

# Opened Eyes

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She passed me with a gaze that I couldn't resist.  
I extended my hand and held hers gently  
As blood dripped from her finger tips.  
The aroma of death was strangely present in the air,  
It carried the voices of millions screaming, Beware!  
As if her eyes painted pictures, I was drawn by her stare,  
I came closer and she whispered in my ear.  
Remind me of your name again, she said.  
I said my name is Victim, and it's nice to meet you.  
She said softly, my name is AIDS and I'm happy to be with you.

AIDS, that's an interesting name, I said.  
Tell me, just what is it that you do?  
She said never mind that  
It's complicated  
And it would probably kill you.  
I said I just want to know you  
Because to me you're so beautiful.

Well simply put, she said,  
I destroy lives.  
As she said this, the sun fell  
And darkness obstructed my view.  
She continued...  
I make no compromise.  
I kill children, husbands, and wives.  
I feast on the lies  
Told by selfish people,  
Whether woman or man.  
And you can't prevent me with just Latex  
Even if you think you can.

I'm tougher than a diamond,  
I've left whole continents desolate and barely surviving.  
I prey on the innocent,  
And I never sleep.  
I reside in the darkness, waiting for lustful souls,  
Creep up on those who do not acknowledge me,  
And even those that think  
They are stronger than me will one day see.

Telling me these things, she refreshed my memory.  
I said, haven't I seen you before,  
Maybe at a movie; maybe at a store?  
As a matter of fact I'm sure,  
No...wait...wait; I'm positive.  
Over half of my friends already have you in their system  
And every 30 seconds you kill another person.  
I wonder, do you miss them?

Why should I, she said?  
After all I caused their death in the second place.  
Furthermore, I am kin to the angel that has fallen from grace.  
So you wouldn't recognize me  
Even if you saw my face.

While I pondered her words and waited for more  
She handed me an envelope.  
On the back she wrote: THE CURE.  
Inside there were no instructions, no chemical formulas;  
All I found was a mirror.  
In it I saw myself larger than I was before.  
About the meaning of it all, I told her I wasn't sure.  
She said you must go now; there is a lot of work you must do  
Because it's not just your friends I am with,  
I am with you too.

As she said this, she slowly disappeared.  
Shocked, I felt myself gasp for air.  
Swiftly, I sat up in my bed  
And when I opened my eyes and looked to my left,  
I saw my wife staring at me  
as if I were dead.  
Honey, are you okay? she screamed.  
And I just shook my head.  
I have something to tell you,  
What is it, she said...