

## Selected Poems of Bar Sagi

Bar was born on 21 November 2001 in Rehovot to parents Yael and Dror Sagi. She was extraordinarily precocious and from a young age was full of energy with a sharp and ready tongue. At five she and her younger brother Ofer accompanied their parents to Stanford University, where a further son Gil was born. So it was that Bar acquired English as her stronger language and at the same time enjoyed every type of sporting activity however dangerous. Her mother believed she should be left to develop her character which well she did, being exquisitely polite and well-mannered one minute, yet scream in your face and run out the door the next.

Bar had a strong sense of fairness and spoke her mind fiercely. This did not go down well amongst the demure folk of Palo Alto and so at ten she had almost no friends at school. Thus it was that Bar took to reading books, several every week.

Back in Israel, Bar's charming yet prickly character fitted in perfectly and she won several devoted friends who accompanied her to the last. Indeed tragically at just eleven years old, Bar was diagnosed with bone cancer and succumbed after a terrible struggle of over four whole years. During a short period when the cancer temporarily abated, Bar had a moment of inspired literary creation. She wrote 25 poems of which six are reproduced here as well as many short stories and a trilogy "Dreamworld" of which the last volume is sadly incomplete.

Bar's poetry reflects her many-sided character and deep understanding of the human condition. Some are wonderfully joyful as "Summer's here", some are intensely sad as "I see you" and some reflect her courage in adversity as "Endless journeys", bearing witness to the two hundred or more times she had to be taken to the hospital.

Bar died too young to have experienced romantic love but wrote of what she imagined it would be like in her poem, "A thousand kisses".

Bar considers bargaining for a new life in "Fated" and what one would have to pay for such a deal. It is as if she is ready to confide her soul to a new-born even if her own experiences are to be forgotten, whereas in "I see you", she appears to be asking her soul of its promise to remember her.

Perhaps the most touching of her poems was the last "Hope, like a small flower", when she had only hope to cling onto. She had at first written the last line as

A smart light at the end of the day.

A forthcoming book will comprise all Bar's poems illustrated with original water-colourings of Ellie Makar-Limanov collated with great dedication by Anna Melnikov who also contributed many further original drawings. Together with the first volume of Dreamworld it will soon become available.

## I see you

One day I'll be  
Shrouded in mystery  
Encased in mist  
No one can see.

One day you'll fly  
You'll be friends  
With the birds in the sky  
And I'll watch from below.

So... I just want to  
Know one thing  
Will you miss me  
When you're up there?

While I'm on the ground  
And you're  
Safe and sound.

I see you  
Do you see me?  
I'm encased in  
Mystery!

Will you think of me  
Once in a while?

So please,  
Send me a message  
Send me a sign.

Show me that some  
Of your memories  
Are mine!

When I'll be  
All alone in the dust  
Not a spec of life  
To call my friend.

Will you see me,  
For you're not alone  
Up there.

Will you remember  
All the memories we share?

So please  
Show me!  
Show me I'm not alone!  
Not alone anymore.

That I was right  
To hope  
When you  
Stepped out the door!

I see you,  
Do you  
See me?  
I'm encased in  
Mystery?

So please...  
Show me.

## A Thousand Kisses

Maybe someday I'll be the girl of  
someone's dreams  
The heart of someone's wishes  
The center of someone's thoughts  
The receiver of a thousand kisses.

Maybe someday  
I'll dream about him too  
and smile when he walks by  
he'll be in my thoughts all the time  
my earth and my sky.

So what do I do in the meantime  
is there any way to hurry it up?  
Should I wait or should I give up?

I don't need a prince charming  
I just need someone  
who'll be there when I'm crying  
and kiss me when I've won.

How do I know  
who is right for me  
I see so many boys walk by  
each an uncertain mystery.

But through it all,  
I keep hoping, I keep wishing  
cause I know  
that someday there'll be someone  
to wipe my running nose.

To tell I am beautiful  
the apple of his eye  
to hold my hand  
as we watch the night sky.

Summer's here!

Can you hear the school bells ring?  
It is loud and clear.  
Can you hear the children sing?  
Summer's here! Summer's here!

Come on, come on, it's time to play  
Come on, come on, put the books away!  
Let your screams pulse through the air  
Wave your arms like you just don't care!

Say it loud and say it proud  
Let your words reach to the clouds  
Smile and put your pencils down  
Laugh with joy and twirl around.

Can you hear the school bells ring?  
It is loud and clear  
Can you hear the children sing?  
Summer's here! Summer's here!

So much relaxing left to do  
Will we manage before summer's through?  
Let's run to the beach and jump in the ocean  
Stay up all night and cause a big commotion.

Have a massive blow-out party  
Then the next day say we're sorry  
No matter what our parents say  
All we gonna do is play.

Come on, come on along with me  
So raise your arms in victory  
We suffered through an entire year  
And now, finally summer's here!

Say it loud and say it proud  
Let your words reach to the clouds  
Smile and put your pencils down  
Laugh with joy and twirl around.

So much relaxing left to do  
Will we manage before summer's through?  
Let's run to the beach and jump in the ocean  
Stay up all night and cause a big commotion.

Can you hear the school bells ring?  
It is loud and clear  
Can you hear the children sing?  
Summer's here! Summer's here!

## Fated

Am I fated to be this way  
Making the worst of every day.

What would you give if you  
Could make time stop  
If you could make time pause  
If you could make life  
Give you another chance.

Would you give up your soul  
for a minute or two  
would you give up even more  
For something that's gone?

Something you've lost, something  
you'll never get back  
Something you'll always regret?  
You know you want another  
minute or two,  
or even better yet.

You want a chance,  
a whole new chance  
A wave of events to  
make this never happen.

You want a life all over again  
You want your perfect happy ending.

I can give it to you  
I can make your wish come true  
You can live the way  
you've always wanted to.

But it comes with a price,  
Oh baby nothing is free  
Yes it comes with a price  
Are you willing to pay the fee?

Will you give up  
Everything you know and love.

## Endless Journeys

Endless journeys every day,  
Will the pain go never away  
Nothing matters ever stay.

Everything is spinning,  
everything is dust  
My wings are broken, covered all in rust.

And yet I can't stop trying,  
always trying to fly  
No matter how broken  
my soul yearns for the sky.

I can feel something inside,  
something I can't describe  
The desire to create something beautiful  
To have energy flow out like a waterfall.

All that I want, just want a chance  
A glimmer of rain, nothing more than a glance.

A chance to create, a chance to explore  
A chance to make something more.  
A chance to create, something that might last.

To do it myself, with my own two hands  
I'll use my own strength, I know that I can.

Just don't take away  
What I might build today  
Just don't it away... entirely.

No matter how many times you break my heart  
I think to really stop trying, that would break me apart.

I'll keep trying, and falling, and  
fearing, but I'll keep believing  
because that's all I have left  
And I'll prove that I'm up to the test.

Hope, like a small flower

Hope, like a small flower blooming in my chest  
Growing and growing, I don't want it to rest  
Hope, like a child, keep it safe and warm  
Bundled up against a winter storm

Keep it safe for a rainy day,  
A smart little light, in a small café.