

# Stink

Kae Tempest

'It feels like we could make something happen  
That ain't ever happened before.'

'Let's never get bored  
Of each other.'

'And let's always want more  
Of each other.'

They lay on the floor with each other  
Amazed by how right it felt  
They smiled and they caught their breath  
And they thought of nothing else

They lay there silent  
Not touching  
She's crying  
Backs to each other  
And he's sighing  
Three days straight fighting  
'I can't bear your self-importance.'  
'I don't like you when you're like this.'  
'You haven't even kissed me for days'  
'How can I want to kiss you  
When all your lips say  
Is how shitty I've been and how little I care?'  
'What are we doing this for?'  
'I can't bear any more of your bitching.'  
They sit there in the kitchen  
They didn't look at each other  
They just stared at the walls  
And her head's in her hands  
And the coffee pot falls to the floor  
Now he is angry and smashing up tables

He was thinking:

'If I love you like I say  
I would not treat you this way  
If I love you like I think  
I would not make such a stink

If this is what we had both hoped  
I don't think I'd feel so choked  
If I want more, how can I get it?  
I'm only staying 'cause I'm scared  
If I leave I'll regret it.'

Pete is at home, Becky is at work  
He stares out the window  
Trying not to let it hurt  
He folds up the washing  
He watches a bit of telly  
And he makes himself some dinner  
But he can't eat any  
He knows it's her job and that she is working hard  
But the thought of what she does kind of rips him apart  
And every time they talk about it, it just turns into a row  
She says 'If you trust me, I don't see how

This can be a problem,  
And he can't find the words to say -  
I don't want your hands  
On another man's vertebrae

He don't have a leg to stand on  
He ain't earning  
And she's got rent to pay  
And books to buy  
She is determined  
To support herself  
But he looks at his girlfriend  
And feels like  
He is in love with a whirlwind  
She rips him to pieces every night  
And every morning  
He finds himself doubting things  
That used to be important

He drifted from his mates and he lost contact with his brother  
All they really had now was each other  
Eventually he gave in, he said  
'If you think it's right  
Then go ahead and work  
But please don't work tonight.'

Then she said:

'If you love me like you say  
You would not push me away  
If you love me like you think  
You would not make such a stink  
If this is what we had both hoped  
I don't think that we'd feel so choked  
If we want more, how can we get it?  
You're only staying 'cause you're scared  
If you leave you'll regret it

'If you love me like you say  
You would not treat me that away  
If you love me like you think  
You would not make such a stink  
If this is what we had both hoped  
I don't think that we'd feel so choked  
If I want more, how can I get it?  
You're only staying 'cause you're scared  
If you leave you'll regret it.'