***From Hell and Back: A Journey from Loss to Love***

***By: Charles M. Brown***

***Act One: The End of Love***

   Sometimes we fall for the idea of a person, not the actual person themselves. When that happens, we can start to overlook things that we would normally never accept. These things can sometimes turn into abuse. So, when they want to go…. Let them. It's hard but if you can, choose yourself. Be your own hero. Save yourself.

**Paths**

I lost my love the other day.

Had she died, I could accept.

Had sickness rended us, this I could heal.

Had sadness separated us, this I could take.

But she went right on her path,

And I went left on mine.

I did not know our paths had split,

Till I saw her lips on another.

She did not speak,

Just turned and smiled as I broke in grief.

I lost my love the other day.

For she went right on her path,

And I went left on mine.

**Broken On My Floor**

Lying broken on the floor,

My heart shattered by my grief.

It felt like only yesterday,

That I said goodbye,

And watched you walk away.

Lying broken on my floor,

I wept and screamed in my pain.

A flood of rending sadness,

That felt as though it would never pass.

Lying broken on the floor,

I prayed that this sadness passed.

Days, then weeks did pass,

But slowly my pain did ease.

And I stood from that floor one day this October past.

With each step toward door my door,

Alas did I grow stronger.

And as the shadows grew longer upon the floor,

I could hear my weeping past, and finally, no more.

As I move forward into the light

May the shadows comfort the shade I left weeping,

Broken on my floor.

**Beneath These Stars.**

How many nights have I sat,

Beneath these very stars,

And thought of nothing,

But of the last time I saw you?

So angry, so proud, so defiant.

So full of hate for me,

Who you once loved.

Beneath these very stars I waited,

As you shared yourself with others.

**You Did Not Hear**

I said goodbye yet you did not hear,

I said I love you yet you did not feel.

I begged you to change yet you stayed the same.

I grew to become the one you needed,

You devolved into toxicity.

I strived to make you smile,

And felt tears burn my eyes.

I gave you my soul,

And you left me barren and alone.

I craved the heat of your touch,

And you denied me the light of your flame.

I said goodbye long after you left,

Yet you did not hear.

**I Did Not See**

I loved you as though we were pure,

I did not see our corruption.

I needed you to be my light in the dark,

I did not see you were the cause of my night.

I hungered for your touch,

I did not see your desire for any but me.

I worked to heal you,

I did not see that you were destroying me.

As an addict chases their needle,

You were the sweet destruction I did not need.

I wanted you forever,

I did not see that I was but a moment in your eternity.