

Am I ever meant to be in a relationship?

I can't even express my own feelings

to myself,

Let alone *someone else*.

Unless it's through

sad,

queer

poetry.

The subject seems like

a joke,

But sadly, my reality

is built

through lines

and lines

and lines of

poetry.

If I want a *successful* relationship,

I must talk about my feelings.

Those words are so hard to muster

I guess *feelings*, that word,

has been bottled up for years.

I joke about being depressed and anxious,

yet I do nothing to solve those problems.

I talk to no one,

I take no steps to make sure

I'm truly okay.

Will I ever get a *successful* relationship?

I am no Molly Bolt,

I am no Mary Sue,

with confidence and tenacity

and faith in my queerness

to actually acquire a mate.

The only jungle that I wade through

is full of concrete,

and an off-brand concrete at that.

Maybe I'm doomed to fail,

Maybe I am David,

Forever connected to Giovanni,

But refusing to admit to who I am.

I know who I am,
Right?

Bi? Pan? Queer?

Whichever.

Male?

Well, not sure about that one.

Ideal partner?

Not sure about that one either.

So, I guess not really.

I know I am claustrophobic.

My large frame tucked into a tiny space

terrifies me.

I guess I can't be david,

trapped in Giovanni's room,

for days on his own accord.

I couldn't handle that

No matter how many bookshelves Giovanni builds me.

My love of literature

cannot

and will not

keep me there.

I think I have
some sort of respect for myself.

That's what I'm hoping, at least.

I want to discover secret,

secrets of the universe.

I want someone to care for me,

I want a Dante,

I want someone to look at me
like I matter.

I want to be their piece of art,
their muse.

I am dreaming too big?

should I just wish for good health and happiness?

We all know how "good" my health is,

with this bum knee.

I guess for now, I'll just hope for the best--

some secrets take time to surface

And this one seems like one to wait for.

“Letters”

Ari's Lyrics	Dante's Lyrics
<p>I wish, he knew My emotions are out of view I wish I could Control them good.</p> <p>I think to write, But what can I do right My dreams they scare me, But I'll let him be carefree</p> <p>I want him carefree, My problems would be a burden I want him carefree, Carefree</p> <p>I write him back, My emotions all these letters lack. The rain is my comfort Where is the end to this summer?</p> <p>I want him carefree, My problems would be a burden I want him carefree, Carefree</p> <p>That kiss we had How come I don't feel glad? My feelings are missing. What is the deal about kissing?</p> <p>I want him carefree, My problems would be a burden I want him carefree, Carefree</p>	<p>It's been a week and I miss you so What is there for me to show? My room is lonely without you, I guess I'll have to make due!</p> <p>I'm getting high just to spite my mom, I know it's wrong but I get so calm. These parties that I go to I can't help thinking about you.</p> <p>I think about you Yes, about you, About you Yes, about you About you, About you</p> <p>I can't stand all our time apart, I miss you, you're a work of art. I've been kissing a few people that I wish were you,</p> <p>I think about you, Yes, about you, About you Yes, about you About you, About you</p> <p>We kissed, you shrugged, and then I left to cry. I don't know how I will get by. You're everything that I need now, I'll pick up the pieces some how.</p> <p>I'll think about you, Yes, about you, About you Yes, about you About you, About you</p>

<p>I told you I hated it, The kiss we shared. I know I'm bad at expressing, But I want you to know I was lying.</p> <p>Your lips, this rain, I'm sorry for all this pain. But I know that I love you, I swear that it's true.</p> <p>(Da da das)</p>	<p>Why did it take so long to say? I'm not gonna kid you, I am less than okay. But I know that I love you, I swear that it's true.</p> <p>(Da da das)</p>
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Reflection

For the poem, I got my structure inspiration from the few poems we read from Richard Siken's *Crush*. My poetry is normally much shorter and more structured, but I thought I would try something different in order to incorporate things from the readings we have read. Though the poem is written out in the style of Siken's writing, it is meant to be performed as a spoken word piece.

The main focus of the poem is my insecurity about being single, starting off with the classic "Am I ever meant to be in a relationship?" question. I go on to question so much about my life, about my identity, and about my relationship to mental health. Peppered throughout the poem I make reference to a few of the books that we've read, namely *Rubyfruit Jungle*, *Giovanni's Room*, and *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of The Universe*. Though the poem is over all pretty bleak, it ends on a rather hopeful note.

For "Letters", I decided that I wanted to write a love song between Ari and Dante; something that gave the highlights of their relationship throughout the book. From that desire, sprung the idea of incorporating the letters they wrote each other; this song is the result of that. The idea of writing a song with two melodies came from a song that I became obsessed with the week before writing it called "a love song/a non love song" by Jon Cozart and dodie. The story behind the song was that Jon and dodie were meant to go to Paris together and sing a duet that Jon would write, but because of some certain circumstances dodie was not able to join him. Because of this, Jon wrote a love song alone in Paris and then sent the song to dodie and had her write a counter melody in Nashville where she was on tour at the time since they were not able to be there together. Because Ari and Dante's relationship over the one summer consisted of writing letter to each other, I thought writing those into a song similar to the Jon/dodie song.

For the most part, Dante's lines are very fast in order to fit in all of the words he wants to say. The first three of his verses match up to letter he's written to Ari. The last two verses occur once Dante comes back from Chicago. All of Ari's song, except for the bridge and the last verse, is his internal monologue about each of Dante's letters that are being sung at the same time. The bridge is the first time Ari talks to Dante, so that is why he is the only one with words during that part of the song. Once the last verse comes in, they both realize their love for each other and they aren't afraid of showing it. Then the song ends with a big and boisterous repeat of the chorus, just to drive home how intense their feeling of joy is at the end of the song. I think this song does a good job of amplifying the cheesey-ness of the ending and I'm very proud of it.