



## **I Got Flowers Today**

Dedicated to the women who have endured an abusive intimate partner

I got flowers today!  
It wasn't my birthday or any other special day;  
We had our first argument last night;  
And he said a lot of cruel things that really hurt;  
I know that he is sorry and didn't mean to say the things he said;  
Because he sent me flowers today.

I got flowers today!  
It wasn't our anniversary or any other special day;  
Last night he threw me into a wall and then started choking me;  
It seemed unreal, a nightmare, but you wake up from nightmares;  
And I woke up this morning sore and bruised all over- but I know he is sorry;  
Because he sent me flowers today.

I got flowers today!  
And it wasn't Valentine's Day or any other special day;  
Last night he beat me and threatened to kill me;  
Make-up and long sleeves didn't hide the cuts and bruises this time;  
I couldn't go to work today because I didn't want anyone to know- but I know he's sorry;  
Because he sent me flowers today.

I got flowers today!  
And it wasn't Mother's day or any other special day;  
Last night he beat me again, and it was worse than all the other times;  
If I leave him, what will I do? How will I take care of the kids? What about money?  
I'm afraid of him, but I'm too scared and dependent to leave him. But he must be sorry;  
Because he sent me flowers today.

I got flowers today...  
Today was a special day- it was the day of my funeral;  
Last night he killed me;  
If only I would have gathered the courage and strength to leave him;  
I could have received help from the Women's Shelter, but I didn't ask for their help;  
So I got flowers today...for the last time.

Paulette Kelly