

# Petals of Love

*Poetry of a Woman's Soul*



Myra Wexler Darwish

*The poetry is often touching and offers a glimpse into the poetess's heart and life. One can see how she views the world, often through the lens of hopefulness, appreciation of beauty, gratefulness, and a life lived with optimism.*

## **Petals of Love: Poetry of a Woman's Soul**

By Myra Wexler Darwish

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Memoir

(earlier years)

*Jupiter Remembered (2013)*

Memoir

(later years)

*Until It's Time: Embracing Life In Our Later  
Years (2023)*

## POETRY BY MYRA

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Earlier Poetry.....</b>	<b>19</b>
The Gardenia .....	21
Treasures.....	22
Deep In Autumn .....	24
Emergence .....	26
Deep In Spring.....	28
Morning Glory Morning.....	30
<b>On Places I've Been .....</b>	<b>33</b>
Medellin Remembered.....	35
Bali Hai Forever .....	38
Sanibel Retreat.....	40
Philly.....	42
<b>On Life, On Love, On Beauty .....</b>	<b>45</b>
Red Moon Calling.....	47
The Rose In My Garden .....	49
The Door.....	51
Old Love, Precious Love .....	53
The Weavers Of Shadow And Light .....	55
The Stars Know Best .....	57
That Special Bluebird .....	59
Finding Peace.....	61
We Are Golden.....	63
Inside Out.....	65
Change Me, Change You, Change Us.....	66

Hope Riding On Angel's Wings .....	68
A Toast To Lasting Love .....	69
The Journey Into Long Ago .....	71
The Doves .....	73
Away .....	75
Heart Wisdom .....	77
Picking Up The Weeds .....	78
Wishes .....	79
The Magic Of The Meadow .....	81
Love's Regret .....	83
Oneness .....	85
Memories .....	86
You Are Not Alone .....	88
Her Majesty The Moon .....	90
Dearest Love .....	92
Our Forever Love .....	93
Remember Me .....	94
Spiral Song .....	96
The Mountain .....	98
The Choice .....	100
Seventeen .....	101
Until It's Time .....	102
Joy .....	104
<b>Haiku .....</b>	<b>106</b>
Entering A Child's World .....	107
Before The Spring .....	108
Life Goes On .....	109
Her Light Still Shines .....	110
A Moment In Time .....	111

*Petals of Love*

Thankfulness.....	112
The Wings Of Time.....	113
Nature’s Tonic .....	114
True Love.....	115
Seeing From The Heart.....	116
America 2018.....	117
Beach Meditation.....	118
Nourishment .....	119
Memory.....	120
The Bouquet.....	121
Earth’s Elixir.....	122
<b>About The Author.....</b>	<b>123</b>

## INTRODUCTION

It has taken many years for my poems to find their voice, though I knew that they were inside of me, waiting to emerge.

Some of my earliest poems were within me even as a child. I remember looking up at the sky and feeling a deep connection to nature. I didn't know I would turn my feelings and observations into poetry, but I knew I was an empath with a poet's heart. I trusted life enough to believe that if it were meant to be, it would manifest.

*Petals of Love* is a collection of my poetry written between 1990 and the present. My poems explore relationships, love, family, places I've been, nature, beauty, and events. They also include a collection of sixteen Haiku.

In 1990, at forty-seven years old, I started writing in earnest while living in Madison, AL, near Lady Anne Lake. I loved those days when I would take my blanket and sit near the nascent weeping willow, taking in the peace and beauty that surrounded me.

Out came my pen and pad, and a new poem was being born!

I loved the creative act of writing a poem. I was drawn into a beautiful liminal space, where time didn't exist, only the meeting of the head and the heart in their special dance. Creating a poem is a joyful and precious place to be; it manifests from the soul level and is a profound process.

When I moved to Florida in 1996, my days were busy with students and teaching, and I was on a strict schedule; my poetry's expression would have to wait.

Unbeknownst to me, however, my poems were being incubated!

In 2005, when I realized my sister's health was deteriorating from cancer, I felt compelled to sit down at my laptop and compose a poem that would express the deep love we had for each other.

I spent many hours composing "*Morning Glory Morning*" and completed it in early November of 2005. My urgency stemmed from my desire to sit with my sister and share the poem, which depicted a beautiful memory of our early years together.

Several days before my sister transitioned, I sat with her and read the poem. She looked up at me and said, "Those were wonderful days." I will always have the memory of her looking lovingly into my eyes, knowing that what we shared was very special.

Our time together was pure and loving, and I knew I could reach her in a way that transcended time and place—poetry made that possible.

I always experience unbound joy while I am in the process of writing a new poem. Perhaps it is because it's the place where I am most at home.

I have been privileged to teach nursing students and practice as an advanced practice nurse in gerontology and holistic nursing. I have delved into astrology's depths and have done consultations, and am the author of *Jupiter Remembered* and *Until It's Time: Embracing Life in Our Later Years*.

I am very proud of my accomplishments and have come to realize that being a poet may define me more than anything else.

*Petals of Love*

Writing poetry always brings me back to my youngest self - to that little girl who loved to look out her window and wonder about life and all its mysteries. Poetry truly honors her. 🌸

## **EARLIER POETRY**

## THE GARDENIA

(It was June 15, 1990, while I was living in Madison, AL, that the gardenia finally bloomed. I remember that it took quite a while; each day I observed and waited, till at last she burst into bloom.)



Her beauty was in budded form  
Unawakened as yet by nature's time,  
Holding on to its leaves throughout the hours  
As a cloud builds and deepens before a storm.

With gentle persuasion, her path was watered  
With love and caring every day.  
The nutrients flowed to her precious form,  
And prepared for its birthing as nature's way.

On a Friday morning, the dawn saw her birth,  
And human eyes then realized her beauty.  
For captured within her fragrant form,  
Was the love that had flowed on her watered earth.

## **TREASURES**

(Written in a moment of deep contemplation and reverie...feeling very connected to life and Nature and in honor of finding joy that is all around us.)



I am thankful for the ability,  
To recognize treasures in front of me.  
The laughter and play of a happy child,  
A breeze scented with iris when the night wind is mild.

The earth's awakening at the light of day,  
With the melody of birdsong to trumpet the way.  
To be deep in yellow, red, and green,  
To connect with the seasons and feel what is seen.

To relate to the wind and the water's flow,  
As the patterns of life come and go.  
To watch the sky, to trust the earth,  
To feel others' joy and share in their mirth.

*Petals of Love*

Of all the treasures within my heart  
Knowing that I am but one small part,  
Of life's unfolding before my eyes,  
Profound and beautiful as a star-lit sky.

## DEEP IN AUTUMN



(Written in honor of a splendid autumn day in Northern Alabama, on October 27, 1991. The air was full of autumn and its beauty; it was wonderful to be alive.)

I remember the day,  
As I blissfully walked in her beauty.  
I was deeper in autumn than I had ever hoped to be,  
Gathering memories that filled my heart for many years  
after...

I was  
Deep in autumn...  
Deep in her breast,  
Of comforting golds, oranges, and reds.

I sensed  
Her woody aromas...  
Of softened air and forested paths  
Whose leaves had been sounded and rearranged.

*Petals of Love*

I felt  
Alive, in the crispness  
Of her dawning days,  
And fully clouded nights.

Nurtured,  
As a trusted, dear companion  
That stayed with me when I needed them the most...  
In the quietude of winter, and my own softened days.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Myra Wexler Darwish**, author of two books, *Jupiter Remembered* and *Until It's Time: Embracing Life In Our Later Years*, has now written *Petals of Love: Poetry of a Woman's Soul*, a collection spanning over thirty-five years. One need only read her poems to understand the woman who wrote them and the depth of her poetry.

Married for almost sixty-five years, she has always treasured her love of family most. In her earlier years, she was an academic in nursing and a clinical specialist in gerontology and holistic nursing, a career spanning almost 40 years. She completed the "Interpretive and Applied Astrology Training Program" at Southwest Contemporary Astrology in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and has provided astrology consultations focused on families.

Myra's time now is dedicated to her favorite passions: writing, reading, being with family and friends, travel, astrological research, and the practice of peace & wellness strategies for the body/mind and spirit. She strives to learn how to love well and embrace the beauty of each day.

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