

The logo for 'The Purple Mirror' features the title in a bold, 3D-style font. The letters are a vibrant magenta color with a blue-to-purple gradient and a white outline, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The text is set against a white rectangular background, which is itself centered within a larger, solid purple rectangular frame.

# The Purple Mirror

Maxsprint Publishers

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## *Been Around*

*Been around in my head a long time.*

*Been around in my head a long time.*

*It just had to be said.*

*It just had to be said -*

*It's a war between us and ourselves.*

*Been around in my head a long time.*

*Been around in my head a long time.*

*Been trying to find the reasons.*

*Reasons that evade me constantly,*

*leaving me with more questions than answers.*

*Why? why? and still more why's.*

*Why are we killing ourselves*

*With the seeds of the fortune of the rich? ....*

.....

*This poem hit reality and just broke down.*

## *Hurricane*

*(Written during hurricane Gilbert, September 1988)*

*TAP, TAP, TAP, TAP.*

*Nails being driven into board slats.*

*The only pronounced sound on the frightened air,  
continuous, monotonous - TAP, TAP, TAP, TAP.*

*Preparing for the hurricane*

*TAP, TAP, TAP, TAP.*

*Better batten-up, better safe than sorry  
hurricane Gilbert's a-coming.*

*Hurricane Gilbert's a-coming*

*bringing with him strong gusts of wind and rain.*

*Inside your battened-up houses you must stay.*

*Wind's so strong it will sweep you away.*

*Trees in the wind - CRICK CRACK, CRICK CRACK.*

*Is that a root flying in the wind?*

*Water that comes with the wind - SPLISH SPLASH.*

*Is that a river overflowing its bank,*

*laundry on the line - FLIP FLAP, FLIP FLAP.*

*Hurricane Gilbert's a-passing.*

*Hurricane Gilbert's a-passing*

*taking with it all it can.*

*Winds strong enough to take a man*

*wrecking havoc on the land.*

*Huddle together in your battened-up houses.*

*Be as calm as you can.  
Hope you have all you need inside  
outside you cannot venture.  
Soon the angry winds will die  
and hurricane Gilbert will be gone.*

*Hurricane Gilbert will be gone  
leaving the harsh memory of its passing behind.  
Trees lying on the ground - DEAD, DEAD.  
Destruction, disruption, wish I were in Rome instead.  
Animals in ebbing streams - DEAD, DEAD.  
Chaos, chaos, wish I were somewhere else.  
I lie in bed - SCARED, SCARED.  
While the Hurricane outside - RAGE, RAGE.*

## *Song of the Old Cane Cutter*

*Chop, chop, chop chop chop,  
right around the clock,  
No chop no hand, no chop no foot.  
Just chop the cane before the rain.*

*No cause no pain, no cause no strain.  
No call no strike, because you might  
make the crop a longer year.*

*The only sound you hear is the  
slash slashing of your curved cutlass  
against the cane stalk,  
Sweat beating down your brow  
- "is this really how a man should grow?"*

*Follow the path the chopped cane lead.  
Chopping chopping, chopping said.  
Your palm the fortune teller read -  
a toiling life you shall lead  
with hands that grow from strength to strength.*

## *It Nuh Nice*

*Life in the ghetto, it nuh nice.  
It nuh nice, it nuh nice, it nuh nice.  
Can't find sugar, can't find spice.  
It nuh nice, it nuh nice, it nuh nice.*

*Every day we get the salt butter,  
and eat it with white rice.  
Can't afford fridge,  
gotta go to the store to buy ice.  
It nuh nice, it nuh nice, it nuh nice.*

*The night is pregnant,  
it breeds, it breeds,  
it breeds evil and corruption,  
disloyalty and dishonesty.  
It nuh nice, it nuh nice, it nuh nice.*

*Poverty, the story of our lives,  
and only the strong survives.  
Hunger, our daily cry.  
Ten are born when only one dies.  
It nuh nice, it nuh nice, it nuh nice.*

## *In This Land*

*Justice does not live in this land.  
Things go on that I can't understand.*

*Police and bad men are one.  
Soldier and bad men are one.  
I just can't understand.*

*Rich man, poor man, beggar man, thief,  
don't appear on the same page  
but share the same stage - in this land  
things go on that I can't understand.*

*Lawyer, doctor, lesbian, priest,  
all appear on the same page,  
and share the same stage,  
in this day and age.*

*"Children children."*

*"Yes mama."*

*"Where have you been to?"*

*"We were on the street looking something to steal."*

*"Did you bring me a color TV?"*

*"No, just an old radio from Uncle Joe's shack."*

*"Take it back you little thieves."*

*And the mother cries, "woeeeeeee".  
Shame and scandal on the family.  
"Woeeeeee, the daddy is my daddy and I can't believe."  
And she grieve, and she grieve, and she grieve.*

*Peace no longer lives in this land.  
Things go on that I just can't understand.  
Violence downtown, bloodied bodies on the ground.  
And who is responsible  
who is responsible for the tragedy  
is it the society?*

*Call it night nurse, call it coke.  
Take a sniff, take a smoke.  
Get high, and fly, and die.  
Go stark raving mad, and we'll all ask why.*

*Death - the order of the day, what a sight.  
Crime and violence - the order of the night, what a fright.  
Another child tries to beat the street,  
a bullet he greets.  
And we ask why.  
And I ask why.  
And they ask why.  
And you ask why.  
Anyone who claims he doesn't know why,  
it's a lie, it's a lie, it's a lie.  
I ask you why.*



## *Uncaring River*

*Lonely river rush on by.*

*Lonely river rush on by.*

*You never stop to hear a single tale.*

*Never stop to hear a mother's cry.*

*Never know the troubles of the day.*



## *Love*

*Some say love is a river that flows to the sea of joy.  
Some say love is that river in which we all should be.*

*I say love is the greatest gift you can give to me.  
I say love is so precious, in love we all should be.*

*Love, come shine on us all, and break the racial wall.  
Love, come surround us, help us to be fair and just.*

*We know love is the only thing that can let freedom ring.  
Love is the only way, for love we all should pray.*

## *life Goes On*

*Heartbreaks come and heartbreaks go.  
They cause pain and make hearts rain.*

*Still you keep trodding on, life goes on.*

*Though all your fears come crashing in,  
and your whole world begins to spin.  
Some days you don't know where to begin,  
and sometimes it seem you just can't win.*

*Still you keep trodding on, life goes on.*

## *In the Bitter Sweet Dusk of My Life*

*In the bitter sweet dusk of my life -  
a life that spanned many moons  
a life that ended too soon -  
I sit and contemplate.*

*All the life I should have lived,  
all the life I could have lived,  
all the life I would have lived.  
In the dusk of my life I sit and contemplate.*

*Oh if I had it all to do again,  
would I change anything.  
Would change have brought more pain,  
or, given a second chance  
would I let it all remain the same.  
This I sit and wonder  
in the bitter sweet dusk of my life.*

## *On My Way*

*On my way to meet the future  
I met Mr. M. with some sutures.  
"Where did you get them?" asked I, asked I.  
"I do not know, or I cannot tell." said he, said he.*

*On my way to meet the future.  
I met Mr. P., he is a pirate.  
He steals from the poor and give to the rich.  
"I am not that bad," said he, said he,  
"at least I give".*

*On my way to meet the future  
I met Mr. C., he is a cook,  
He boils many souls in a bubbling pot.  
Souls given to him by his trusting flock,*

*On my way to meet the future  
I met temptation, he promised me the world.  
I met Love, Joy, and Happiness  
they said I could never have them.  
I met Mr. Lonely, and I married him.*

## *The movers*

*Up to the door they came,  
and one knocked on the window pane.  
When the lady of the house came,  
said one, "I am sorry to cause so much pain,  
but we have to do it just the same.  
It will be such a shame.  
By the way, Peter Crane is my name".*

*Her only aim  
was for the two men to refrain,  
but they kicked off the door without much strain.  
Into the house they came.  
And like men cutting cane,  
they worked until with sweat their shirts were stained.  
They acted most untamed.*

*The house was left empty.  
Said one, "I am sorry for the terrible treatment,  
but it was all because you didn't pay your rent".  
The woman was patient.  
She knew the situation was imminent.  
If she had paid her rent  
there would have been no such consequence.*

## *I Know I Am Depressed*

*When about school work I don't seem to care,  
my feelings I feel the need to share.  
When for hours at the wall I stare,  
disturb me don't you dare.*

*When the day is sunny, bright, yet I am so blue,  
I am not cheered even with thoughts of you.  
When others have fun in the sun,  
I hang around feeling as if my time is done.*

*When my self confidence dwindles,  
I feel absolutely no urge to mingle.  
When there's a party I refuse to go,  
instead stay in bed and miss you so.*

*When I eat all that comes my way,  
a loaf of bread last only a day.  
When I start crying so easily,  
the tears come readily and willingly.  
I KNOW I AM DEPRESSED.*

## *Eyes On The Wall*

*I sat there staring - eyes fixed to the wall.  
All thoughts jumbled, mumbled, fumbled -  
concentrated in the area for conscious thinking  
bringing unconscious thinking, or no thinking.*

*So there I sat, the wall my mirror  
reflecting myself in the eyes of my mind  
I see myself as I am, I am what I am.  
I sat there, eyes fixed to the wall.  
The thought, the loveliness of thought.  
Seeing myself as I am made me feel a burst of joy  
emanating from my inner self  
joy unique, joy which only I can feel.*





## *I've Got Music*

*I ain't got no money. I ain't got nobody.  
But i've got music.*

*I don't need nobody. I don't need friends.  
So long as my music never ends.*

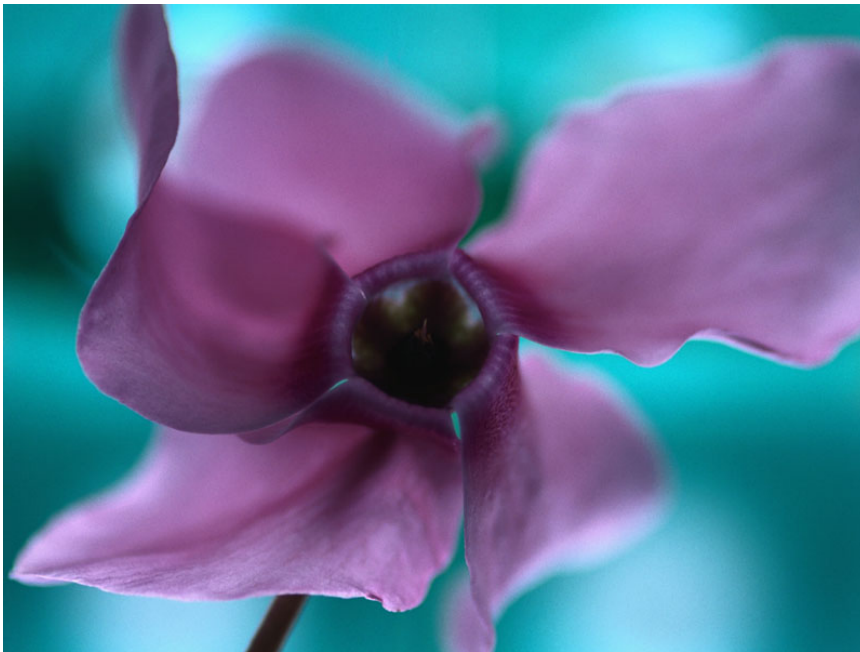
*Though I ain't got no money  
my music will give me plenty  
so I don't need to worry.*

*My music lifts me up when I am down and out.  
Make me want to jump up and shout.*

*So long as i've got music everything is fine.  
The whole world fall apart and I don't mind.  
So long as i've got music all the time.*

## *Little Flower*

*My pretty little flower I love you every hour.  
Your blossoms of many colors make my troubles seem fewer.  
Dear little flower so very cute.  
Who every morning I salute.  
Flower you are such a beaut,  
surely there must be blessings at your roots.  
Pretty flower we will never part;  
forever we will be heart to heart.  
Pretty flower lets be friends until all eternity ends.*



## *I Said*

*I said, "what the ....."*

*"Shhhhhhhh"*

*I asked, "why can't I say what I feel?"*

*"You can't say that and let the boss hear".*

*I said, "so what if the boss hear".*

*"You will lose your job".*

*I said, "so what if I lose my job, I can find another".*

*"That" not so easy, and in the meantime*

*you are going to need the money for food and rent and other necessities".*

*I said, "so that is why you eat anything the boss dish out".*

*"We don't know about you but we need the bough".*

*I said, "what a ....."*

*"Shhhhhhhh"*

*I said, "why can't I say what I feel?"*

*"You can't say that and let the minister hear."*

*I said, "so what if the minister hear, it's the truth."*

*"The minister is a man of God, that can't be true."*

*I said, "so you think minister is perfect."*

*"We don't know about you but we believe in him."*

*I said, "how in ....."*

*"Shhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh"*

*I said, "why can't I say what I feel?"*

*"You can't say that and let the ruler hear."*

*I said, "so what if the ruler hear."*

*"You will lose your life."*

*I asked, "wouldn't you disagree with the ruler?"*

*"We don't know about you but we have families to consider."*

*I said, "you would let the pastor lead you astray  
and the ruler dish you sh....."*

*"Shhhhhhhhhhhhh."*

*I said, "you should say what you feel  
you should stand up for your rights".*

*"Don't say that and let anyone hear."*

*I said, "what a ....."*

*"Shh. We don't know about you  
but we need to stay alive and earn dough to take care of our families,  
and to keep us going we need something or someone to believe in."*

## *So Close To Nature*

*So close to nature, oh so very close.  
This is the mood I love the most.  
I hear the birds chirping  
and for me it has a melodic ring.  
This feeling is really something  
It makes me want to get up and sing.*

*So close to nature, oh so sweet.  
Looking at nature's gardens, oh so neat.  
All around is beauty  
for me, a beholder, to see.  
This fills me with glee  
I'd never change this scenery.*

*So close to nature, oh so divine.  
Leaving all my lousy cares behind  
To be taken up in the pleasures  
obtained from looking at nature's treasures.  
Just to sit here with such leisure  
imparts tranquility without measure.*

*So close to nature, oh so close.  
This indeed is the mood I love the most.*

## *Too Far From Nature*

*High-rise buildings all around,  
putting out black smog, a dragon's breath.  
Automobiles, chariots of pollution,  
drive by faster than I can count.  
Where are the trees I wonder -  
gone, lost, buried forever in memory.*

*We have come so far.  
We have come so far with technology.  
We have come so far.  
We have come too far from nature.*

*Where are the animals I wonder -  
caged, trapped in our existence.  
What happened to the time when animals  
were free to roam where they chose.  
Gone, lost, buried forever in memory.*

## *Daybreak*

*As far as the eye can see darkness covers the earth.  
There's no sign of sky or trees or land.  
Then suddenly, as if out of nowhere  
there appears a silver gleam in the east.  
The gleam slowly gets brighter and brighter, spreading itself across  
the heavens  
until a pale blue hue can be seen  
crayoned across the heavens.*

*Slowly the darkness diffuses  
as the beautiful silver gleam dominates the earth.  
Slowly green trees and grass become obvious.  
I no longer look in wonder  
cause I know  
it's only the day that's breaking.*

*Then just when one would think it's all over.  
There appears a red gleam in the eastern sky,  
and I know the sun is rising.  
The sun is rising to dry the dew  
from the leaves of the evergreen plants.  
The sun will sail across the sky,  
spreading a smile across every face with its glow.  
Everyone will know  
that daybreak has passed  
and a new day has begun.*

## *Emil*

*(Based on 'Emil and the Detectives' by Eric Kastner)*

*Emil the little country boy  
one day wanted to travel afar.  
Money he had some,  
suit he had one  
and in it he set off for Berlin.*

*The journey was long,  
and the train dragged along -  
clickety clang. All alone,  
Emil sat at the window and stared.  
With a heart full of fear  
he held on to his fare.*

*The man in the bowler hat  
did not feel to chat.  
While the lady who was so fat  
could not stop chat.  
"Have a chocolate my lad",  
was all the man said.*

*It could have been a dream,  
but it was real.  
With a start Emil awoke,  
and in his pocket he poked.  
Suddenly he realized he was broke,  
and the man in the bowler hat was gone.*



## *Death*

*"How's life?" they ask,  
"Great," is my reply, always my reply.  
"That's fine," they say.  
They know not that I am a living dead.  
A zombie.  
I killed myself when I killed him.  
We died simultaneously.  
Now I am a dead stalking the land of the watchers.  
They don't accept me,  
they only pretend to.  
How can they accept me.  
I will never be the same again.  
They cannot accept me as being  
the same person I used to be.  
They will be smiling at me with one eye  
and watching me suspiciously with the other.  
This is worst than the grave -  
In the grave you are alone  
because there is no one else there.  
Here I am alone in a world of millions  
what with a society  
that makes you pay with your soul  
for an unavoidable mistake.*

## *Number One Fan*

*You are the greatest of all time.  
Your records are like a gold mine.  
Everyone's crazy about you , man!  
Am I glad to be your number one fan.*

*On stage when you glitter you look so smart.  
Your brilliant glow seem to reach my heart.  
I do hope you like aquarians  
because that's the star of you number one fan.*

*Your music cheers me when I am blue.  
Your voice makes me feel as if I am with you.  
You are the greatest in the land.  
I am proud to be your number one fan.*

*I am crazy about your music because it's so unique.  
On stage you are always at your peak,  
Your music always turn me on.  
Now and forever I am your number one fan.*

*I will stick with you through thick and thin.  
Cause with your music my heart you will always win.  
You are a very important man  
and I am your number one fan.*

*Every second of each day I feel your music in my brain.  
It calms the storm and eases the pouring rain.  
I do hope you now understand  
why I am your number one fan.*

## *FLOOD*

*Water, de whole place under water.  
Flooding, de whole place is flooded.*

*Now you see how it is for me.  
Me whole house under water.  
Where me a go sleep later.  
Me no know at all.  
All me know is the damn rain still a fall.*

*What me goin' to do.  
Where me goin' to go.  
Yes me frien'.  
It seem me near the en'.  
What a tribulation  
on me such a poor woman.*

*Where under creation  
de government gwine find money  
fe mend de destruction.  
Lord, s.o.s - save our souls.  
It look like a all a ketch cold.  
Water, me can' fight de water.  
Somebody please put me up fe de nite.*

*People a watch de flood.  
Some in water boot a trud thru de mud.  
Yes, everything a go wrong.  
Oono hear me a sing de song.  
All de lickle mini van dem a bruck dung.*

*Yes, dis is flooding time.  
Me sorry fe all who get lef' behin'.  
Look in de sky, no sun na shine.  
All we have is de bloody rain all de time.  
Before yuh can count to ten  
de rain it start to fall again.*

*People don't you fret.  
Though you all getting wet.  
We soon stop having rain.  
The sun will shine again.  
Then everything will be fine  
an' we'll have a good time.*



## *Freedom From Freedom*

*We are, one and all, victims of society.  
We may not all be abused by society,  
Nevertheless we are all its victims.  
Society shapes and molds our destinies,  
It makes us and it breaks us.*

*It's said, "no man is an island".  
One cannot completely isolate one's self from society.  
Even in solitude, one is still under the influence of society.  
We are like slaves in our desire to please society.  
Like slaves to a master that dominates our lives.*

*One may try to act of his own accord.  
Yet, deep down, the root of his nonconformity is buried in society.  
Society holds the key to the chains which hand around our necks,  
And bound us to do its biddings.  
Try though we may, we cannot escape.*

*But would escape be worth it?  
When in escaping from society, we escape from our selves.  
We are so deeply rooted, mentally and physically in society;  
That to escape from society would mean giving up one's self.  
Escape means death for the soul of the escapee.*

*Ha ha, I guess it's better to live in painless slavery,  
Than to die in painful freedom.  
For whereas one can be someone  
Under the powers and enslavement of society,  
One can be no one when freed from society.  
THEN AGAIN MAYBE ONE CAN.*