

# IN-JOY

Christian Van Buren

Presented by

*My poetic side* 

## Dedication

*To my wife: In the spirit of our competition which we started today, May 7th, 2023, I look forward to the reconnection of our souls and my White Chocolate Mocha Latte.*

*To my child(ren): You are an artist at work and a work of art. You were created to create. Always protect and embrace your imagination. Always seek the Joy in your day. You have a great big God that loves you. Your Mom and Dad love you very much. We are very proud of who you are.*

## **Acknowledgement**

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Kobe Bryant; thank you for the years of indirect mentorship and the continuation of that mentorship even now. I hope you will continue to light the path with gold and purple bricks as you demand my willingness to continue taking the next step forward.

My Creator: thank you for this life and the beautiful souls in it. Nothing makes sense without you.

## About the author

Christian Van Buren;

A man whose soul wouldn't quit, despite his willingness to do just that. Keep dreaming.

## summary

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## Little Christian

*Little Christian*

Little Christian. I love you.

There is so much that you are going to accomplish during the time that you spend on this planet.

But even in your success, it is important that you hold on to truth. Truth is what will give you the awareness of WHY you are here. You will discover truth during your journey through life.

For now, I need you to know:

-You are an artist at work and a work of art. You were created to create.

-You are perfect just the way you were created and in just the way you stand today.

-There is nothing you cannot do if it is something that you truly want for yourself.

-You are filled with love. Love that you want to spread to the world and love that you willingly receive from those who you encounter along the way.

-Everything that you experience in your life is good as it is a part of the forming and creation process of the person you will become.

-You are worthy of the life that you dream of.

-Your heart, at its core, is an unending reservoir for love, peace and joy that you willingly share with the world around you.

-You are right where you need to be. Always being led by the spirit living within you.

-Your thoughts are plentiful but your mind is pure.

-You have been gifted with an imagination that you use to connect with the unseen world. Embrace it when the tides of life seem to grow in order to calm the sea.

-You were right all along. You have power within you. This power is good for you and everything around you.

-You are a dreamer. This is good. Always believe this.

-Your visions are pure. Continue to walk in their direction, one step at a time. You have time.

-Again, you have time.

-Remember to breathe. In...out...in..out. Let your awareness of the mysterious power of breath be your reminder that nothing exists without God. And God is good.

Go into this day knowing that your story, your journey, is constantly being written with the ink of experience, from one segment to the next. Created in the mind of God, authored by You.

Little Christian. I love you. We love you. You love you.

## Rise Above it

He told me **Rise Above it** youngin'  
Cuz i was in that truck

Fully loaded 9 milli in the passenger  
i'm drunk

Off the vodka or the henny  
Lowkey both be ridin' with me

All i know is that i'm broken  
Aint no joke i'm givin' up

All alone i'm steady chokin'  
Can't believe i'm tearin' up

At the tail end of my rope  
The end is close, i've had enough

Cuz now i've journeyed down the road of no return

i'm burnin' up

i'm drivin' drunk, not even thinkin' bout the risk i'm stirrin' up

(in a whisper "**Rise Above it**")

He told me **Rise Above it** Youngin'  
*Pick Your head up, I ain't done*

*Your story's way too far from over  
Drop the mag down from the gun*

*Wipe Your tears and lace the boots*



*The narrow path has just begun*

*I need You to choose to follow Me  
So I can show You what's to come*

*See I've got plans to take Your pain  
Use it to change what You've become*

*I took the stains You made in vain  
And I replaced them with the Son*

*You've been forgiven  
Now YOU take hold of this life that You've been livin'*

*See I made You in My image  
Since a shorty You've been gifted*

*I've been with You...  
every single time You fell I picked You up*

*I've been with You  
When its scarier than hell, I lift You up*

*You can't see it now  
But joy is around the corner for You Youngin'*

*It was finished when Jesus bore that crown of thorns for You beloved*

*See, I say all that to say  
You ain't alone, I've got You covered*

*Even though its dark today  
I light the road out of that dungeon*

*Pick Your head up, I ain't done with You  
You're chosen and I love it*

*Don't forget, it's never quit*

***Look to Him and Rise Above it.***

## Puzzled

### Puzzled

I am a piece to the puzzle.

Or else, why am I here?

I see puzzle pieces all around me

Fitting into their respective places

Happy to fit in

Aware of their unique shape

Comfortable with each rounded and cornered edge

Some bigger, some smaller

Some wealthy, some not so wealthy

All seem to be clear on the shape of their own puzzle piece and blissfully filling in their specific space in the puzzle

I long to find my place in the puzzle

Desperately searching for the empty space that longs for a puzzle piece like me to fill it

26 years, trying to fill empty spaces I find available

Only to find that my piece doesn't fill the space

No matter which way I turn it

Trying to make sense of it

Should I search for the space?

Does the space come to me?

Am I searching for space in the wrong puzzle?

Oh, I see now.

Before a puzzle piece can fill it's unique and special place in the puzzle,

It must be aware of its own unique and special shape.

I guess the search continues, not to find my space to fill, but to know the shape of my puzzle piece first.

One thing I do know, I have time.

One thing I don't know, is how much I have left.

Will I find it. Will I fill the puzzle?

Or will my unique space go forever unfilled?

## I Dreamed a Dream

### I Dreamed a Dream

Who's that parked across the street??

A man and a young boy I may like to meet?

As I stare through the window of the rainy glass

I can see them in the truck looking somewhat sad

I turn my attention back to my beautiful family

My wife and son, I think we're all so happy

My son is playing, joyful as can be

My wife is moving from room to room, how restless is she

All is well, at least I think it is

I'm failing but we have each other, all to no end

I'm smiling but curious, my head feels weird

The truck across the street, I haven't seen in years

*As I stare subtly, my wife says "hey, come on buddy, lets go outside and play"*

*I turn my attention to my beautiful family*

*Only to notice that their exit leaves the house unusually empty*

*My heart is beating....faster now...faster now...*

*"This is a feeling so deep I've never felt before.."*

*I race outside because lessening the distance between us seems to make the feeling go away little by little*

*But my son is already in the car seat....she's loading the suitcases.....*

As I look in her eyes, confusion clearly overtaking me

She's holding back tears, but it's obvious what's happening

My body goes completely weak, my fingers losing feeling

"It'll be okay, it'll be okay" is all she's repeating.

I plead and plead for her to stay

I'll figure this out for us

But they're in the truck, going away

Somehow I know they must

The river of tears pour out, I'm lost in my emotions

Until I hear a voice from within come out into open

**"Now that I have your attention, let's get back on track with who you were created to be,**

**There is plenty more to life that I have for you to see**

**Please don't stray anymore, successful you will be**

**Your family needs the best of you**

**It was only just a dream"**

## Beautiful, beautiful

**Beautiful, beautiful,**  
yes, you are beautiful

**Beautiful, beautiful,**  
Your calm, amorous presence brings wonders to me

**Beautiful, beautiful**  
Your nurturing touch soothes any and everything

**Beautiful, beautiful**  
How long will you be with me?

**Beautiful, beautiful**  
Naturally swaying through time graciously

**Beautiful, beautiful**  
You give me hope in the unseen

**Beautiful, beautiful**  
Never never leave

**Beautiful, beautiful**  
I'll hold you so tight

**Beautiful, beautiful**  
In you, I have life

## Open the Closed Door

Someone is knocking at the door  
It's loud, getting louder now

I head to the door  
Curiosity leads the way

I look through the window  
There is no one there

Someone keeps knocking at the door  
It's loud, getting louder now

I open the door  
Curiosity leads the way

No one is there  
But I feel someone leave

In comes life  
Out goes fear.



## Uncertain Certainties

"Hey buddy, can you say mountain top?"

I don't know *how*, but **WE** will get there  
Where the visions of our minds become the tangibles of our days

I don't know *when*, but **WE** will get there  
Where time paces itself in accordance with our happiness and joy, moment by moment

I don't know *where*, but **WE** will get there  
Where our journeys are frequent and the locations are eccentric, astonishing, and premeditated

I don't know *what*, but **WE** will get there  
Where our exertion to the cause is deliberate, unforced, and gratifying

I don't know *who*, but **WE** will get there  
Where our close companions are scarce but encompassing love is undeniably copious

"Hey buddy, can you say mountain top?"

I don't know *how*, but I know **WHY**  
And that's why I know **WE** will get there.

**-It was in my lowest moments that I found my mountain top-**

## Bumble, Little Bumble Bee

Sometimes, Sometimes a dream is all you need. Sometimes It's hot under the sun, indeed

Bumble bumble, little bumble bee

When it gets hot  
I'll be your shady tree

Take a look at all these leaves  
You could learn a thing  
or two

Come take a seat  
I'll take a nap with you

No matter who you chose to be  
I'll always clap with you

As long as you stay true to yourself  
And your imagination

When you make it to the top  
Don't look for confirmation

Just pay attention  
Look at the next step before you take it

Slow is smooth and smooth is fast  
You know I'll always say it

Sticks and stones can break the bones  
But my love never lacks

I'll always give you what you need

You smirk, I'll smile back

Like a butterfly

The path you take isn't always safe

But you still blossom like a flower

So it'll be okay

Pick the perfect pinecone

A match made in heaven

I hope it brings you joy

And harmony without a question

Confession

If the dream isn't what it seems

You have to power to decide what it means

Sometimes, Sometimes a dream is all you need

Sometimes It's hot under the sun, indeed

Bumble bumble, little bumble bee

## The Climb

On my way up

Each step more difficult than the last

They say there is light at the end of the tunnel

But the clouds cover the mountain's peak blocking my vision of the end

How much energy do I use?

How much do I save?

If I can't see the end

All the while, I reflect on the journey that led me here

Filled with poor decisions and lack of purpose

Riddled with repeated history of unlearned lessons

Setback after setback, this mountain steepens

Searching for a reason or something to believe in

Demanding answers from the unseen world to keep me going.

Just when I have devised a plan to quit forever

The clouds slowly start to soften, less hazy now.

A voice calls out and says:

Your journey will be a guide for the next

Release control, let go

Your strength alone weakens you

Do not seek the end

Appreciate the climb

Expect a new beginning

Trust.