

**Book Review of**  
*The Heart listens to No one*  
by **Purba Chakraborty**

Reviewed by  
**Abhishek Vipul Thakkar**

**Introduction**

Every person who has walked upon the visage of our blue planet has known life in myriad hues and a multitude of shades. And, words have been considered a reliable way to know life, appreciate its insights and wisdom and comprehend the unfathomable mysteries of existence. Love is one such mystical emotion that has eluded the logical minds of human beings but it hasn't stopped them from embracing the vicissitudes of love. This profound emotion has spread its broad wings over the despondent clouds of the entire planet and emanated its rays over the consciousness of each being. Every person has sincerely tried to appreciate the vastness of this emotion but only a few amongst them have been able to give concrete words to this abstract emotion.

And, a fewer gifted artists amongst them have done a commendable job in interpreting love through their pen or their paintbrush.

Author Purba Chakraborty's deft and heartfelt use of verse has shown how love can take the shape of a colossal statue in life and inspire one to navigate the deep waters of life with courage and fearlessness.

For better understanding of her verses, I have reviewed and analyzed each poem in detail. It is my humble viewpoint on her poems which transport the reader inside the mind of the author.

**Review and Analysis:***Poem 1's review:*

This work is an endearing poem which integrates a simile and a few metaphors to contrive a manifestation which confirms to the beautiful truth of the writer's spiritual experience of the transcendental emotion called love.

*Poem 2's review:*

This poetry is a product of unalloyed love and devotional spirit for the beloved. The most fascinating thing about this poem is its commencement. It begins with the word 'not'. Usually, poets use the above word in the beginning when the recollected emotion is incomplete sans whom a person isn't. The metaphorical realities intertwine wonderfully with the manifold interpretations of the poet and result in a deeply moving conversation which is both sublime and exalted.

*Poem 3's review:*

Refreshing romantic feelings entwined with visual metaphors often create an image which yields bliss and renders solace to the reader. This poem intermixes romance and poetic interpretation of love and life very effortlessly. Its lucidity and fluidity make it appealing to a reader like me.

*Poem 4's review:*

The poetic interpretation of reality is often higher and more exalted than an ordinary person's interpretation of reality. This abstract truth is clearly reflected in this poem. The honest outpouring of feelings just as they are makes the poem endearing and enchanting. The use of metaphors is intended to express the emotion within rather than to impress any person outside i.e. the reader. This is certainly the best thing about this poem. It is meant solely for expression and its raw and virgin form emits a very sweet fragrance of its own.

*Poem 5's review:*

Imbued and endowed with the spirit of romance and tinged with resplendent imagery as well as explicated with such unique vocabulary, the poem 'Musical Silence' transports the reader into the endearing fictional world of the poetess and unceasingly bestows sublimity. Enriched with shining similes and brilliant descriptions of silence, the poetess transforms a singular mundane romantic moment into a zestful and powerful memory. I loved how the ending lines made the poem immortal in the heart of a reader.

*Poem 6's review:*

The best part about this poem is the harmonious integration of nature imagery and a flurry of two distinct emotions. This poesy is not merely a depiction of the internal emotions of two souls but a one minute tale that is weaved upon the altar of poetry which drenches the reader as well as creates a wave of yearning for reliving the endearing memories of one's past clad in the silence of time.

My favorite line in this poem is, "The dark clouds translated to rains."

*Poem 7's review:*

'Stories' is a poem which teaches us that feelings are the lamps which show us the light of stories. This idea is stretched and extended beautifully in this short poesy. I also loved the way feelings get transmuted into emotions by the pen of the poetess in this poem.

*Poem 8's review:*

The best parts of this work are the sterling vocabulary used by the poetess and a vivid narration of a fictional episode by the poetess in the first person. The gripping power of pen and poetry is clearly witnessed in this work of art. Truly, this poem is not about the emotions of a story but about a powerful and compelling story of an emotion.

*Poem 9's review:*

This poem reminded me of Plato's quote, "With the touch of love, everyone becomes a poet." It is a very romantic piece of work and, at the same time, it is quite distinct from other love poems. This poem contains the stillness of romance which is often felt when one feels the union of one's beloved with one's own art or craft. Generally, people write poetry to express their feelings but here it seems that feelings write themselves so that poetry can be expressed. In this work, the poetess lies in the background of the poem and the muse comes in the center. The most striking part of this poem is contained in the title itself where a moving painting or the beloved becomes the silent poetry and rewards the poetess with the gift of poetry.

The poetess is a double dealer in poetry as she writes one poem and talks about another poem i.e. the muse or the guiding inspiration behind the poem.

*Poem 10's review:*

This poesy makes us feel the ripples of the mellifluous voice of the most powerful emotion of love through the pebbles of words. The association of an inert mundane object with the ethereal memory of the longed for beloved breathes life into the item or the object and reminds us how human experience of love transcends the shallow material boundaries of science. The poem also brings to mind the simple explanation of the theory of relativity given by Einstein and many other scientific and rational thinkers.

The hankering of the beloved for the warmth of the person she longs for is beautifully portrayed through the cascade of free verse. My favorite lines are the last two lines of the poesy which gave me goose bumps with its stellar, gratifying and unexpected ending.

*Poem 11's review:*

This poesy is one of those works which creates a curve on your visage and draws you within its world sans any intention of pulling you out from your world.

The dandy personifications are the highlight of this poem. They accentuate the feeling of romantic desire in the poem. The attribution of personal qualities to inanimate elements made the poem distinct and unique.

The bread of prodigious personifications served with the cheese of sublime vocabulary made this work a compelling read. It is a poem which will surely bestow and bequeath pleasure to the reader every time he or she yearns for it.

*Poem 12's review:*

The title of this poesy gives the gist of this work but upon reading the poem, one discovers that the name of a person is, in many instances, equivalent to that person.

The poetess makes us realize that romance isn't confined merely to the hall of passions but it is also about the sky of ardent affections which can be discovered in every minute detail of our lives.

The poem is very expressive and its articulation is the vision of a vivacious romantic heart. Its short length doesn't diminish the meaning it intends to convey and communicate. It is a perfect poem to read and recite for spoken word poetry events.

*Poem 13's review:*

Poets are sailors and captains who can discover the treasures of love through their pen which is more like a ship. Fishermen explore the sea to seek and catch fishes while poets explore the inner sea of feelings. They are tenacious enough to dive in the whirlpool of emotions and find the beautiful pearls of truths.

The sweetness of a question that touches upon the shore of a beloved's heart is very well portrayed in this poesy. The best part of this poem is the impactful answer that is conveyed in plain sight and yet, this stirring answer hides behind the sunflower of delight.

It is a poem that will be relished as well as cherished by many readers. It is verily one of my favourite poems from the book.

*Poem 14's review:*

The first thing that came to my mind when my eyes were caressing the words across this poesy was the use of the word 'angels' and not 'gods or God'. The poesy reminded me of the Christian and Islamic worldview where angels hold an important place in the world created by The Father or Allah.

One thing that I really admire about love poems is the absence of rationalism and the presence of subjectivity. The subjective nature of this poem is revealed by the emotion of hope that percolates and permeates the work.

Hope is the child of faith and the hope of human beings is shown beautifully in this poem. This poem is not only an outpouring of one's interior feelings but it also acts as a person and pours hope in the cup of a reader's heart. My favourite lines of this poem are, "My old, perished dreams will return back to my eyes."

*Poem 15's review:*

The best part about this short poem is the use of the analogy or likeness or metaphorical truth.

The metaphorical truth is accompanied by an illuminating epiphany which embosses the work of the poetess. This poem also teaches us indirectly that, "romance and love lie not in big things but in little, sweet things of life."

*Poem 16's review:*

In the world of shravana bhakti or devotion through listening to the discourses on God, words are the pathway to attain God. In the universe of love, interpreting the scripture of silence is the road to the heart of the beloved.

This poem makes sense of the things which aren't said but it also provides rapturous delight to the two people who are irrevocably in love. It is short in length and the last two lines create an indelible impression in the reader's consciousness.

*Poem 17's review:*

This poesy is one of the most romantic poems of the book which expresses each dimension of romance in the thread of words. The knot of affection in this poem does speak about the past but it isn't bound by the past. It extends the beauty of romance into the present moment which assumes significance for the glistening future too.

The poem is laced with the rejuvenating tonic of personifications such as moon beams and moonlit sky which are vital towards the development of the romance.

The most appealing part of this work is that it gives the impression that everything is about the first person but that is a temporary truth dipped in the renewing waters of the contribution of the second person or the beloved. My favourite lines of this poem are, "The lilac, moonlit sky embellished the titillating silence."

*Poem 18's review:*

Monsoon is a poem which will appeal to all the pluviophiles or the ardent lovers of rain. The rapture and elation born out of the womb of love is explored in this work.

The use of the word 'little' in line 14 and 'heavier' in line 15 adorns the wall of this poem with a beautiful painting of contrast. The quixotic nature of love underlines the sublime idealism and creates a new meaning by charging the poem with emotional rebirth of the first person character.

*Poem 19's review:*

Adorned and embellished with enlivening similes, this poem encompasses and binds the poetry of passion and the passion for poetry. It shows how romance nurtures passion and how passion bestows forgetfulness of the world which is a fountain of joy for the lovers.

*Poem 20's review:*

Smearred with the robe of warm attachment and adorned with the silent landscape of the mountain of love, this poem silently goes into the heart of a reader and opens it.

The summit of the poem is its end from where the view of the poesy is beautifully felt. The apex of the poem is the title or the invisible thread which is made visible or apparent through the thread of words which tie a knot in a reader's heart.

My favourite lines of this poem are, "It all happened in the canopy of magical silence with an assuring look."

*Poem 21's review:*

Rife with the spirit and vision of a seer, the romance in this poem exists albeit on an earthly realm but touches upon the poetry of the soaring heavens. The poem is a series of answers to the questions rising like the waves in the ocean of the beloved's mind. The answers fall not with despair but with the aim to awaken the recipient of love to give up the company of thought and embrace the friend of awareness. The awareness present in the words of this poem speaks volumes of scriptures without going into the depth of the Truth. It reveals the kernel of love which is the door to the Unknown which all of us approach with fear and anxiety settling upon our minds. The poem not only teaches our minds but also reaches our hearts with the philosophy of the gospel of love.

The best part of the 21st poem is the spellbinding personification at its end which gives us goose bumps by being the most charming unexpected guest.

*Poem 22's review:*

In the book of love, beaming moments provide the cool breeze in the exceeding heat of haunting wreckage. A rendezvous with reality becomes palatable when one lets the butterflies of memories fly in the inert air of an uncongenial reality. This poem is quite distinct from the hues of other poems which had strokes of passion and romance. It teaches the power of regeneration, or, simply, rejuvenation through the process of activating the brightest corners of the heart palace.

*Poem 23's review:*

The nature of a good poem is to provide joy. But the nature of a great poem is to inspire the reader. Esoteric scriptures often evade the intellects of even the most ambitious minds. The most powerful minds often fail to decipher the true meaning of the questions. The baffling nature of myriad questions in the coffee of life feels bitter to a lot of thinkers. But this poem shows us the other side of questions which is often unseen and unexplored because we tend to get confined within the imaginary borders of a mighty mind. This poem contains the capsule of wisdom from one of the philosophical statements of Osho without being even minutely related to it but upon contemplation, a bridge of profound connection gets created. Its last two lines create long-lasting ripples of delight in the lake of a reader's heart. My favorite two lines from this poem are, "Gentle beads of elation twinkled on my heart. A plethora of liveliness washed over my soul."

*Poem 24's review:*

The pains and pleasures of love are known to all but very few people believe in the beauty of pain. This poem is a tribute to that moonlight of love which dances on the lips of the sea of a cherished life. And, yet, there is a mystical silence which speaks lines that don't rhyme and clocks that don't chime. The poem starts on a poignant note but ends with the rose-bud of a happy feeling.

*Poem 25's review:*



This poem teaches us that the vault of enthusiasm and exuberance of life can be unlocked by the key of memories. It reminded me of the infinite expanse of the universe of love where stars, galaxies and cosmos escape into the black hole of nostalgia not to be lost but to be found elsewhere. The spirit of love is kept alive through this poem. It infuses life into objects which are merely combinations of atoms or matter in the eyes of a scientific thinker. Either ways, both the approaches matter to an analytical mind. The significance of this work of poesy lies in the fact that it inspires the readers to delve deeply into the layers of human nature and rediscover the silent voice stirring the winds of time.

My favorite lines of this poem are,

"The silver glimmer of his eyes

When he proposed her decades back; she finds it in the shimmering stars today. The color opens her book of memories."

It is a poem which doesn't describe a typical poetic perspective. It is a work which emanates the rays of an artist's thought.

*Poem 26's review:*

This poem shows the power of a profound memory and its role in the present moment of the character. Here, past mingles or fuses with the present moment and contrives a moment that has the light of the present and shade for the future. The poem describes the longing or nostalgia experienced by the character and it also shows how psychological time dominates the real time. I love the way how the poetess has used a unique personification in this poem. It makes the poem shine. And, yet nothing absolute can be conclusively said about this poem as it entails so many layers of reality. One can only share one's limited perception of this poem as human nature has several complexities which cannot be understood only with rational thought and logic.

*Poem 27's review:*

If viewed metaphorically, this poem also presents a metaphor of secular science where night can represent a point from where the universe started expanding in the beginning with the thread of the laws of physics. And, when one seeks to understand the poetic meaning of this poem, it assumes literal and metaphorical significance. Moon reflects the light of the sun. It doesn't possess its own light. In a scientific world, moon's significance pales in comparison to a sun. But in a poetic universe, the moon acts as a glass mirror that shows variegated colors of moments

which have left a series of deep impressions in one's lives. Romantic euphoria could be interpreted as protons of love and agonies of love could be viewed as electrons of love. Both cannot be seen by naked eye and therefore, we need the moon or a shiny mirror to help us discern their presence. The title of this poem is apt and befitting. The poem shows not only the ardor of the poetess but also reflects scientific cognition.

*Poem 28's review:*

Dipped in the waters of the past, this poem titled 'Cup of Nostalgia' takes us to the most remarkable, refreshing and resplendent moments of the beloved's past which rejuvenate us in an uncanny way. The poetess utilizes extracts of woe to convey a transcendental truth about love. This work is metaphysical in nature and it has a flavor similar to that of Nicholas Spark's novels which break our hearts in a beautiful and enriching way. My favorite lines in this poesy are, "She closes her eyes to feel the softness of roses and the enticing warmth of his breath." A cup of nostalgia begins in the past but reveals a truth far beyond the scope and territory of time. It is a work that will remind readers to pause and reflect upon the *raison d'etre* of existence.

*Poem 29's review:*

A great poem often makes us slip into a pool of memories which would have extinguished by the incessant rainfall of time. The reader has nothing to do with a page of the diary of the poet's work and yet, in an intangible and unobtrusive manner, something profound is communicated to the reader by the poet/poetess. This inexplicable feeling perhaps is like a perpetual flow of echoes of a very powerful surge of emotions which transports the reader back to the explosion of truth. And, this catastrophe changes everything because animate things fail to speak and inanimate things speak epiphanies of truth which complete the painting of a dying memory. In this poem, the gurgling River is personified and this river's sullen nature is made known. The river emerges as the third character in the short episode of the narrator's life and yet, it retains its identity in the second part of the poem as an element of nature. The last five lines of the poem are tinged with remarkable maturity and a beautiful poetic interpretation.

This poem touched my heart in a profound and an unforgettable manner.

While reading this poem, I felt pathos traversing across my heart and showing me the places where love can break us and yet, not shattering our spirit which holds onto what love offered us in our journey: a life-long gift of hues of memories visited apparently by the canvas of time and paintbrush of the observer's mind.

*Poem 30's review:*

Poem 30 titled 'Beauty: You and your gifts' is one of my favorite pieces from the book that breathes life into love and radiates love to the lives of other people. It's esoteric nature and mystifying quality makes it a compelling and engaging read. This work is quite distinct from other works of the poetess because it unifies poetry, philosophy, humanity and spirituality. It speaks of a love which transcends the boundaries of matter and reveals the connection between two souls who are basically parts of the same Spirit. This poem is very fascinating because it acts like a thread where pearls of mysticism, tangibility, invisibility, sensitivity and spirituality are strung around the neck of the reader. The reward of reading such a work is that it immerses you in the ocean of a delectable story which has a surreal connection with your own life. Truly, the purpose of reading a poem is to go back to the unseen molecules of emotions which guide our behavior and satiate our soul.

As a reader, my most delightful encounters in this poem were with the personified natural satellite of the earth, tangibility of the fixed intangible noun i.e. beauty and the astounding revelation which sent down goose bumps to me as my eyes were strolling across the cobbled pathway of the words.

*Poem 31's review:*

Poem 31 titled 'Perfect Moment' reveals the dexterous skill of the poetess as a storyteller. One can clearly discern her prowess as a proficient short story writer in this poem which delivers us the unexpected twist in the tale and satiates our interior curiosity by delivering much beyond what is expected by the reader. This poem is impactful, touching and stirring in nature.

*Poem 32's review:*

Poem 32 is a unique and compelling read. Here, the poetess talks directly to her readers about variegated elements and epiphanies of nature which find their reflections in the eyes of a lover who lives in the palace of the past. The most interesting part of this particular poem is that nature may not speak words but it feels the wordless very deeply. The profound depth of this poem can be understood only when a reader is perusing it with unwavering attention.

This poem is a work which I would like to go back to every month to encounter the roses and thorns residing on the soil of love.

*Poem 33's review:*

Poem 33 by the poetess draws in the astonishment of the reader. It startles and surprises the reader very pleasantly. It begins with a piercing woe but ends with a deeper cutting edge revelation. Last four lines of this poem were the most impactful as they sent chills down my body.

This poem is a fusion of the pearls of poesy and the necklace of short fiction.

*Poem 34's review:*

Poem 34 is essentially a journey of seeking a home in this ephemeral world. Can we ever find this home? Is it possible to discover the treasure of permanence in this world? Is there anything in this material world that defies the laws of destruction? This poem answers these questions with awareness and acceptance of the temporal life on earth. The best part of this poem is the refreshing maturity with which it is penned down by the poetess. There is no room for bitterness or hard feelings in this poem. The language is refined and the element of faith is beautifully integrated and fused with the compound of love. The last two lines of this poem multiply the delight of a reader and enhance the impact of the exquisite metaphor enunciated in the title.

*Poem 35's review:*

Out of all the poems, I reckon I connected the most with this poesy. This poem achingly moved my heart and touched me to the innermost core. There is a silence in the woods of brokenness which only a poet/poetess can make tangible through his or her words. In this work, I felt the poetess has outdone herself. She held the hand of the reader and showed him or her a story of love which cannot be forgotten. A true lover preserves the ruins of love in one's heart like the birds that salvage every twig to take care of their babies. This poem shows that unrequited love is far from being a loss or a failure. It is something much greater than human beings can ever envisage. It shows the unbreakable human spirit which refuses to bow down to the laws of Time. It shows that humans can be broken but cannot be defeated.

## Conclusion

The Heart listens to No One is an endearing collection of heart stirring poems which reminds the reader to escape the drudgery of life and feel the most profound emotion of life in its various hues. Author Purba Chakraborty is a promising writer and author who delivers an exemplary performance as a poetess in this book. Her writing is ripened, relatable and refreshing. She has utilized the depersonalization technique of T.S. Eliot remarkably well in many of her poems. I would strongly urge everyone to read this book of poems to relish the ecstasy and bliss of falling and rising in love. This book will always be one of my most memorable experiences as a reader. I recommend this book to everyone who enjoys reading poetry.