

**"I'm Not Mad at You,
I'm Mad at the Man in the Mirror."**

I forgive you because I have wronged you. Because I love you, because you are the only person to actually stay by my side, through the good and the bad. We are humans, we are built with flaws. So how can I always try to blame you for my mistakes?

If I would've never put you in the situation, then you wouldn't have anything to be forgiving about. I put you in the situation to turn your back on me. And now that decision has been eating you alive with guilt, but you knew I was bad for you, and before that, you stayed no matter what.

It took me a while to actually see that. Guess I was too busy looking down, staring into my reflection in the puddle of my tears that I shed, cursing the man in them. So I shouldn't forgive you but thank you. And be the one asking for forgiveness.

Shaquille D
Ohio

Thank You FOR READING!

Below are some questions to reflect on from this piece. Feel free to also use one as a conversation starter with a fellow reader, or even a loved one on the outside!

Shaquille concludes, "I shouldn't forgive you but thank you. And be the one asking for forgiveness." Have you had similar moments of realization about people in your life – perhaps connected with seeing yourself more clearly, later?

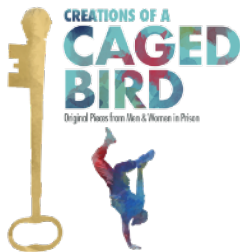
How would you describe such moments?

And who would you like to share this kind of realization with?

We'd love to hear what you thought of the piece, or if you've had any meaningful conversations as a result. Or perhaps you'd like to share an expression of your own (visual art or creative writing). You are always welcome to write to us at Shining Light at P.O. Box 267, Annville, PA 17003.

**Note: We will not be able to provide a response to your letter or receipt of your submission, but know that we value your feedback and contributions and will take them seriously.*

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