

Scent of Love

SCENT
of



Paul Abiola Oku-ola

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LOVE

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Scent of Love

DEDICATION

To my first love, now lost
My first love, now turned dust

Sleep on mother
You shall be remembered forever

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To God be the glory and praise for the completion of this book. I wish to also thank my parents Mr. and Late (Mrs.) Oku-Ola for their support and encouragement.

To my mentor and hero, Brigitte Poirson; my humble 'Poetivist', Kukogho Iruesi Samson and the entire Word Rhymes & Rhythm family members, I am highly indebted to you all.

Finally, I wish to thank all my friends and relations, you are simply the best.

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FOREWORD

Oku-Ola Paul Abiola's 'Scent of Love' is filled with the delicate fragrance of poetry and sentiment. Here the poet offers the reader a deeply moving collection of poems written with rare and touching candour.

This hardly comes as a surprise. Mr. Abiola has been nurtured in the pool of talents K. I. Samson, a Nigerian journalist, has created with his 'college of poetry', a free virtual class where poets can in turn be teachers and students.

In this collection, the author indeed shows he has opened up to both poetry and love, two poles of life he cannot dissociate.

An award-winning poet, he writes and loves with the same passion. For him, "living is an act of loving". So is versifying. His verse carries the scent of true love. He does evoke and invoke his dream-lady with acute sensibility, like a gallant knight of old, but one riding the steed of modern communication media. For his beloved one, the poet is ready to wield magical words that will conjure up proofs of his sincere attachment. He will rear up before no obstacle, be it "snatch the secret of the sun", or "kidnap the rainbow". He never relents, never loses the scent of his ultimate goal: conquering the heart of the chosen woman. The risks and ordeals entailed by an uncertain relationship are in no way shunned. But the short, panting lines skilfully express his lofty expectations.

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His collection of poems rings the same as his love: like “a sweet chime”. Addressing his bride, the poet invites her to envision a common future in what sounds like a poetical proposal. Words, like lovers, can only exist in unison with each other. “You are the beat. I am the heart”, he explains. He will stop at nothing short of fusion.

Oku-Ola P. Abiola’s poems are a search towards true, requited love. With his verse he, a real poetry-lover, definitely refreshes our souls while saving his own.

– **Brigitte Poirson**

Former Language Teacher and University Lecturer in France and England

OH MY LADY

Oh, my lady,
Make me your closest buddy!
You are the girl of my dream,
The she I want to be with till dim.

Oh, my lady,
Help me to become a daddy!
That we might nurture lives together,
As one forever.

Oh, my lady,
It is you I think of always at study!
Unless you become my wife,
I will make no meaning out of my life.

Oh, my lady,
Save me from being moody!
You mean everything to me,
Everything my world can ever be.

THE TICKET TO YOUR HEART

Let me take a trip
Round your deep!
Your heart I will roam.
In it, I will make a home.

Let us go before your parents,
Then the priests,
With the congregation as witness,
To profess
I will love you in health and sickness,
When things glow
And in sorrow,
Till death
Ends our journey on earth.

It is you I have chosen
To be the mother of my children,
My wife
And better half in this life.

OBIANUJU

Obianuju,
For you
I sing
This song.
Block your heart not,
Turn your back not!

Obianuju,
It is you
That I want.
My God sent,
Take not your love away!
Your heart I will not make a thing of play.

Obianuju,
With you
I will be
The true me,
For you are my heart's desire,
The one I truly admire.

Obianuju,
I beg you:
Be my love!
Receive what you truly deserve!

LETTER TO MY BELOVED

Dear beloved,
I had resolved
And arrived at the conclusion
I must stop our distant communication,
Put an end to our beautiful relationship,
And glowing friendship.

For I am becoming insane,
And can no longer bear the pain.
I am tired of writing
And endlessly waiting,
For days,
Before I can behold your face.

For whenever I pick my handset
To call your gadget,
It is either switched off,
Since power in your area is always off,
Or out of service.
- Usual, for our telecommunication companies - .

So I decide to do this,
That we might have peace.

Finally I will come to see your mother
And ask your father
For your hand in marriage,
Because our love has come of age,
And I cannot give you away,
Whatever the pay.

Paul Abiola Oku-Ola

But before I end this letter,
I have a question that needs an urgent answer:
Baby,
Will you marry me?

NINE OUT OF NINE

Ifunaya,
Odinaka,
Two, but one,
Bringing fun
All seasons,
With uncountable reasons.

Blessed be me
For an answered plea!
You are mine
Nine out of nine,
A dream come true!
Oh, what gladness, whenever you say 'I love you'!

Read my lips:
This promise I will keep.
No more Cindy,
Or any other lady.
By your side
Shall I abide
Henceforth,
Everyday I live on earth.

Ifunaya,
Odinaka,
Two, but one,
Bringing fun
All seasons,
With uncountable reasons.

A NOBLE HEART

A fine heart is a sure uplift,
A noble heart, a rare gift,
Freely given,
Always open.
In it, lies a comfort zone.
With it, fun erects its throne.

Blessed is that entity
In which this is reality.
Men shall come from east
And west,
From north
And south,
To share its goodness,
To partake of its happiness.

A fine heart you possess,
A noble heart, my princess.

YOU ARE A TRUE FRIEND

There are birds
With better heads,
But God designed for the peacock
A crown better than any, even the cock.

There are bigger animals
And better mammals.
To the Lion, God gave the den's kingship.
He enthroned him with its leadership.

From many,
In Isaiah, God found honey.
Prophesy to Ahaz and his household:
'Soon shall I send the saviour of the world'.

Out of plenty
God called you, your majesty,
To be my friend,
And you followed that trend.

You are a true friend,
The type all will want till the end.

LOVE IS A RISK

Love is a risk,
For you know not what I seek.
But it remains the most interesting
Of all that is existing.

Living without loving is never fulfilling.
Living and loving is truly refreshing.

Truly, your good has been repaid with evil.
Instead of an angel, you have dined with the devil.
That is only your learning process.
At the end of the tunnel lies your success.

Bill was once a failure.
Today his name brings joy and pleasure.
The same with Thomas
And a handful of heroes.

Living is a risky adventure.
It is nothing but a dicey venture.
So is all its composition.
Love is never an exception.

So let out your feeling:
I might be the gold you are seeking.

I LOVE YOU

I love you not because of what you have,
But because of whom I have.
Beauty vanishes.
Money finishes.
But the who you are
Remains forever.
It can only get better,
As the future unfolds brighter.

I love you not because of what you possess,
But because of whom I possess.
Acquisitions may fly away.
Achievement may refuse to stay.
But the person behind the face
Remains through every phase.
It can only become better,
As the journey becomes deeper.

I love you because you are you.
Truly for this I do.

THINKING OF YOU

I think of nothing but you.
Your figure pierced my heart through.
Love: friends tag my situation
An equation with no solution.

'The more you turn away,
The more it comes your way.
Even living
Is an act of loving'

Now I know it is no play.
Its price I must pay.

I FELL

I fell.
Not for an angel:
They make
No mistake.

I fell.
Not for a jewel:
Beauty alone
Has no fine tone.

I fell.
Not for a pearl,
Or a perfect girl.
Your imperfection
Is my inclination.

I fell for you,
You,
My dream come true.

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO LOVE

I don't know how to love,
But I'll shower you with affection.
I don't know how to love,
But you'll always have my attention.

Together we will make decisions.
My heart shall be your home.
Together we will battle confusions.
Hand in hand, the future we shall roam.

Behold my destination,
The land of my dream:
You are the confirmation
Of my waiting on the Supreme!

I don't know how to love,
But I'll shower you with affection.
I don't know how to love,
But you'll always have my attention.

MY LOVE FOR YOU

My love for you
Is accommodating all through.
Like pen and paper:
Together forever.

My love for you
Is certain and true,
Like waters and dry land,
From creation, till all loses stand.

My love for you
Is stronger than glue.
Nothing can change it.
It grows every minute.

My love for you
Is not one but two:
It is either I love you,
Or I love you.

YESTERDAY

Yesterday I was scared:
I could not hear your verse.
Yesterday my confidence got beard,
For we could not converse.

Yesterday I lost my courage.
I called severally; you did not pick.
Yesterday I cried with rage.
Must I always be this sick?

Yesterday my past came calling.
Once again I am a casualty.
Yesterday I found life uninteresting.
Why am I a living entity?

Yesterday has ended,
Today just started.
Yesterday your voice graced not my ears.
Today, it is that which calms my fears.

LOOKING AT YOU

Looking at you,
I see my dream come true.
My requirement met,
An asset like Shakespearean Juliet.

Looking at you,
I pray against every coup
That may bring to fusion
Destruction to this union.

Looking at you,
I long for I DO.
'Behold my companion,
The mother of my unborn'

Looking at you,
Wow! Those three words are true.
Of them I will never get weary,
Till death ends our story.

THAT'S WHAT THEY ALWAYS ALTER

My heart kept on thinking.
For your presence my being can't stop longing.
You are my heart's desire,
To your 'I DO', I continue to aspire.

Words might hold no water.
'That's what they always alter'.
Time will right the wrong,
Soon you shall sing the beautiful song

Fulfil my aspiration!
True love you'll get without option.
Make my dream a reality!
Together we shall be for eternity.

WHENEVER I FALL

Whenever I fall,
I fall like a blind man.
My gaze cannot see all.
Imperfection exists in every human.

Whenever I fall,
I fall like the deaf.
When rumour makes a call,
I am too tough for its clef.

Whenever I fall,
I fall as if I were dumb.
For to avoid gall,
We must never mum.

Whenever I fall,
I fall not with my brain.
Prepared I must be to forestall
Acts that might bring us pain.

Whenever I fall,
I do it my best way.
Now you make me fall.
With you I will forever stay.

TIME CHANGES

Time changes,
Truly it changes.
Love is this new state,
Courtesy of you, my mate.

This path I once took,
With sorrow filled my book.
No! Never again
Will I tread this lane.
My words I now eat.
Ashamed, I could not keep it.
Joyful, you made me fail.
From my promise, I will not derail.

Time changes,
Truly it changes.
Love is this new state,
Courtesy of you, my mate.

IT'S YOU

My heart chooses you.
My body desires you.
My past longed for you.
My future needs you.

It's you I'm searching for.
It's you I'm craving for.
It's you I'm waiting for.
It's you I'm living for.

My heart chooses you.
My body desires you.
My past longed for you.
My future needs you.

LET ME

Let me be the one to dry your tears
With my loaded passion.
Let me suck away your fears
With my wealth of affection.

Let me partake in your sorrow.
Two is better than one.
Let me be the marrow
I will bring you more fun.

Let me be that face
With whom you shall fulfil the call of creation.
Let me fill that space,
And our future will have a complete foundation.

Let me be that shoulder you can lean on
In the hours of pain.
Let's together walk and run
Till we exit this plain.

MY HEART

My heart shall be your home.
Comfort its gift shall be.
In you my thought will roam,
Like the ship on deep sea.

My heart shall be my gift.
With you, for sure, it is secure.
From you my thought will not drift.
Its pain, none but you can cure.

My heart longs to be with yours.
Once joined, they cannot be separate
With you, I long to take tours.
You were made to be my mate.

I HATE

I hate falling in love.
It consumes me, body and soul.
I hate sailing with love.
It portrays itself as my goal.

I hate showing my affection.
My thoughts it makes still.
I hate displaying my passion.
My heart it takes as meal.

I hate lying with tenderness.
Pain is its payback.
I hate journeying with fondness.
Sorrow I rarely lack.

I hate walking this road.
It renews my pain.
I hate to bear this load.
But because it is you, I will once again.

I AM YOUR SHADOW

I am your shadow.
With me you can only flow.
Run away, you cannot do!
Everywhere you go, it is me and you.

I am your crown
With which you shall adorn your gown.
Go before the congregation.
Express the 'I DO' profession.

My missing rib you own.
You are the bone of my bone.
I am incomplete without you:
Surely the same it is with you.

I am your shadow
Yesterday, today and tomorrow,
A union signed at creation
For revelation in this generation.

RED OR BLUE

Red or blue?
Only know it flows from your heart
Accompanied by his crew.
Surely it is never sold at the mart.

Red or blue?
In you it is full.
You are my dream's perfect view.
With you, life is nothing but beautiful.

Red or blue?
None is dangerous.
As long as it is you,
It can only be more precious.

Red or blue?
Dream not of departing.
You are the dew
That brightens up my morning.

I FOUND IT

I found it in you.
In me it flows through.
I will not let go,
Till dim shall we grow.

When rumours shall rain,
Causing the flood of pain,
When weakness shall come to stay,
Humanity the cause of sway,
With you I will abide till the end.
To me you are more than a friend.

I found it in you.
In me it flows through.
I will not let go.
Till dim shall we grow.

NEVER HELD YOU

Never held you.
But felt you.

Let this imagination grace reality.
Let this dream embellish visibility.

I AWAIT

I await that exchange,
The greatest in every age.
I long for that new chapter,
The essence of being together.

In no other being
Will this dream remain standing.
In no other person
Will it attain its full season.

With you, I want to take every breath.
With you, I want to spend my life on earth.

THE INCOMPLETE TWO

A home
To roam,
A nest
To rest:
Your heart provides.
He resides.

A friend
Till the end,
A partner
Forever.
His want:
Your present.

To hold
Till old,
Never to part
Till depart:
You belong to each other,
Complete in one another.

IT IS YOU ALWAYS

If I die today
To reincarnate another day,
Your spouse will I choose to be again,
Your son, if that is off lane.

THE DAY

Yesterday,
Today,
Tomorrow,
And that which will follow:
The day we first met,
Honour shall it continue to get.

Yesterday,
Today,
Tomorrow,
And that which will follow:
The day we first saw,
I shall cherish more than law.

Yesterday,
Today,
Tomorrow,
And that which will follow:
The day we first spoke
Shall continue to adorn the remembrance cloak.

Yesterday,
Today,
Tomorrow,
And that which will follow:
The day you said yes,
Live forever shall it, my princess!

I WILL BE

I will be the mansion
To shield you against tension.
If you are hurt,
I shall bear the cut.

I will be your shelter
To protect you in the face of danger.
And when faced with such feat,
You shall overcome defeat.

I will be your perch,
That you might have no scratch.
I will be your haven.
Trust me, you will never be broken.

YOU ARE MY LIGHT

Perfection dwells only with the divine.
He holds the key to my life.
Your imperfection is part of why you are mine,
The one I dream of as my wife.

Mistakes are never associated with divinity.
That is why he is supreme.
Errors are part of humanity:
You are the girl of my dream.

With God, all is possible
That is why he is almighty.
In man, faults are inevitable:
You are my beloved lady.

God is always right.
He shall continue to be.
You are my light,
Despite the fault I see.

YOUR FIRST HELLO

Your first hello
Dried my pillow.
Your unending hi
Answers my why.

Your first hello
Saved my heart from wallow.
Your unending hi
Kept my thought from going dry.

Your first hello
Redeemed my mind from fallow.
Your unending hi
Makes my joy fly high.

Your first hello
Ended my sorrow.
Your unending hi
Makes me smile: there is no more cry.

FOR YOU

For you I will steal the secret of the rain.
Your house shall lack no grain.
For you I will snatch the secret of the sun.
Darkness shall forever lose its fun.

For you I shall travel the sky for the moon.
Serenity shall be your daily tune.
For you the star shall I bring:
Sparkling, the song you will forever sing.

For you I shall kidnap the rainbow.
On your heart its power shall I bestow.
For you I shall bring home the firmament.
Yours shall forever be fun and excitement.

SHE GAVE ME HER HEART

Fast was my heartbeat.
On my palm, the gift made its seat,
The box beautifully wrapped in red:
'Open, fear not' she said.

Fastest is my heart's pace,
As I unveil the gift's face.
It is the best a woman can ever give,
The sweetest a man can ever receive

Cherish, I vow to cherish it.
Save; with my life shall I shield it.
To you I make this promise,
My dearly beloved miss.

YOU ARE

You are my miracle,
I, the seeker.
Fulfilment will only appear in our chronicle,
When we come together.

You are my adventure,
I, the pilgrim.
Satisfaction can only bless our future,
When coming together stops being a dream.

You are my clip,
I, the director.
Our joy can only be deep,
If you make me your suitor.

IF

If you see me falling,
Hold me not.
If you hear me yelling,
Ignore. You owe me no but.

The more you behold my letters,
The more you turn a blind eye.
If you see me in tears,
Dry not my cry.

If I knock at your door,
Open not for me.
If I depart not your floor,
Listen not to my plea.

If you hear I am gone,
You deprived me of your love,
From my death you will derive no fun.
I trust you will undertake none of the above.

I SING FOR HER EVERY NIGHT

I sing for her every night.
Every dusk, my poems flow through her listening canal.
For her, my pen bleeds its might.
For her, my voice visits the land of rehearsal.

I sing for her every night.
Every dusk, my piece graces her hearing.
This sensation I hope will attain its greatest height.
Accomplishment, I pray, will engulf my feeling.

I sing for her every night.
Every dusk, her love marries my enchantment.
With her, this dream will assume real sight.
In her shall I pluck fulfilment.

FRIENDS

Friends at start,
Friends at heart,
Friends with unbroken bond,
Friends till the end.

You I have chosen.
With you is my haven,
Together we shall be.
Forever, it's you and me.

It is you I want.
Publicly, you I shall flaunt.
This is my vow
To whom fulfilment must bow.

Friends at start,
Friends at heart,
Friends with unbroken bond,
Friends till the end.

THERE ARE WORDS

There are words not yet said,
Poems not yet read.
These I shall sort for you.
The pain, I am set to go through.

There are words not yet used,
Poems not yet fused.
For you, I shall take this adventure.
Its reality, I shall surely ensure.

There are words not yet engaged,
Poems not yet arranged.
For you, they were being reserved.
Never again shall they be conserved.

I MIGHT

I might not have a million.
I might not be better than a pauper.
With you as my companion,
The wealthiest is never better.

I might not be handsome,
I might be worse than the ugliest.
To your tent, my lady, I come.
Comfort I will get; I can beat my chest.

I might not be your first,
The next might be better than me.
But I will strive to be your best,
If you can accept my plea.

I might lack the might.
Definitely I am not perfect.
But I am Mr. Right:
That is better, there is no Mr. Perfect.

FOR MY BELOVED

Never found a place to call home,
Till your heart you provided for me to roam.
Searched everywhere for a nest.
Your shoulder you provided for me to rest.

Always thought that true love is dead.
Keeping it alive requires a bed.
But you changed that thinking.
A bed cannot stop the ship from sinking.

Thought I would never marry.
Today is our first wedding anniversary.

THE DOOR TO MY FUTURE

Hold my hand!
You are my brand.
My search is no more.
Off I depart from loneliness floor.

Hold my hand!
With you shall I stand.
You bear the key to my treasure.
You are the door to my future.

Hold my hand!
Revive my gland!
You bear that special touch,
Found nowhere, never so much.

Hold my hand!
Step by step, we match till grand.
With you and no other
Do I want to be forever.

YOU ARE MORE THAN WONDER

Many are the wonders of the world.
Below you, they fell.
Beautiful is the structure of this world.
You surpass that, my jewel.

From the tip of the Everest
To the depth of the Pacific,
Nature wears its best.
You adorn the better lyric.

Many are the wonders of the world.
Below you, they fell.
Beautiful is the structure of this world.
You surpass that, my jewel.

A DREAM

I hate it, when you say you love me.
I detest it, because it is you I always see.
Hearing you makes me angry.
Your presence puts me into a fury.
Please leave me alone.
Murder, I do not want to make my own.

The closer you come to me,
The more bitter I grow, you see.
You are not what I need.
My desire you cannot feed.

Surely this is a dream.
Forever, it shall remain a dream.

THIS IS

This is not a love piece.
Neither is it a love song,
But the grease
Intended to make our love strong.

This carries no love verse.
Neither was it formed with such lyric.
But our closeness, it is meant to nurse,
And solidify like the brick.

This is no rhyme.
Neither is it a sonnet,
But a sweet chime
That someday we will become a unit.

BUT YOU

No one can take that place, but you.
No one can fill that space, but you.
No one can break that feat, but you.
Truly, all is unfit, but you.

My world lacked beautiful angels, but you.
Nature denied me pretty jewels, but you.
I saw no reason for my existence, but you.
Nothing makes sense, but you.

No one can take that place, but you.
No one can fill that space, but you.
No one can break that feat, but you.
Truly, all is unfit, but you.

ALL AROUND ME

On the soil of my heart,
The seed of your love shall germinate.
Nothing shall pull us apart.
Heaven itself approves of my being your mate.

In the river of my mind,
Your thought shall take its swim.
As for two birds of the same kind,
Togetherness shall cease being a dream.

In the space of my soul,
Your being shall take its breath.
Without you, I am less than whole.
Death alone can separate us on earth.

YOU ARE

You are the earth,
I am the sun.
The eclipse will surely take a breath;
It will, only for a short run.

You are the day,
I am the night.
Discord may set foot on our way;
Daily we shall overcome its beaming light.

You are the beat,
I am the heart.
Nothing can separate this meet,
Till we board the cart to the other part.

I ASK YOU!

I ask you to marry me,
That you may be my wife.
I ask you to marry me,
And take the better part of my life.

I ask you to marry me.
Distance has brought enough quake.
I ask you to marry me.
It is you I want to see first at every day break.

I ask you to marry me.
A perfect ending it will give to this show.
I ask you to marry me.
Please do not say : « NO » !

ACCLAIM FOR SCENT OF LOVE

This book is perfectly titled Scents of Love. I read the whole series from beginning to end. Each poem was a wonderful journey well crafted. I enjoyed the simplistic, yet subtly complex style. Your flow moves well like free flowing water in each poem. You weave the words very well. I truly appreciated the romantic love theme throughout...very enchanting, very charming. Definitely a worthy read. I was very impressed throughout the series. I would say, you should be very proud of this great body of work. Thank you for sharing so much of your heart and poetic skill, because truly your heart is reflected in each word and all meaning. True excellence

Deborah Renee,

Poet and Spoken word Artist

Mr. Abiola summons the stuff of life with magical ease and then makes it sing. His poems are carved with passion, but also, with a precise intelligence that gives his work integrity on the levels of sound and image, and in the larger story his poems convey.

Allen Parmenter

Freelance writer

Paul Abiola Oku-Ola

Oku-Ola P. Abiola's poems are a search towards true, requited love. With his verse he, a real poetry-lover, definitely refreshes our souls while saving his own.

— **Brigitte Poirson, Former language teacher and University lecturer in France and England**

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Paul Abiola Oku-ola is a graduate of Electrical Engineering from The Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro, Ogun. A poet and playwright, Oku-Ola is the author of three chapbook collection of poetry: Oh! What a Calamity! And other poems, Wake Up Poetry and Black is Love. His latest work, God of Our Fathers, an Opera, is set to hit the stage in months



COVER DESIGN AKILA JIBIRIN

