

Cheerleader

For Marissa

You've celebrated with me in every victory
and comforted me after every loss over chai tea.
You've always been a true sweetheart to me.

Our being roommates in my final college year
made my life more joyful and crystal clear.
With you by my side, I have nothing to fear.

Your gentle blue eyes and endearing smile
make living on this Earth worthwhile,
especially since you go the extra mile.

I remember the late-night conversations we'd share
about video games, writing, classes, and even prayer.
You've always shown me such pure, compassionate care.

When trapped in the abyss, you stayed by my side.
You comforted me in the shadows when I cried
and hugged me on our dorm room floor when terrified.

In February of 2023, you came to my band concert
and showed such overwhelming love and support
for my perfect performance—a musical dessert.

In March of 2023, I remember us going to Peoria Con.
Dressed as Colette Brunel, I saw how others were drawn
to your warm and wonderful self, sweet as a cinnabon.

And later that same month, for my golden birthday party,
we celebrated at One World and had a shopping spree.
I am forever happy that you came to spend time with me.

How I miss your companionship every day we're apart:
your passion, your cheerfulness, your soft heart,
your humor, and especially your creative writing and art.

How I hope someday soon to my home you'll come;
my very own apartment—open to everyone I love—
to share refreshments and memories under the sun.