



**Now,  
I want to  
remember**

Oyindamola

*Now, I Want to Remember*

***NOW,***  
I want to remember

*Now, I Want to Remember*

**Copyright ©2019 Oyindamola Shoola**

All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced, distributed, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, electrostatic, magnetic tape, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior written permission from the Publisher or Author.

For information about permission to reproduce selections from this book, write to [shoolaoyin@yahoo.com](mailto:shoolaoyin@yahoo.com).

**Cover Design:** Morenike Olusanya

*Now, I Want to Remember*

## Other books by Oyindamola Shoola

Heartbeat (2015)  
To Bee a Honey (2018)  
The Silence We Eat (2018)  
But Here You Are (2019)

**Note:** *The Silence We Eat* and *But Here You Are* are available as free downloadable PDF on [www.shoolaoyin.com](http://www.shoolaoyin.com).

*Now, I Want to Remember*



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

*There are many people  
I wrote this book for  
and then,  
there is me,  
and there is you.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

<i>Copyright ©2019 Oyindamola Shoola.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Other books by Oyindamola Shoola .....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Acknowledgement.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Now, I Want to Remember.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Excerpts of To Bee a Honey.....</i>	<i>62</i>
<i>Excerpts of The Silence We Eat .....</i>	<i>68</i>
<i>Excerpt of But Here You Are.....</i>	<i>74</i>
<i>Book Reviews .....</i>	<i>76</i>
<i>PRAISE FOR BUT HERE YOU ARE .....</i>	<i>77</i>
<i>PRAISE FOR TO BEE A HONEY.....</i>	<i>78</i>
<i>PRAISE FOR HEARTBEAT .....</i>	<i>79</i>
<i>PRAISE FOR THE SILENCE WE EAT.....</i>	<i>80</i>
<i>Appreciation of Now I Want to Remember .....</i>	<i>81</i>
<i>Author’s Biography .....</i>	<i>82</i>

*Now, I Want to Remember*

# *Now, I Want to Remember*



*Now, I Want to Remember*

*We first started by agreeing  
that there were no strings attached  
and then we said maybe gifts  
but I couldn't help  
using my strings to parcel it  
and you couldn't help entangling  
it around your fingers,  
loosening it up gently  
to unravel me.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*You are my residential type of love.  
The type that I can comfortably  
hoard myself in.*

*The frame  
I can picture myself in  
and hang on the walls  
of your heart type of love.*

*The music that I can  
entangle my body with  
on a Saturday morning type of love.*

*The rude sun barging through the curtains  
of my façade type of love.*

*The - I see you  
walk around the house  
with your soul naked  
type of love.*

*You are my residential type of love.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Loving you means  
that I'll get to the deepest parts  
of what cause your eyes to sea  
and dare to drown.*

*Loving you means  
that I'll reach the heights of what  
fears your heart  
and dare to jump.*

*Loving you means  
that I'll care to cut through  
all your pains and sorrows  
and wouldn't mind bleeding.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Loving you feels like  
I witnessed God.*

*Loving you is holiness  
- the transparency of myself  
without contaminating fear.*

*Loving you feels like belief  
and the religion of time  
is surrendering and worshipping us.*

*Loving you feels like resurrection  
but this time I am reliving forever.*

*Loving you feels like baptism  
and I am drenched in it.*

*Loving you feels like I know God.  
Loving you feels like I know myself .  
Loving you feels like I witnessed myself.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Loving you is the life  
I'll dare to live for,  
dare to die for  
and yet, long  
to see again in an afterlife.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Like others do,  
we enjoy the blanket of the night,  
arms wrapped around each other  
and the singular moon looks  
like we are one  
and the plural stars  
look like our forever.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Like a dictionary,  
you gave meaning to my love.*

*You bound the words in it  
and cast a spell on what wouldn't abide.*

*I became consonant to your feelings  
and you closed up the spaces  
of my curiosity with your discoveries.*

*Indeed, to be loved by you  
is to be searched,  
to be found,  
and to have meaning.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*You are a pharmacy to my emotions,  
holding prescriptions of love  
that drugs me into living  
moments that I never dreamed of.*

*Drowsing me into a sensitive skin  
to feel even the whisper of the wind  
and purge all the expired feelings  
so that I may be healed.*



*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Like a camera,  
picture me in your heart,  
in your presence,  
in your life,  
in your lifetime,  
and do not lose focus.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

Meet my soul like a joint  
but with your presence  
dislocate my fears  
and break my walls apart.

When the night comes  
and even the late mornings,  
cast yourself around me  
like a body casketing bones  
and run your love through me  
like blood in my veins.

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*You are the kind of love  
that one leaves the 99 for,  
the kind of love,  
which one  
lives for,  
dies for,  
lives to die for,  
and dies to live for.*

*You are the kind of love that desires  
yet, is humble enough to be deserving.*

*You are the kind that is here now  
and till time runs out of us.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

You say that like  
the constancy of the day and night  
through the thick and thins of seasons  
you'll be here.

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*I say that I can survive the distance  
yet, every time you leave,  
with worries, I stretch myself  
like a road to your destination.*

*I say that I can survive your absence  
but every time you leave  
I rot in feeling invisible.*

*I say that I can live without your touch  
but what is feeling without your hands?  
What is life without feelings?  
What is life without you?*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*No matter where you travel  
or go  
I just hope that  
in my own little way  
I'll be home enough  
for you to return to.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*If I were God,  
I would capture time  
and sow it in the roots of a forest  
so that it would be enough  
for you and I to know love.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*If I were God,  
I would seize my breath  
all together because your presence  
makes me run short of breath.*



*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Your presence takes my breath away.*

*I ask God and try to bargain  
with him by saying,  
Even if it means death,  
would the absence of my breath  
make your presence be provided forever?*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*I do not know if I would rather  
be an insomniac  
that stays up late  
to talk with you all night.*

*I do not know  
if it would be better  
to sleep and enjoy  
the dreams  
of memories past  
and hopes of futures  
to be graced.*

*Loving you is certain  
yet it unleashes  
a burden of uncertainties.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

You are a  
palms weaved  
lips chanting  
eyes shut  
type of prayer  
I've been making.

You are a  
peace bringing  
arms stretched  
crucifixion wide  
soul praising  
type of answer  
I have received  
from God.

## *Now, I Want to Remember*

*There is the love  
like a poem  
in my head  
that I refuse to write  
which fades away.*

*There is the love  
like a poem  
that I write,  
I read,  
I read again,  
I re-write,  
I read aloud,  
I share with a friend,  
I take it back to perfect,  
and it still never feels finished.*

*The latter is the type  
of love that we share  
in the hands of God  
- a never ending perfection.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Tonight, like a dentist,  
your tongue flosses out  
the uncertainties from my mouth.*

*Your hands become like a butterfly  
fluttering beautifully and gently  
in my face until my body trusts you  
and the butterflies in my stomach  
become irrelevant.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

You are an ocean  
yet even with having  
the whole of you  
I thirst with desire  
and my passion still burns  
hot and with flames.

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Tonight, as we dance,  
you spin me like a carousel  
under the watch of the sky.*

*This, to you, means more than  
bodies and rhythms.*

*It feels like the heavens  
and the ground are colliding,  
like the sun never leaving  
and dying with age  
just to meet the moon  
in its own time.*

*Tonight, as we dance  
you spin me like a carousel  
under the watch of the sky  
and it feels like  
the universe is moving too.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*I want to love you  
like I'll lose you.  
I want to love you  
like I'll have you forever.*

*I want to pursue you  
like you are a thousand miles away.  
I want to pursue you  
just to reach the depth of your mind.*

*I want to have you  
like you are mine.  
I want to have you  
like I am yours.*



*Now, I Want to Remember*

*You said you like things simple.  
So, I wouldn't ask you to be my laughter,  
or to be my day,  
or to be a well for my ocean.*

*However, you could be  
the tickle to my laughter,  
the dawn to my day,  
or the gentle atmosphere  
that breezes through  
the surface of the ocean I am.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*You disvirgin my consciousness  
with your presence and derange  
the peace of all the low expectations  
that I have settled for  
in a lover.*

*You are the disrupting wind  
to my settled dust,  
you are the stomping rain  
to my dry ground,  
you are the scorching sun  
that comes afterward.*

*Just when I am about to settle for less  
you are here,  
being enough,  
and a lot more being more  
to remind me that I deserve better.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Outside the touch and desires,  
your love is like a soldier  
at war with my wrongdoings in reality  
like when you force me  
to get up and show up  
for myself like I do for other people.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*As we said our vows,  
we swore  
in the firmness of a scoop  
of frozen ice cream  
and its melting in the sun.*

*We promised to live through  
all thins and thicks  
like the youthfulness of a new book  
and the old age of its curled edges,  
or pages falling out,  
or covers ripping apart.*

*You also tell me that  
we have forever to play in the snow  
so that we can survive the storms together.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*The sky bore witness of us  
and the sun melted its way  
through our labyrinth  
of fears, past and hoped-up future.*

*There is none other than you  
whom I would rather experience  
this type of love with.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Some people want it all  
and I want it all as well.*

*You are my all  
and that is all I want.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

To Love you means  
to trust you with my life  
like my life depended on it.

It means letting go  
to set myself free  
into your palms  
to faithfully be  
in the bondage  
of your love.

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*I was auditioning  
for God's love  
when I met you.*

*Act by act  
you broke down my defenses,  
teaching me that God's love  
is unconditional  
in a way that nothing  
I could do or ever be  
can earn it.*

*You are an example  
of God's love in form of grace  
to me.*



*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Undoubtedly, we are like  
mismatched socks  
still fitting into the shoes  
of plans that God  
has destined for us  
to travel this journey  
of life and love.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

You are here  
second by second,  
breath by breath,  
day after day,  
and life after life  
feeling brand new to me.

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*While all others lay  
and wish to wake up  
in each other's arms,  
I want to wake up in your skin.*

*My love has a way of wanting  
more than the obvious.*

*My love digs in deep and buries  
itself in places  
where it can't be washed off easily.*

*My love wanted more  
than having you  
or even living in you.*

*My love became you  
and you became my love.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Loving you always feels  
as good as a beginning  
and as certain  
as the existence  
of an end that  
we do not desire  
yet is inevitable.*

*But in the end,  
we hope to say  
that while it lasted  
we loved, we lived  
and we loved some more.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*I want these moments  
to be jailed in my memories  
and be sentenced into the history  
of my becoming.*

*I want to remember  
what it feels like to lose myself  
to someone who has chosen to find me.*

*I want to remember  
and savor these moments  
even if it ever ends  
but never fully recover  
from loving you.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*I am a souvenir of love  
decorating other people's needs  
with my time and sufficiency.*

*But when the party is over  
and everyone else leaves  
with a piece of me,  
you are here.*

*You tell me that  
it is not what I have to give  
that is a parcel;  
I am the parcel worth having  
and going home with.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Strip my thoughts with your words  
and tickle my fantasy with your time.*

*Let me convulse under the watch  
of your love like thunder in a storm.*

*Bring me together with your kisses  
but allow me to fall apart like words  
in your mouth.*

*Let the heat of this moment  
melt whatever is left in this gray area  
of uncertainty.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Seize me between your palms  
like book sleeves enveloping a bookmark.*

*Collect my words and silence  
from my mouth with your tongue  
like pages receiving a writer's heart.*

*Trace your fingers on my body  
and mark my words  
as you would do  
to a novel with small prints  
not to miss a word,  
or a touch,  
or a moment,  
or a lifetime,  
that it offers.*



*Now, I Want to Remember*

As we make love,  
I call your name  
too loud and too much  
until my tongue suffers dyslexia  
in my mouth and your name  
begins to sound  
like love,  
like God,  
like a revelation,  
like an answered prayer,  
like a future,  
like everything.

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Your eyes has a kind way  
of making love to my sight  
and your ears, my words  
and your hands, my body  
and your presence, my soul  
and your love, my hopes.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*I am honey,  
yet you have a way  
of putting me in your mouth  
to sweet-talk me.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*My honey drips of you  
to the stars at night,  
to my pillows when I squeeze them  
to my chest in your absence,  
in my dreams  
when I long for you,  
and to my friends  
when I can't stop talking about you.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*I want to love you  
as though it would  
shatter my world  
to not do so.*

*I want to know you  
as though my life  
would have no meaning  
without it.*

*I want to be yours  
as though  
to be owned by you  
would be the best way  
to have myself.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*They said I am too crazy about you.*

*So I asked them,  
What is the point of loving at all  
if I can't be crazy about you?*

*They say that I can be crazy  
but not too much.*

*So I tell them,  
if Christ as a model of God's love  
could die for my sins,  
living this much - crazy about you  
is just a fraction of the best way  
I have been taught to love truly.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*I want my love imperfect,  
like a new book with dog ears  
like a summer with rain pouring  
like a belly with warming fat on it.*

*I want my love imperfect  
like who I am  
yet, still loved by God.*

*I want my love imperfect  
and I want to love it that way.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*If this was the last poem  
I'd write to you,  
I would write  
I love you  
I love you  
I love you  
I love you  
I love you  
- a million times more than this  
until my palms ached like death.*



*Now, I Want to Remember*

*If this was the last poem  
I'd write to you,  
I would burn myself into ashes  
and bookmark my remains  
as lines underneath these words.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*If this was the last poem  
I'd write to you,  
I would end with you  
and reincarnate as an afterlife or heaven  
so that you will still end up living with me.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*If this was the last poem  
I'd write to you,  
I would break  
our piggy bank of memories  
and encrypt them into words  
that would live forever.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*If this was the last poem  
I'd write to you,  
maybe I wouldn't write at all.*

*You have become my best poetry.  
I squeezed too many papers  
on rainy days just waiting  
for the muse of your existence.*

*You are the muse I craved for  
and if losing this religion  
means saving you  
I wouldn't write at all.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Excerpts from other books by Oyindamola Shoola*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Excerpts of To Bee a Honey*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*I have tamed myself from  
showing that I love you too much,  
and in that way as well...*

*I hold honey in my mouth,  
ransack it with my tongue,  
rub it against the walls of my teeth,  
but never dare to taste  
let alone to swallow.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

I couldn't sleep,  
I couldn't think straight,  
I kept thinking about you,  
imagining our last kiss,  
your coalition with my teeth,  
my lips pressing against  
every bit of you,  
my tongue savoring  
the "chees-i-ness" of your skin,  
my hands  
holding and receiving you  
like holy water,  
your content filling the throat  
of my soul,  
making me whole  
as you temporarily take  
home in my body...

- *Pizza*



*Now, I Want to Remember*

*I loved him in consistency,  
with or without blemishes,  
in a way that God intended the day  
and night to collide;  
endlessly, in the way  
that the roads plied beneath us,  
excitedly, like the eruption of fireworks  
in friction with the sky,  
in a way that tempted imaginations  
and was beyond comparisons.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

He said that he would make a map  
out of the freckles on my face,  
roads from the stretch marks  
on my waist,  
a fountain  
from the words that I say,  
a forest from my kinky hair,  
and heaven from my mind,  
if only he was close enough.

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*I know that distance  
has made our voices  
short of words,  
and time,  
the choices of our feelings,  
short of touch.*

*In depths and loneliness,  
my arms still dwell in the reach of you,  
that my loose and wearing  
grasp of love has let go.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Excerpts of The Silence We Eat*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*They say beauty lies in  
the eyes of the  
beholder...*

*But you have become  
my eyes, for my life  
wouldn't be beautiful  
without you.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*If I could, I would  
reincarnate into words  
so that space or travel  
will fall short  
of setting us apart.*

*I would be in your heart,  
mind, mouth, thoughts...  
your everything.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

The poetry of  
my love for you,  
roughs against  
my tongue like  
two stones  
in a hunter's palms  
setting moments  
and these words ablaze.

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Tonight, you and I will  
let our bodies return to the night,  
to high like mountain tops  
and rock like a canoe on an ocean  
and stage a deliverance into heavens  
and move the sheets; our skies  
and make it pregnant  
of clouds; our sweat  
and chant affection;  
like church hallelujahs,  
and confess,  
and profess  
and become one, you and I.*



*Now, I Want to Remember*

*I wish I was informed ahead  
that I will fall in love with  
someone who lives  
like a poem without a title.*

*No warning to make me hastily wear  
a façade of perfection,  
in thoughts to be found desirable.*

*You taught me that  
love has a bad habit  
of not scheduling appointments  
when it wants to meet  
with someone that needs it.*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Excerpt of But Here You Are*

## *Now, I Want to Remember*

*This morning,  
before leaving for the church you part me into two,  
somewhere around where we left off last night.*

*...to crossover into a trance of your power  
your fingers hang in places; trying to mark my body.*

*Your mind fills with the river of pleasure  
and your curiosity hangs agape waiting.*

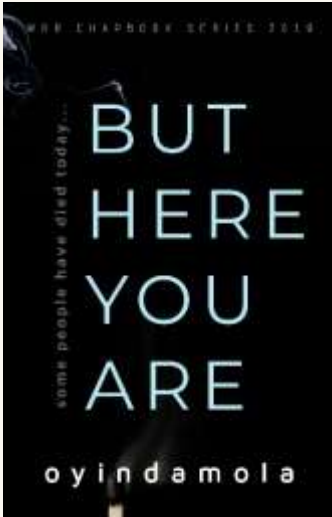
*You pour yourself vulnerably,  
moving your body in different positions  
from the bed to the chair, to the floor  
laying upside down,  
legs up, resting against the wall,  
just yearning, wanting and t(h)rusting with time  
for the end of these pages to come.*

*- Should have titled this: A Romantic Affair with Books*

*Now, I Want to Remember*

## *Book Reviews*

*Now, I Want to Remember*



***PRAISE FOR BUT HERE  
YOU ARE***

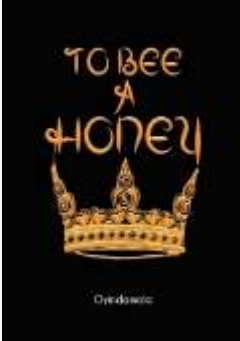
*But Here You Are* is a rainbow of words that voice the perspective of women and explores the issues facing them in our communities as social evolution questions all our belief systems. Oyindamola also questions the role of religion in the midst of it all, especially regarding

*the psychological effects and mental health issues brought upon women by the challenges they face.*

*WRR Publishers*

Download Link: <https://www.wrr.ng/download/but-here-you-are-oyindamola/>

Now, I Want to Remember



## ***PRAISE FOR TO BEE A HONEY***

This collection proves how poetry's scope isn't limited to heart or soul but can interest aesthetics, mind, and critical conscience as well. Yes, you'll find feelings and even doubts, frailties, and pains, inevitable in any honest soul digging. But

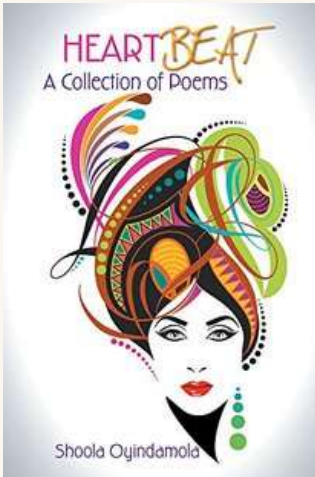
the Author's poetry is imbued with such a deep, lucid, untamable analysis of the mechanisms behind our way to be, whether as individuals or as elements of bonds and society, to provide a challenging and thought-provoking reading experience on many levels.

*Daniele Bergamini*

Author of *Chants for Love*

Purchase Link: <http://www.shoolaoyin.com/to-bee-a-honey>

*Now, I Want to Remember*



***PRAISE FOR  
HEARTBEAT***

In this intriguing debut, Oyin has mirrored the horror and beauty of life. She is one who is not afraid to express her genuine feelings, no matter how unconventional. She has captured the pain, sadness, pleasure, joy, nostalgia, depression and love which fills the common human heart.

*Kanginsola Olorunnisola*

*Author of In My Country We're All Crossdressers*

Purchase Link: <http://www.shoolaoyin.com/heartbeat>



***PRAISE FOR THE SILENCE WE  
EAT***

The Silence We Eat is a poetic-prose that is not subtle in its telling.

Oyindamola Shoola has once again skillfully and effortlessly given a voice to the silent stories of many women; the story of places we have walked and

our body has survived; the trajectory of silence and how it leads us home – finding our voices. She has shown us that often silence is deafening, detaching, choking, empty, and fading but then, it becomes finding, rediscovering, healing and wholeness. Oyindamola Shoola, with this one, has proved she is not about to stop being loud with her writings anytime soon. Overall, The Silence We Eat is a book I wouldn't have had written in any other way. It's a celebration of our body, strength, survival, and growth as women. For me, it says silence is how we learn to become loud and loud is how we become free. Silence is how we transition to becoming.

*Ebukun Gbemisola Ogunyemi (Ibukunwrites)*

Download Link: <https://www.wrr.ng/download/silence-we-eat-oyindamola/>



*Now, I Want to Remember*

***Appreciation of Now I Want to Remember***

Nice and easy read, Oyindamola Shoola takes you on a journey as she navigates her way through love with poems you can't help but relate to!

**Sarah Aluko**

*Author of Firstborn*

Irregular metaphors. Smooth read. Oyindamola's "Now, I want to remember" is the work of a love stung poet. The entire work is an innocent lover's confession. I enjoyed reading this book.

**Adedayo Agarau**

*Author of For Boys Who Went*

Now, I Want to Remember

### *Author's Biography*

*Oyindamola Shoola is a writer, book reviewer, feminist, and blogger. She is also the Co-founder and CEO of Springng Literary Movement, a non-profit organization dedicated to curating, revitalizing, and transforming the New Nigerian Generation in writing and literature. She is the author of Heartbeat, To Bee a Honey, The Silence We Eat and But Here You Are.*

In 2017 and 2018, she was named one of Nigerian Writers Award (NWA) most influential writer under the age of 40.

**Blog:** [www.shoolaoyin.com](http://www.shoolaoyin.com)

**Twitter:** [Oyindashoola](https://twitter.com/Oyindashoola)

**Instagram:** [Oyindamola Shoola](https://www.instagram.com/OyindamolaShoola)

**Facebook:** [Oyindamola Shoola Writing](https://www.facebook.com/OyindamolaShoolaWriting)

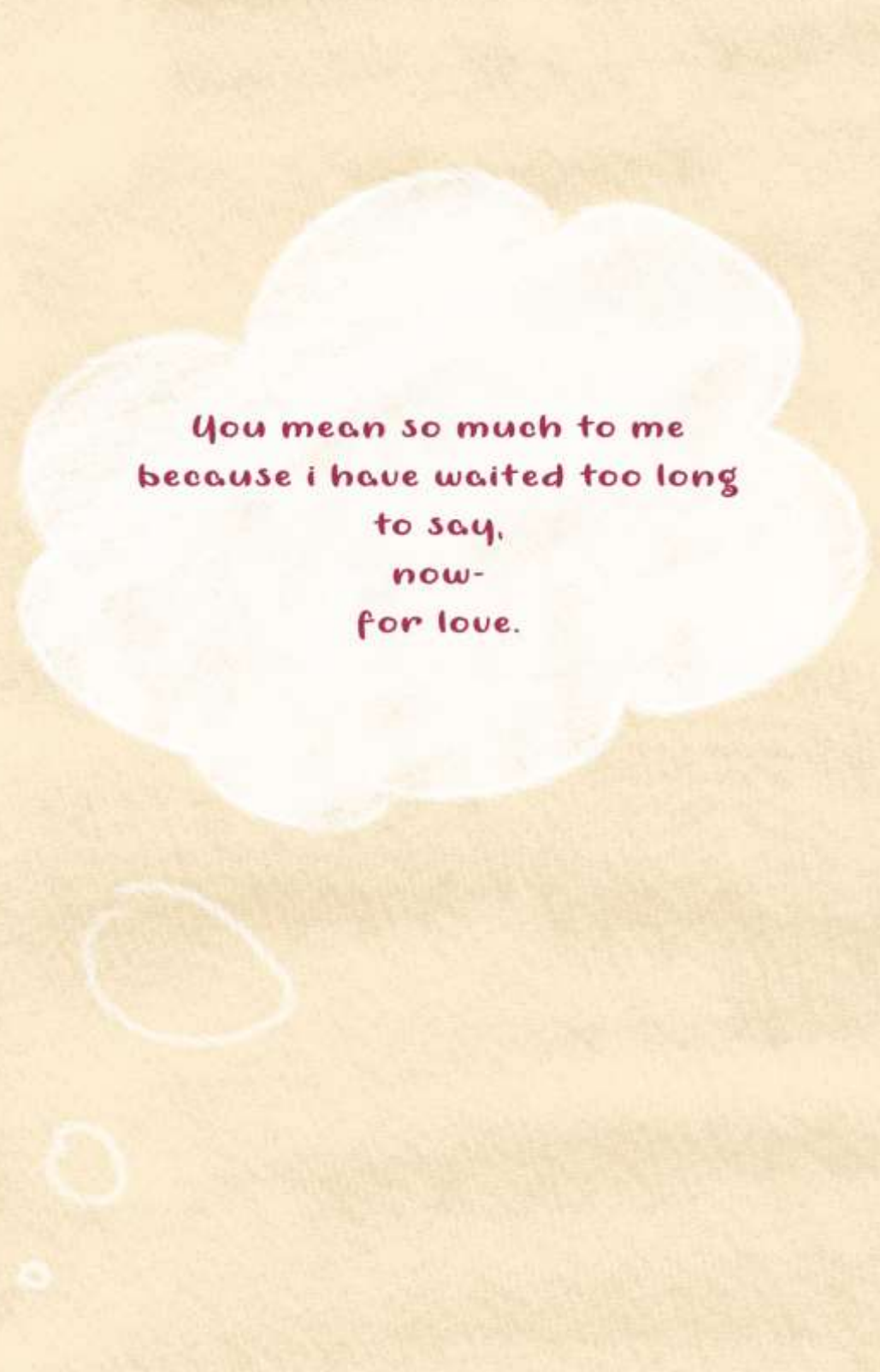
**Email:** [Shoolaoyin@yahoo.com](mailto:Shoolaoyin@yahoo.com)

**LinkedIn:** [Oyindamola Shoola](https://www.linkedin.com/company/OyindamolaShoola)

You can send your feedback of  
Oyindamola's works to  
[shoolaoyin@yahoo.com](mailto:shoolaoyin@yahoo.com)

*Now, I Want to Remember*

*Thanks for coming.*



You mean so much to me  
because i have waited too long  
to say,  
now-  
for love.