

Before

Even on days when the world is too much
And my body and mind conspire to shut down
I dream of your face and your eyes and your
laughter
My lips against yours and my hand on your
crown

Not the crown of a queen, or a princess, or lord
But the crown of your head, full of wonder and
mirth
For I'd not trade the moments that we spend
together
For all riches, or power, or gold on the Earth

I wake clutching pillows, a fascimilous trick
As I think of your life, and your loves, and your
time
And I lay there in terror of the clock as it ticks
For I fear the desire for your time to be mine

I want nothing so strongly, as to hold your heart
close
And to quietly breathe as your sleep touches
mine
Yet the music we make as we sing, play, and
listen
Fills my heart and my head, making silence
divine

After

Even on days when the world is too heavy
And my body and mind fight with me to shut
down
I dream of your face and your eyes and your
laughter
My lips against yours and my hand on your
crown

Not the crown of a queen, or a princess, or lord
But the crown of your head, full of wonder and
mirth
For I'd not trade the moments that we share, us
two
For all the riches, or power, or gold on the Earth

I wake clutching pillows, such a cruel minded
trick
As I think of your time, and your loves, and your
life
And I lay there in terror of the clock as it ticks
For I fear that my need for you could cause
some strife

I want nothing so strongly, as to hold your heart
close
And to quietly breathe as your sleep touches
mine
The music we make as we sing, play, and listen
Fills my heart and my head, making silence
divine

Review and Critique:

This is a beautiful poem and I love the emotion that you have put into it! Something I noticed as I was doing my review is that the number of syllables can vary by a lot for each line. I would recommend adjusting the poem to have a closer range of syllables on all lines since it can help with the flow of a poem and achieving a consistent voice and tone. I have an example poem option below that shows this along with some edits to your existing poem to give you some ideas and suggestions. I went ahead and listed the number of syllables next to each line.

Another rhyming option to consider is making the first and third line of each stanza rhyme as well. I actually like the way you've laid your poem out skipping that rhyme in most cases. But you have that rhyme layout in the third stanza, and I have to admit I like the way that section sounds. It is one of my favorite lines in the whole poem. (The line: "And I lay there in terror of the clock as it ticks.")

Here is a small breakdown of my thoughts on each stanza:

I feel like the first stanza did a great job of setting the rhythm for the poem. I did change the second line a little since the three syllables in "conspire" felt out of place. This might just be a preference thing though.

For the second stanza it seems like your goal is to stress how much more important this person is than material items and I think you did a good job. I can see that it transitions from the first stanza using the word "crown". This links the two, and is a really good transition in my opinion!

The third stanza: This stanza was beautiful and contained my favorite line; however, the transition is not quite as smooth, I noticed some problems with the way the final idea is presented, and the layout of the rhyme structure is identical to the last stanza (ex. time/mine and mine/divine). As a result, this stanza got the highest number of suggested edits.

While the stanza starts off with less of a smooth transition, I actually really liked it and thought it didn't need to be changed. It grabs the reader's attention. For the last line, I thought that no other part of the poem pointed to the fear mentioned and it stood out as a little odd to me. Upon further reading I thought that the line was trying to say something like, "I fear wanting your time because I care so much and I may not get it." Since the rhyme needed to change and I thought that the last stanza shouldn't be adjusted, I rewrote this stanza to hopefully keep the idea of what you were saying and adjust the rhyme used.

The last stanza: This was such a beautiful stanza with very evocative language. I love the second line. I only made one change on this and that was to remove the word "yet". The word yet here would imply that I want this, but-, I can't have it. And since you are expressing why you want to share time together so much, it doesn't make sense to have it possibly sound like a bad thing.

Overall, great job on this poem. It is lovely and I hope you get it where you want it to be!

Suggested Example:

“Even on days when the world is too heavy (11)
And my body and mind fight with me to shut down (12)
I dream of your face and your eyes and your laughter (12)
My lips against yours and my hand on your crown (11)

Not the crown of a queen, or a princess, or lord (12)
But the crown of your head, full of wonder and mirth (12)
For I’d not trade the moments that we share, us two (12)
For all the riches, or power, or gold on the Earth (13)

I wake clutching pillows, such a cruel minded trick (12)
As I think of your time, and your loves, and your life (12)
And I lay there in terror of the clock as it ticks (13)
For I fear that my need for you could cause some strife (12)

I want nothing so strongly, as to hold your heart close (13)
And to quietly breathe as your sleep touches mine (12)
The music we make as we sing, play, and listen (12)
Fills my heart and my head, making silence divine (12)”

Style Sheet:

- Every second and fourth line rhyme.
- Currently no rhyme for most of the first and third lines. Change? Ignore the third stanza which has a rhyme as an outlier? -This is a note for you to decide on as you move forward.
- All stanzas have four lines.
- Each line has between 10-13 syllables. (11-13 for the suggested example.)
- Only one word with more than three syllables was left in the poem, “quietly” in the last stanza. Otherwise, all words in the poem are at most two syllables.