

Maudlin

am C E
You were born in ninety-nine when I was struggling with my fears
dm F C am
Looking for my voice and words, feeling old before my years
F B dm C
In a web of angst and anger I did not know how to flee,
am C E am
Not allowed to speak my feelings, you were there to speak for me.

am C E
You spoke up when I fell silent, not afraid to lose your mind
dm F C am
since you had already lost it, while I feared what I might find
F B dm C
in the world behind my forehead, where the voices spoke to me
am C E am
and black sparks of lightning sparkled, you were all I could not be.

F C B E
You were free in ways I wasn't, Maudlin, you were real to me,
am G E7 am
I admired you for courage, you were all I dared not be.

You told folks you lived in Oxford, in a psychiatric ward,
called yourself a loon, in short used all the words I'd not afford
for myself, my fears, my feelings, you were you, you were at peace
not afraid to share your sentiment, locked within, but holding keys.

All you took was a computer, access to the internet,
both still new the year I met you, but both not all too hard to get.
You used ICQ and e-mail, had a website, had a voice,
and your poems were an outlet when my head was full of noise.

You were free in ways I wasn't, Maudlin, you were real to me,
I admired you for candour, you were all I dared not be.

I told folks we'd met on Elfwood, then my home away from home,
I set music to your words and, in a way, made them my own.
I regret the lies I told to friends who thought that you were real,
and I dropped you two years later, when I feared the big reveal,

Maudlin

It's been decades since you vanished from the web without a trace,
still you live within my mind, where you'll always have a place.
When I got my diagnosis, learnt to speak up like you could
I found being myself more easy, and today, feel understood.

I am free in ways you weren't, Maudlin, you're a part of me,
but I don't need a persona for to think, and speak, and be
Without you, I'd stayed a locked-in, but you've handed me the key,
You were me, and I was Maudlin, and today, I still am we.