

A Book, Given

selfishly, hurt my family
suicidally, hurt myself
blindly, chose the path
ignorantly, of prison or death

I read, once confined
Bible, for forgiveness
fiction, to burn up time
fantasy, to escape

inevitably, change began
thankfully, my interests grew
literature, for improvement
philosophy, for self-knowledge

Melville, Dumas, Camus
Kierkegaard and Sartre
Voltaire, Nietzsche, Aristotle
Plato, Dante, Cervantes

to change a life forever
unto the hands of a prisoner
a book, given

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(poetry submission for the Prison Book Program)
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