

# The Criterion

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## Unveiling the Mask

**Iti Kesarwani**

Standing here in a masquerade,  
Wearing a lace-like mesh of pretense and wan smile  
I took cover under the mask  
Bitter and scattered  
Bereft, betrayed, torn into pieces  
Quiescent, shattered patches of wounds  
His words lanced through  
Unclad feelings  
A fleece of emotions  
Changing hues  
Red in my heart  
Spilled into the veins  
That pain ebony  
Though soul remains  
Whiter than white  
Pain alighted on hope;  
Dazed by demolition of faith  
I broke this cage  
Like fibers melts  
These metallic shackles  
Even those ice cubes of sweet nothings  
You dollop,  
Couldn't freeze my heart  
Blazing with scars  
All ye need to know  
Nothing can vamp  
My Heart, My Soul and Life!