

Gina's Song

To: Gina

From: Corey Stokes

We met under that Chicken Express sign, A little broke, a little bold, killing time. You laughed like you already knew my heart, Like you'd been holding the map from the start. I used to sneak in your window after dark, Trying to be quiet, but I lit up the whole yard. And every version of me I've been since then. Found a home in your hands again. 'Cause you don't love in halves, you don't keep score, You don't leave the room when life gets loud. You stay—like a steady back porch light, Like a promise spoken out. Gina, you cover me up in the everyday, In the hard weeks, in the ordinary grace. Thirty years, and you still feel new— Unconditional, steady, true. Devoted wife, devoted mother, You're my once-in-a-lifetime lover. And if the whole world turns and changes shape, Gina, you're the part that stays. We've done sickness, we've done health, we've done all the in-between, Learned how to hold on, learned what it means. Raised a wonderful son with your strength and your calm, With your soft voice turning storms into psalms. I've watched you give when you had nothing left, Still make a home out of a day that tried its best. And I've never met a love so wide, It fits the whole world inside. And you don't need a spotlight to shine, You don't need words to be brave. You just wake up and choose us again, In a hundred quiet ways. Gina, you cover me up in the everyday, In the hard weeks, in the ordinary grace. Thirty years, and you still feel new— Unconditional, steady, true. Devoted wife, devoted mother, You're my once-in-a-lifetime lover. And if the whole world turns and changes shape, Gina, you're the part that stays. We went zip lining through the mountain air, Both of us laughing, both of us halfway scared. We chased the sun in the Caribbean blue, Salt on our skin like we had nothing to lose. Now it's coffee on the weekends, your feet tucked under mine, Sharing blankets in front of the TV light. And the best place I've ever been— Is sleeping in our spot again. Gina, you cover me up in the everyday, In the hard weeks, in the ordinary grace. Thirty years, and you still feel new— Unconditional, steady, true. Devoted wife, devoted mother, You're my once-in-a-lifetime lover. And if the whole world turns and changes shape, Gina, you're the part that stays. Yeah, if the whole world turns and changes shape, Gina… you're the part that stays.

Swoonsong