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Purple Rose

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The Gumbo Collective
Literary Arts at Oakwood University

Chandra Lynn | Purple Rose

OCTOBER 17, 2022OCTOBER 18, 2022 ~



Purple Rose
Chandra Lynn

*I'm losing myself inside myself
just trying to forget you.
I've taken hold of more than I can compete against,
and still, I'm lost inside of you.*

*Sometimes, I am the wonder woman—
Giving so much of myself
and leaving little or nothing for me.
This time, I've given **you**,
and now there is nothing left.*

*I don't bury my face into a pillow
or beat my head against a wall;
I don't even cry, no—not this time.
I accept this solemnly,
So truly, this must be love.*

*But I'm so lost, so afraid and alone.
I almost know that you'll come back
telling me how to win your heart all over again.
I almost know that there's a reason
for this hope building in my soul.*

*You are my love—my strongest weakness;
you are my strength and soul.
I am the depths of a love unknown to you;
I am your purple rose—still untouched and unique,
ready to unfold.*

Chandra Lynn, also known as Chandra T. Mountain, is Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and Professor of English at Oakwood University. Though much of the writing she does these days is “scholarly and serious,” she has been writing almost her entire life. The proof is in the trove of notebooks and millions (slight exaggeration) of poems and drafts her husband “discovered” a few years ago. The poem above was written **when she was 18**; it is part of a collection she is curating entitled, *Musings from My Younger Self*. Frankly, she finds much of the content “cringey,” but sees the value in sharing. You can find her at *Pics and Posts* (<https://iamchandrallynn.com/>), sharing beauty and light and on Instagram—[@iamchandrallynn](https://www.instagram.com/iamchandrallynn/) (<https://www.instagram.com/iamchandrallynn/>)(photo inspiration), and [@musings.from.my.younger.self](https://www.instagram.com/musings.from.my.younger.self/) (<https://www.instagram.com/musings.from.my.younger.self/>) (youthful musings and poetry). Eventually, she'll publish a collection of her more mature writings...eventually.

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