

RUTH AND NAOMI

REFLECTIONS ON OUR LIVES

*For mezzo-soprano and contralto,
with piano accompaniment*



by
Vanessa McClintock

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Naomi and Ruth

Reflections on Our Lives

*Dramatic duet between Naomi and Ruth
from the Old Testament of the Holy Bible*

For mezzo-soprano and contralto, with piano

Music and Lyrics by Vanessa McClintock

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[First conceived in the summer of 2024, and to be included with “Mary’s Lullaby,” “Mary, at the Tomb,” “Woman at the Well,” and “Mary & Elisabeth” as part of an ongoing and growing set of themes with and about the Saviour. For mezzo soprano, tenor, and piano.]

Naomi and Ruth is based on the scripture found in the Book of Ruth of the Holy Bible. It is a fictional account of the two women reflecting on their lives as they enter old age. Ruth’s solo, “Entreat me not to leave you,” more directly is derived from that scripture.

To the composer, this is one of the notable examples of how love and bond two individuals and sustain them throughout their lives.

In this rendering, both vocal parts lower voices, as that seems more fitting for women in their living conditions. The lower part is given to Naomi, the elder of the two women.

This is yet another entry into the ongoing series about the Saviour, beginning with *Mary’s Lullaby*—the mother and child; and *Mary, at the Tomb*—Mary Magdalene, two angels, and the resurrected Jesus. In this case, Ruth is a progenitor of Jesus, as given in the account of Matthew in the New Testament.

The text used is adapted from the King James Version and the Holman Christian Standard bibles.

Ruth	Naomi
As do I, my dear Naomi. You have been a mother and a friend these many years. but the beginning of a wondrous life. We shared so many things, the loss of your son... Lives we have lived, and souls enjoined. We lived for our family. My loyalty was born with love: my pure love for you, and for your faith in your God, the God of Israel. He sustained us both. Entreat me not to leave you or turn back from following you. Wherever you go, I will go; I will go. And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people. And your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also. If anything but death parts you and me. The LORD do so to me, and more also, if anything ...but death parts you and me. You were my sister, my friend, my mother. Purpose... and grace. Love brought us together. Our love is a bond that withstands even death, even death.	Oh, Ruth. What a life we've shared together. Often, I remember leaving Moab for Bethlehem. Those were hard times that we shared. That journey was long ...a wondrous life. We shared so many things, the death of your husband. Lives we have lived, and souls enjoined. I lived for you Ruth. We lived for our fam'ly. How faithful you've been, my daughter, I remember your words when you pledged to stay with me. He sustained us both. Your words touched me to my soul. You were my daughter, my friend, my sister. Our love for God bound us together, from grief to redemption, we found purpose, and grace. Love has been our bond. Our love is a bond that withstands even death, even death.

Naomi and Ruth

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Mezzo-Soprano, Contralto, and Piano

Liltingly, with endearment ♩. = 48

Ruth
Mezzo-Soprano

Naomi
Contralto

Liltingly, with endearment ♩. = 48

mp

3

rallentando

a tempo

5

Naomi and Ruth / Vanessa McClintock

N **NAOMI** *mf*

Oh, ____

7

N

____ Ruth. ____ What a life we've shared to - geth - er. ____

10

N

Of - ten, ____ I re - mem - ber leav - ing Mo - ab for Beth - le - hem. ____

12

N

we shared. That jour - ney was long

20

R

-but the be - gin - ning of a won-drous life.

...a won-drous life.

22

R

N

We shared _____ so ma - ny things, the

We shared _____ so ma - ny things, —

24

R

N

loss of your son...

the death of your hus - band.

26

R
Lives we have lived, and souls en - joined. We lived for our fam -

N
Lives we have lived, and souls en - joined. I lived for you Ruth. We lived for our fam' -

28

R
- - i - ly. _____

N
- - - - ly. _____ How

30

N

faith - ful you've been, my daugh - ter, I re - mem - ber your words when you pledged to

32

N

stay with me. —

34

R

My loy - al - ty — was born with love: — my

36

R

pure love for you, and for your faith in your God, the God of

38

rit.

R

Is - ra - el. He sus-tained us

N

He sus-tained us

40

$\text{♩} = 56$

R

both.

N

both.

42

N

Your words

44

rallentando

N

touched me _____ to my soul.

rallentando *p*

46

♩. = 48

R

En - treat _____ me not to

♩. = 48 *mp*

48

R

leave you, or turn back _____ from fol - low - ing

50

R

you. wher -

52



R

ev - er you go, I will go; I _____ will

54



R

go. And wher -

56



R

ev - er you lodge, I will lodge; your peo - ple shall be my

58

R

peo - ple. And your God, my

60

R

God. Where you die,

62

R

I will die, and

64

R

there _____ will I be bur - ied.

66

R

The LORD _____ do so to me, _____

68

R

— and more al - so. If an - y thing but death — parts you and

70

R

me. The

72

R

LORD do so to me, — and more — al - so, — if an - y -

74

R

thing ...but death _____ parts you _____ and

76

R

me.

78

81

N

You've been my daugh - ter, _____ my friend, _____ my sis - ter.

84

R

You are _____ my sis - ter, _____ my friend, _____ my moth - er.

86

88

a tempo

N

Our love for God bound us to -

a tempo

90

R

Pur - pose... and grace.

N

geth - er, from grief to re - demp - tion, we found pur - pose, and grace.

93

96

R Love brought us to - geth - er.

N Love has been our

99

R Our love is a bond

N bond. Our love is a bond

101

R
that with - stands e - ven death. Our

N
that with - stands e - ven death. Our

104

R
love is a bond that with - stands e - ven death. E - ven death.

N
love is a bond that with - stands e - ven death. E - ven death.