish the need, desire and tendency to be hyper-reactive, easily offended and quick tempered.

I choose to no longer be hasty in thought, speech, or deed, and to be more intentional and modest in temperament.

I choose to embrace the truth that I am growing and becoming more intimate with my higher i, and the spirits of endurance and resilience will always serve me.

I choose to embrace the truth that my love ones and significant other(s) are growing and becoming more intimate with their higher i, and they too deserve unwavering support.

I choose to remain full of faith, and not to give up on myself or my love ones as we grow into Oneness within ourselves and with each other.

GRATITUDE

I am full of thanks for Life, and for the many gifts hidden in many undesirable experiences.

I am full of thanks for all who have ever hurt me, caused me pain, or caused me to doubt myself; whether it was intentional or unintentional, for those experiences are helped me reach this moment.

I am full of thanks for everyone who has ever genuinely loved me, and allowed me to love them.

I am full of thanks for the courage to face myself, and all of the thoughts and feelings that shape my perception of myself and others.

I am full of thanks for truth, patience, guidance and protection.

For Love, for the nurturing guidance of my higher i, I am full of thanks.