

Bluebird

by Charles Bukowski



*there's a bluebird in my heart that
wants to get out
but I'm too tough for him,
I say, stay in there, I'm not going
to let anybody see
you.*

*there's a bluebird in my heart that
wants to get out
but I pour whiskey on him and inhale
cigarette smoke
and the whores and the bartenders
and the grocery clerks
never know that
he's
in there.*

*there's a bluebird in my heart that
wants to get out
but I'm too tough for him,
I say,
stay down, do you want to mess
me up?
you want to screw up the
works?
you want to blow my book sales in
Europe?
there's a bluebird in my heart that
wants to get out
but I'm too clever, I only let him out
at night sometimes
when everybody's asleep.*

*I say, I know that you're there,
so don't be
sad.
then I put him back,
but he's singing a little
in there, I haven't quite let him
die
and we sleep together like
that
with our
secret pact
and it's nice enough to
make a man
weep, but I don't
weep, do
you?*



Name: _____



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Reflect on these questions about the poem and share your thoughts.

1 What does the bluebird symbolize?

2 Why is the bluebird inside the poet?

3 Is there a time in your life when you put on a "tough" exterior?

4 Why do you think people keep their vulnerabilities hidden deep inside?

5 Do men or women more often "bottle things up"? Why?

6 What situations can you name where people might behave like the poet?

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