

# Celebrating Writers and Writing in our Communities

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# Stuck in the Dark

By Naomi Harrison

I've felt the darkness before  
But not like this  
I'm alone, I'm void, I'm numb  
I can't feel the cold I've been in anymore  
And my tears are sinking into the ground.

I lie alone in this still black place  
I don't know why.  
There is pain of a different sort  
That I've ever experienced.  
At least in this life.

There is no warm to this nothingness  
No heat or light or joy  
All there is is  
Black  
Cold  
Nothing

There's a void where my heart where used to be  
And it's sucking me in  
A black hole of my own design.  
I try to claw at my chest, but -  
I can't move.

I'm stuck in this pit of evil  
I'm stuck with the voices in my head  
I'm stuck with the realization that I have failed  
I've lost everything.  
Everything.

A ray of light bursts through my memory-  
Someone opens the door.  
A friend I've never thought  
Could be there for me.  
They embrace me.

Could the words they're whispering be true?  
Am I worth anything?  
Am I more than just a shadow on the ground?  
Am I alive and... possible?  
Am I loved?

Are there people out there who think of me  
And don't cringe?  
Are there people who love me for who I am?  
No  
It can't be.

I'm such a terrible person.  
I shouldn't exist.  
But they don't think so.  
My amazing friend who whispers words of comfort.  
They... love... me

NO  
IT CAN'T BE TRUE  
I'M UNLOVABLE  
I'M A HORRIBLE TERRIBLE CREATURE  
And yet...

They say they are there for me.  
They say they love me.  
Are they lying, just to watch me suffer?  
They know I hate this  
Are they against me?

I don't know what to think  
I can't think  
This pain  
This suffering  
This wave that pulls me under

But my friend dives under with me  
And holds my hand  
And pulls me towards the shore  
Tentatively, I follow.  
They're all there

Everyone I know so well  
The faces I've lied to  
But one face stands out  
My  
Friend

Maybe they don't all hate me  
My friend tells me so softly  
Is she with the darkness?  
No  
She practically bursts with light

She is my savior  
My hero  
My friend  
She loves me for who I am  
She doesn't judge

So I climb up the stairs  
Swim to the surface  
Claw my way up from the pits  
My friend lights a candle to dispel the dark  
Us in the dark

She shines with a light unconceivable  
She understands  
She is with me.  
I love her too.  
I tell her that.

So together we open the curtains  
To reveal the light of day  
It shines on me  
I am one with the light  
The darkness inside melts away

It coils down there, waiting to strike  
Waiting for its next victim  
I won't let it take me  
I WILL FIGHT!  
I am strong and brave

I am no longer stuck in the dark.