

# Anthology of Lorna

Presented by

*My poetic Side* 



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## All of Us - No Matter How Humble

Consider a flower  
It sits soft and moist  
For a time  
Brilliantly colored,  
New, as if the first of its kind.

And whether you pluck it  
And lovingly place it in water  
Or leave it to stand naturally  
Where it was born

It will give back its assets  
To the earth  
Water to rain clouds  
Color to sunsets.

## Home in My Dreams

I dream of a place  
Where I belong  
Where I don't belong.  
And sometimes  
Stretch out my arms  
To reach for the place  
Where I don't live.

My soul is English  
The flowers in my garden  
Ring with  
The boxwood and daisies  
And glory of  
My love  
For the little island  
Set in the sea  
That's home for me  
In my dreams.

## In the Company of Strangers

You can't get me  
No one can  
I can hide lower  
Than creeping thyme  
Within myself  
I've stashed away  
A million things to think about  
I'm ready for the next winter  
Long before it comes

## Beavers

The beavers are gone  
Perhaps the powers that be  
Crushed their house  
(It's just a pile of loose sticks now)  
Beavers being a nuisance to manmade culverts  
And civilization as we know it  
They block them, the culverts, you see  
In their eagerness to build  
But all I know is that the beavers are gone  
And the rushes blow alone in the wind.



## Birds

I remember when I visited  
You were gone all winter  
In Florida - for work  
And Florida not being my cup of tea  
Surprised me  
It was a long time ago  
You are now old  
Not well  
Sad longings  
I remember the birds  
Such a song they sang  
Like a posy of flowers  
In the air  
You were running around  
Busy  
But you were there  
What will I do  
When the birds sing like that  
Without you being somewhere?

## The Horseshow

Early those mornings, when the sun rose  
We were up with the daybreak and out on the road  
Flying down highways to the roar of the truck  
Animals loaded and stalls were all mucked.

Horses stamped in their boxes, their heads were well tied  
Steam from their nostrils now rose to the skies  
As the roads turned to country, the fields blue and green  
Lay shrouded in mist as we drove down the lanes.

Then, when arriving, the grounds filled with dew  
We unloaded the horses and unpacked the gear  
The saddles and bridles and leathery smells  
Were all propped around us, each one had a place.

Curried and bridled, the horses performed  
With a young man, a horseman, they set off to win  
And around the great hurdles he and they jumped  
Boldness and courage in every great leap

Monumentally brave as they heaved with the effort  
Great strength was required and partnership tested  
The crowds would now cheer or ignore as they chose  
But the horse and young man rode the course for themselves

And no shouts or distractions would enter their heads  
As they focused on hurdling the next set of jumps  
If the timing was perfect, horse and rider in stride  
Then good marks for the last one and on to the next

With most accurate timing and infinite care  
They did cover ground quickly and fly through through the air  
Setting down, turning sharply, leaping forward as one

Regroupng, repeating till the whole course was done.

Now steaming and lathered, horses walked heads bent down  
They were showered and patted and given rubdowns  
The sun slowly sinking, the shadows grown long  
The crickets were chirping, the grass heated brown.

And coffee was downed for the long journey home  
And water for horses now that they had cooled down  
The horses were loaded, the truck was repacked  
The tires were checked and clean shirts on our backs.

The breezes that blew brushed the ribbons from winning  
They hung and they fluttered, like war medals gleaming  
Back through the night we did pull the great load  
Sweet hay in the hay nets, the horses were towed.

Such was the song of a day on the road  
Most don't see the like and we wish that they could.

## What Might Have Been

If I were a younger version of me  
And you the same of you  
Perhaps we'd have met on a rainy street  
I'd have shared an umbrella with you  
And we'd have spent the day  
Arranged that way  
Deciphering all our emotions  
Looking back on those moments  
That never were  
I thank you for your sweet devotion.

## Dancing with the Dead (RK)

How much can wishing  
Make it so  
When dealing with the impossible, I mean  
You are dead and I alive  
Can we still dance?  
You a light and me an object  
With the music something in between?  
It is there enough to move us  
But not enough to catch and hold onto  
Johnny Rivers "Swaying to the Music"  
One more time.

## Silver Bullet (Uma)

My car is not just a car  
It is a Japanese pony  
And together we race the wind  
Hardly mindful of legalities  
At least, in our imaginations

If we were caught and put in jail  
I think I would do well  
Sitting by a window thinking of things  
But my silver pony would forget  
Its metal framework  
And think instead of its  
Bold heart, now chained.

## Goodnight Moon, Goodnight RK

You were very big  
And beside you I felt small  
I liked that  
Your hugs were huge,  
Enveloping  
I liked that.

"Let's look at that old moon"  
You said  
So long ago  
Now you are dead.

Yet  
The moon is still here  
To remind me  
Throwing its yellow light  
On the spot  
Where you would have been.

## The Gents and Me

The way the day really starts  
After waking, washing, eating  
All that stuff

Is at the train station  
Where I park the car facing east  
And watch the gulls  
Soaring on the golden sea  
Of the rising sun  
Garbage pickers all, but gentlemen  
Who wink at me.



## Psychosis

I settle me down  
Just to relax  
But then damn and blast  
There's a hole in my slacks.

My favorite sweater  
Is getting old  
It's hard to stay warm  
Because of the holes.

The mats on the table  
Were lovely and new  
Stains appeared so it's off  
To the garbage with you.

I'm patching and fixing  
All over the place  
I want to be perfect  
It's some kind of race

It's worse with the glasses on  
Awful to witness  
The dust tries to fly  
And it's making me witless

Oh for the day  
When my eyesight is going  
Then it all can take place  
With me never knowing.

## May We Always Fly Free

Delicious, the first movements of the train  
Through the secret back passages  
Of the small town  
Men drinking coffee behind buildings  
Watch us go by  
Before they return to the jail of their day  
Oh to be with us and away!

## Death by Hibachi

It's the rage  
Make a note  
It's very new age

Park the car  
Under stars  
And get the coals lit

Let them smolder  
Watch the stars  
While the embers sit

Rest your head  
Take a breath  
Sleep the best  
You have yet

## Endings

"I did that," I cried, as the horses thundered  
And the riders intense with effort and wind-blown  
Like mad Valkyrie, galloped by  
"I did that," I cried to no one in particular  
No one was there to listen, no one to care  
But wistfully I repeated to the air "I did that"

## The Train Station Wheelchair-bound Philosopher

Who are you  
Man with the smile of one thousand moons  
And voice of thunder subdued  
The thunder that rumbles quietly after the storm  
To settle things down

Who are you  
Philosopher on wheels  
Who loves the things one can see  
Behind the houses, in the woods  
While riding the train

Who are you  
Who seems to know so clearly  
That the important things in life  
Are flashing by in those woods  
And stay waiting for us  
As we leave

## Under the Sturgeon Moon (August)

Under the Sturgeon moon

One hot August night

It was going to rain soon

Had to bring the hay in

Had to bring the hay in

The bailer rode the field

One hot August night

We followed close behind

Had to bring the hay in

Had to bring the hay in

We walked and lifted bales

One hot August night

We worked under the moon

Had to bring the hay in

Had to bring the hay in

Dust settled on our arms then

One hot August night

Soon we counted ten times ten

We got all the hay in

We got all the hay in

Under the Sturgeon moon

## Friends

Brave little cattail  
Growing in a crack  
In the curb by my bench  
By the railroad track

Your fur is catching the morning light  
Your head is bobbing in sheer delight  
You dance and I smile and I dance with you  
We are friends and I'll see you tomorrow

## Hide and Seek

I left me in another room  
Told me that I'd be back soon  
But now I've lost me more or less  
God I'm in an awful mess

If I could think where I was bound  
Perhaps that's where I could be found  
I'll have to try again today  
Before me tries to run away



## Call of the Sitar

Sit still and hear the sitar of the past  
Its honeyed fingers sweetening the brain  
Rousing dusty senses as we dance  
It lit our fire. Now relight our fire!

Bright clothes and dancing in the dark  
And swaying to the Stones and Mama Cass  
The ghostly arms of marijuana smoke  
Reach out to tempt the present to fall back

Stony Now is losing to the past  
Its present day is seen to put to waste  
Our senses and the midnight mysteries  
Of love and madneses that we embraced

The barren Present has not proved itself  
The promises it held did not take place  
Our shriveled senses swell to recognize  
The sitar's call back to the Garden's grace

## Floating

Well, there is no way in the world that all this living and experience and sadness and joy is meaningless, is there, but life seems just a ribbon or a tube floating on a river past the kaleidoscope of life's shrapnel on the banks as we drift by watching it explode into different shapes and sizes and colors and wonder at it all and whether we struggle or not the boat keeps floating by and our head is - so far - above water and whether we struggle or not it's the same so we learn not to and that is much better as we realize with relief that we cannot make or not make most things happen, all we can do is just float or paddle a bit or even thrash but the rhythm is the same no matter what we just keep floating through the good and the bad and it is all good.....

## The Cold Moon (February)

Month of the Cold Moon  
That comes to settle  
That puts its keys  
On the table in the hall  
As soon as the door is opened

It hides even from itself  
It watches from the windows  
Inside and out  
Has its doubts  
We sit and wait it out

## Paint Your Wagon

At one time I had two men  
And I did love them both  
But sadly I had to decide  
Which one did I love most

One held out adventurous times  
The other perfect kisses  
Together they completed all  
My perfect bucket wishes

I could have been there for them both  
Of that I had no doubt  
But men's egos what they are  
It wouldn't have worked out

## Of All the Hearts in All the Towns in All the World

Of all the hearts in all the towns  
You walked into mine  
"We'll always have yesterday"  
As you leave me behind

I'm watching as you disappear  
Out the dark back door  
You wave and say "here's to you kid"  
I cannot ask for more

I'm turning round to face the front  
Since I can't follow you  
Your younger self in front of me  
The old one fades from view

I think that you would like it that  
I'll sometimes stop and pause  
To see you young and strong again  
Holding my hand in yours

## The Horse in the Lilac Bushes

When I was ten it occurred to me  
What the lilac bushes were meant to be  
A stall for my trusty bike (my horse)  
It was just between me and him of course

And so I cleared a lovely spot  
Beneath the branches hung a pot  
For water that my bike could reach  
To quench his thirst when he was hot

Sturmey Archer was his name  
(Printed on the gears it was)  
I tended to him night and day  
I fed him carrots, grass and hay

It wasn't till the winter came  
That parents spoiled this lovely game  
It's not a horse its only iron  
It lives inside not in a barn

So I would bide my time from then  
Till horses (real) became my friends  
There's nothing like a horse you see  
For non-judgmental company

## Damn Why Can't I Forget

Damn why can't I forget  
The way you'd nudge me gently to get me up  
The way we'd be off in your old truck  
Highways rolling and later  
The countryside waiting  
The sun always shining even when raining  
The feeling of safety even in danger

The way it never changed for so long  
Damn why can't I forget  
So on the day I die don't you forget  
To swing by in that old truck  
You've got to pick me up so  
Down the highways we'll roll again  
Home again home again

## The Rain Wants Me

The rain wants me  
He is throwing what sound like pebbles at my window  
He is strumming his fingers loudly on the roof  
And whistles softly for me down the chimney  
He is very much alone  
And wants my company  
And I am responding with a longing  
That has no name



## Sliding Through the Intersection With You

All six horses  
Loaded in the gooseneck  
Driving in the rain

Your intensity  
Tight hands on the steering wheel  
Heading toward the day

Red light coming  
Foot rests on the brake pedal  
Nothing seems to work

Your face showing  
All the possibilities  
How will this play out

Your third arm goes out  
Throwing it in front of me  
Trying to keep me safe

So we slipped on through  
Quietly disaster free  
Protective arm in front of me

## Angels at the Diner

If you are feeling a little bit low  
Home is too lonely  
You've things to work through  
You want to be tended  
But nobody's there  
There's a place for this moment  
A place where they care

The diner is waiting grab a chair to sit on  
She'll come by your table  
And she'll call you "Hon"  
Whether man, woman, child  
She will care the whole time  
You're all of the world to her  
Thinks you're just fine

You'll leave feeling loved  
For just loose change and dimes

## Achtung Spitfire!

Here she comes in that little red dress  
Take evasive action  
Head for the clouds  
Try to feint, dive real low  
She's got control  
Doubt she's someone you'll escape  
Her aim is deadly  
She's an ace  
There's room on her wing  
For another "X"  
Achtung Spitfire!

## Bird in the Cold Against a Warm Stone Wall

Life is a lot of floating around  
If you ask me  
In chilly winds  
Buffeted by  
Cold glares and storms  
From the world of mankind

Thank goodness for a peek  
Of blue skies  
And warmth of sunshine  
Just once in a while  
And the soul riding thermals  
Into people-free clouds

## There is Only Love

Some of us are made to be out in the world  
And some of us.... not  
But then which world?  
The world of silver, all glitter and light  
Always in the sun?

Not for me  
My little world is green  
Sometimes damp with rain  
Has clouds and pink and blue sunsets  
And is a place where all things quiet are possible

Sometimes even love

## No Way to Kiss a Country Man

E.O. you old rascal you  
When I was nineteen  
Jamie took me to see you  
Way up on your mountain

Still mean and still lean  
And though no longer young  
You were sinew and oak  
You were salt of the earth

We sat as you told us  
How it had been  
How you'd fed your family  
When times had been thin

The afternoon passed  
And I reached for your cheek  
To give it a peck  
Till next time we'd meet

That's no way to kiss  
Was all that you said  
And you kissed with such vigor  
I'll never forget!

Such a surprise  
And such nervous laughter  
Jamie stepped in, said shame  
"She could be your daughter!"

But my forever nineteen self  
Has wondered aplenty  
What must you have been like

As a young buck of twenty!

## Too Bad She Died - She Made Lovely Pickles

She could dress a deer  
She could flip a pancake  
Her baking brought tears  
Her meatloaf was heartbreak

She shuffled the kitchen  
She never looked good  
She was just trying to give them  
Some good hearty grub

She grew fine cucumbers  
Out in the garden  
The farmhands remembered her  
Out there quite often

They picked her some flowers  
They never were fickle  
They would give their right arms  
For her and her pickles



## My Red Arrow

My red arrow whistles past the trees  
Fresh from the bow pulled and sprung  
And just for you it aims  
All my good intentions

Soaring through the air  
A safe whoosh as it flies just by  
You may never know it is me  
Who passes so close ruffling your hair

Perhaps you'll feel nothing  
But the spent breath

## Just for You

You should feel pretty every day  
That's what I heard you say  
Sitting in your wheelchair  
While visiting today  
Didn't feel like that at all  
I felt rather askew  
But laughed in answer to your words  
I'll try then Jamie  
Just for you

## Self Torment - Specialite de la Maison

Did I do this  
Did I do that  
When in the cafe  
We both sat

I didn't smile  
I smiled too much  
Looked serious  
Seemed too stuck up

Too anxious  
For your company  
Or too much talking  
About me

I laughed out loud  
Was that too much  
No gravitas  
Perhaps in such

You wish me ill  
You wish me well  
In truth I honestly  
Can't tell

It's easier by far I feel  
To stay at home and cook a meal

## Old Love - No Regrets (RK)

You were so splendid standing in the sun  
Your sailor's peacoat open at the neck  
You stood as if you held a warrior's pose  
But all unconsciously, without conceit

My eyes transformed you into a Hussar  
With coat of blue and ropes of golden braid  
And flashing in the sun a sword of steel  
Hung round your waist to polished boots of black

Why you caught my attention so I cannot say  
Others have tried while I was young and lithe  
But when you called I lost my very will  
I did not think, I simply walked your way

Dreamlike we met for months on end  
And still, those days' reality is dim  
I only knew I could not break the spell  
By putting thoughts to dreamlike actions then

Did I love you, did you love me, I hope  
For some small time and more we did I think  
It was a fragile thing, a lovely dream  
That fills to brim a box of memories

Perhaps the box would have outlived the dream  
Perhaps the dream was just a song of life

## God's Mistake

Man is a vicious little virus  
With a big ego  
Who eats green things  
And spews dark things  
And will keep on keeping on  
Until the bees and birds  
Are gone

## The Last Rail Ticket

I sat in the sun today  
Coated against the cold  
Facing south and the garden I tend  
Sleeping under its bed of snow

And snow melted in patches  
In the boxwood  
Dripping like the small birds  
That hide in their branches

The birds, the sun, the melt, the snow  
The beauty  
Had me asking  
When can I go?

## I'll Read the Clouds

Write me messages  
Won't you?  
To the clouds is where I'll look

Scrawl with the puffs of wind  
You use as your pen  
Shape your initials in the sky

Text me as I walk by looking up  
Code me your advice  
In the form of dotted lines

Wake me with mackerel scales  
And send the weeping rain  
With nimbus

Send me a cumulus of your thoughts  
And a mare's tail  
As a day's goodbye

## Dispatcher - Table Down!

I used to ride horses  
Legs stuck tighter than glue  
I could run like the wind  
And dance the night through

Time catches up  
Now pounding won't do  
Try yoga they said  
It will sooth and renew

So here I am standing  
On my right leg  
With the toes of my left foot  
Hanging over my head

On the back of those toes  
I must now put my focus  
While my leotard top  
Is threatening to choke us

I'm watching the grass grow  
Contemplating my navel  
And all the while "ommmmmming"  
As best as I'm able

I'll never untangle  
I stand like a pretzel  
I'm fated to crash  
And take down a table

I wonder exactly  
How long can I last  
I sweat every minute



Wow this is a blast!

## Aye! That's Us Away!

I set sail last early eve  
Over the bounding main  
And the sea was a sea of sleeping grass  
Seen from my windowpane

At the kitchen window over the sink  
With its one hundred eighty view  
I took the wheel with a firm grip  
And sailed over the grass of blue

We piloted through the piney masts  
Of other ships in sight  
And narrowly avoid rocks  
That threatened our peaceful flight

The night moon hung over Madagascar  
The sea swelled to take us there  
We soared around horns and deadly ice  
And through the Pacific air

Must we come back the ship and I  
To the land of kitchen sinks  
Must we come back to reality  
Where I've only a tenuous link

## The Sailor's Farewell

Hoist the sail, slip the mooring, swiftly sail away  
There's nothing left to do here  
There's nothing left to say  
The seas were smooth, the seas were rough  
The gales blew weak and strong  
But many the days of sunshine  
And many the friendly throng  
The crowd on the bank is shrinking  
As I turn with some remorse  
But the vast horizon looming  
Sets me on another course  
So with a smile and a last wave  
I turn to take the wheel  
I leave my heart behind me  
As I tack into the wind

## Having To Let You Go

I'm learning to say goodbye to you  
The sort of goodbye we say  
To a flower we pass but can't take away  
Or a smile that belongs to someone else  
Or the glint of frost that will not stay  
Or the sun that won't linger past the day  
Or a beautiful moon that goes its way  
Leaving us to walk along  
Hands free and alone

## The Renaissance Lover

Sing us a song that love would choose  
Dance us a dance as love would move  
Play us a lute a soul to woo  
Write us a book of staying true  
Paint us a portrait of love renewed  
Compose us a poem of loving mood  
Fashion a garment of many threads  
Tie us the ribbons twixt hearts and heads

## In Defense of the Realm

I've watched the world parading by  
Through ramparts built around me  
I only let the drawbridge down  
When I am sure of safety

I smile and wave concealed above  
Though wary of your presence  
I would not wish you go away  
But will not grant you access

## Still I Am Walking

You must be afraid to be brave, the old sage said walking  
Then I am a brave warrior said the young man  
For I am very much afraid of battle and yet I fight

You must be afraid to be brave the old sage repeated, walking on  
Then I am very brave to be in love said the young wife  
For I am very much afraid to trust and yet I married

You must be afraid to be brave, the old sage said still walking  
Then I am very brave to be living said the little man  
For I am very much afraid of life

And you old sage, are you brave asked the child, holding his hand  
I am bravest of you all said old sage  
For death is waiting at the corner  
And still I am walking

## Dancing in the Kitchen With the Day

There's a rhythm as the kettle boils  
A chorus in the toaster  
I live alone for good or bad  
So have to make the most of

Most times I can forget the past  
And see the time before me  
It sometimes even looks all right  
Especially in sunlight

And when the dawn creeps cross the floor  
To offer daylight romance  
We set the rhythms to the chords  
And sweep the floor with dances

We cook our breakfast to a waltz  
And scramble eggs to lindys  
Sometimes we get up on our toes  
And pirouette the windows

The Day and me...



## The Worm Moon (March)

Worm trails on the ground  
Signal the Cold Moon's flight  
The earth has softened up a bit  
The Worm Moon rides the night  
We stir  
But fires are still lit  
We sit  
Still waiting by the hearth  
Ears pricked

## The Last Honourable Man

Bless us all our Robert Mueller  
Keeper of our sanity  
Give him all his heart's desires  
Freedom from anxiety  
Keep his hand firm on the wheel  
Deflect the arrows aimed his way  
Help him in his great ordeal  
Hold his banner, save our day

## Phoenix from the Ashes

Where have the sinews and muscles in your arms  
And the ruddy color in your cheeks  
From days outdoors  
Gone

Why are your arms once so strong  
And legs that stood so firm against the world  
Shriveled to the state I see before me  
Now

When did the hands that could craft and gesture  
And the eyes that could see and show your soul  
Weaken and go slow and  
Dim

Would that I could refashion  
Those sinews and muscles and arms and legs, hands and eyes  
Make them whole again to renew  
You

## If They Dare!

Goin' down to the machete store  
They ain't gonna bother me any more  
Let them come at me  
From the jungle night  
My new bought blade  
Packs a lot of might  
If that don't work  
I'll smile real slow  
One way or another  
They're gonna go

## A Touch of Frost

This visiting the past is disturbing  
Because the familiar landscape  
Which seems so much the same  
As before, long ago  
Now shimmers with ghosts  
And hosts insubstantial moments  
Instead of Life

## Too Cold For Anything

Why is March so horribly cold  
The thermometer tells me  
It's warmer than January  
By 20 degrees  
And the bird bath water  
Refuses to freeze  
But the tips of my fingers  
Are chilled to the bone  
And I want to stay home  
The furnace is going full blast  
But I'm past  
Believing the numbers  
They're lying  
It's a conspiracy  
To keep me sitting  
In front of the fire  
Or the last breath of Winter  
Who is feeling bitter  
Since he is dying  
It's terminal  
Only a few weeks to live  
I'll help with that  
In any way I can  
Murder she wrote  
Let's choke  
The seasonal visiting villain

## The Five Senses

Smell the pine in the floorboards  
Polished with wear  
Smell the oiled tablecloth  
And the kerosene in the lamp  
Feel the shift in the old chair  
As you sit and watch the white curtains  
Filter the window light  
Hear the pan sputter  
As the stove heats the butter  
The bacon sizzles  
The toast pops  
The eggs crackle  
Spread the jam  
And taste the ham and its fixings  
Take it in  
So much love in the kitchen

## The Sound of You

Your voice is my heart

Do you understand?

I hear it and it pumps my will to live

I hear it and it speaks, not from without

But channels itself from the inside out



## Aquarius Lost

The stars aligned and heavens fixed a course  
It's madness and its poetry, our happy days of youth  
Of flowers, peace and love united us  
In that short dawning of Aquarius

That dawning had its little day  
And those of us who lived it grew our hair  
And braided beads and daisies round our heads  
And danced in colored coats in muddy parks  
And loved the ones we danced with in the dark

A far cry from the monotone today  
It was a time of freedom for the young  
Youths whose youth is gone  
But not so far as youth of now  
All corporate gagged and bound

Their youth is stolen  
Never to be found

## The Dark That Never Leaves

When cold February came  
She woke on dark mornings  
Overtaken by black thoughts  
And pulses of fear

Then light from a single incandescent bulb brought the day

But looking back into the mist of just waking  
There was a clear prehistoric dawn rising  
And ancestors vulnerable in the dark  
Waiting for the light

## Hanging Rock

If a rock fell on me  
I would die.... quickly  
But bad times are crueler  
Because  
They stifle us  
Slowly

## Measurements of Life

Measured in smiles  
And bread on the table  
And winding our way  
Through trials  
Hopefully with another  
Surveying the miles together  
Seeking safe distances  
Between sunrise and sunsets  
Inches of pain  
But yards of contentment

## Butter Side Down

Oh life is just a ton of laughs  
Despite the dreams that sometimes crash  
The highs and lows  
The in betweens  
Just keep repeating  
And our dreams  
Are filled with many things gone wrong  
And still we try to sing our song  
Despite the hopes that fall to ground  
Like toast that lands  
Butter side down

## Handful of Biscuits

The biscuits before you  
Are all that I brought  
All that might tempt you  
All that you want

I often worry  
Do you know I'm still here  
That you loved me once  
That you held me dear

That together we raced  
Through life's halcyon lights  
And then found the peace of  
The soft summer nights

We had it all then  
And I can still hear  
The echoes of laughter  
Adventures and tears

But time gallops swiftly  
We rode past the sun  
We outraced the wind  
And now your race is done

All that you own  
At this moment in time  
Is that handful of biscuits  
And this heart of mine

## Bah!

Dogbert says "Bah"  
And so do I  
Your self love  
Is bulging its container  
That kind of arrogance  
Belongs alone  
Not trying to squash us  
To the bone  
Categorically I say  
Let's not waste another day  
Hit the road and by the way  
"Bah"

## Andres Segovia and the Night of Torture

At ten years I was made to attend  
A cultural affair  
A new dress was bought  
And for underneath  
A nice stiff petticoat

The hall was small  
Each sound rebounded  
The coughs and squirms  
Were fiercely noted  
By the maestro  
Deathly silence, strict demeanor demanded

And then  
The dreadful petticoat kicked in  
It itched and scratched  
A thousand demons woven in  
Its nylon skin

My parents' glare  
At each twitch and itch  
Sent me a dare  
Don't move if you care  
For life as you know it

Two dreadful hours I survived  
Immobile and it left me traumatized  
A full blown case of PTSD  
Now forever haunted me  
Segovia and I had made a pact  
To hear him only on a CD track



## Demons of Stupidity

Here comes the News  
To interrupt my lovely cup of tea  
To set my teeth on edge  
To set me wondering why  
The politicians thrive  
And stay alive  
When all they do  
Besides perfecting stealing, cheating, telling lies  
Is make us wish  
That they would die  
And let us digest  
The rest  
Of our breakfast

## Butterfly Mornings

As I walked in deep woods  
Off a field  
At John Brown's farm  
When the days were warm  
Feeling very lonely  
A butterfly with yellow wings  
Adopted me  
And crossed my path  
To and fro  
His flirts and dances  
Leading me  
Farther into the trees  
He stayed as I explored  
And found that beauty  
That makes us so forlorn  
To see alone  
He stayed and led the way  
As I turned to leave  
Weaving his waltz  
Until the pine path disappeared  
As a goodbye  
He sprinkled me  
With powder from his wings  
That glistened  
As it formed a ring  
Around my heart  
Now he shows himself in dreams  
When I'm lonely  
So sad the past, it passes  
So sweet the butterfly dreams  
That dance over our losses

## Silence and Me

Silence, my companion, walks with me  
Together we watch spring ferns unfold  
And moss and the green bloom of apple trees  
And smell last autumn's leaves in the spring earth

We step like Indians through the piney place  
No twigs are broken, nothing is disturbed  
The mossy footpath rolls beneath our feet  
And oak leaves brush against our face

Our hearts are full of the expanse of sky  
That sends a wind song to invite a dance  
The tumult of the world rejects us both  
But we can hear the music in the grass

(9/08 - I submitted this to a Prairie Home Companion poetry contest and won it - however they own the poem now - but I've seen it floating around on the internet so I'm hoping they won't put me in a paddy wagon for putting it here with this disclaimer.....)

## Showing Off for the Equinox

Spring - the year's imp  
Delights in peeking from the ground  
And shyly showing us  
Its new garments  
Their purples and yellows and pinks

## Death Blows

You've been dead two months  
I didn't know till now  
Hearing it, I felt a blow  
Right to the middle of me  
And felt like sitting down  
Sitting down and  
Stupidly looking at the floor  
Remembering  
And feeling strangely happy that  
You had hugged me when you did

## There's a Kind of Hush

Shhhhhh.... the ground is sleeping  
Pulling up its cover of snow  
The squirrels are creeping  
The birds are silent  
They do not sing  
While the garden snoozes  
Yet again  
Loses its hope of Spring  
Retreats under blankets  
Winter's last prank  
Good for lovers  
But a tired game  
A little lame  
No laughter  
Till Spring can prove itself  
The Master

## The Lesson No One Teaches

Will someone teach me how to die?  
I want to see it coming and maintain my wits  
Enough to remember sweet smelling mornings  
The sweat of horses, full yellow moons  
Strong arms and love in the grass  
Without being greedy for more

## The Thank You Poem

Not good at saying right out loud  
But in a poem  
Hope it's allowed  
Thanks for a nice place to go  
Thanks for your words  
Just so you know  
I love this site  
It's a bit of a home  
Now that I'm living all alone



## Rita Hayworth - Staying Alive!

She was best in black and white  
Had them swooning through the night  
Sometimes yes and sometimes tease  
Promised all her mysteries  
Time has passed and now she's gone  
Just the screen to sing her song  
She gave them all some great romance  
But brother, could that lady dance!

## Accompanied by Trees

Our escorts to the sky  
Stand in brown splendored bark  
And lead our eyes upward  
To soar the green veils  
Of their lacy leaves  
Enticing us  
To reach to touch  
That canopy of blue  
That sails the heavens over us  
To climb their branches  
Like a ladder  
For a better view

## The Young Soldier

He doesn't boast or swagger  
Or hold a forum on his deeds of yore  
The perfect gentleman of old  
A man of four score he saw the Burma war  
That fetid jungle war beset by enemy  
And damp and heat and cruel artillery  
And young friends died around him  
Far away from all they knew  
But he was young and strong  
And did his bit, expecting no reward  
It's just the way it goes is how it's put  
By fellow of that ilk  
Our Burma hero

## The Cold That Cries

The cold that refuses to leave  
Means more than refusing to leave  
It's about crying for the dying  
It's about the hearts it's missing  
It's not saying it won't try  
To bring back warmth and Summer joy  
But for today it begs a rest  
From merriness

## The Pink Moon (April)

The Pink Moon peeks  
Over the worms now underground  
And phlox carpets out her lovely blooms  
Defiant in a world of yellow daffodils  
She is triumphant  
In the moon's tribute  
To her blush

## When the Pine Fell

The chipped dust of the old pine  
Fell like snow on the roof  
Fell like the tree it had been  
Only tiny, scattered  
Settling like tears  
For the lost beauty of its former self  
Once so mighty  
Then so maimed  
Then slain  
Its years of rings giving themselves up  
To the cycles of wax and wane  
Joy and pain  
Sun and rain

## Music Waiting Under the Snow

Allium I'm waiting  
Salvia you're delaying  
Lilies you're trying  
Hyssop still lying  
Daisies you're lazy  
All of you wake now  
Start growing  
Feed us the music in your souls  
Sing to us as well as show  
The colors that you know  
I'll wait to hear  
I'll wait here

## Winnie and Roo

I love you Winnie said young Roo  
I love you Roo said Winnie  
Let's hop off backwards to our childhood  
Where there was love and laughter  
Let's leave this silly world of woe  
And drag a stick behind us  
Let's find the honey pots of life  
And make a fine new chapter  
Let's sit, drink tea and loll about  
For happy ever after



## Snowdrops in the Morning

Snow drops  
Then stops  
Then Snowdrops grow  
Where they'll pop up  
No one knows  
They're not so very  
Hard to grow  
For you they'll put on  
Quite a show  
Though ice had tried  
To keep them down  
Determined they broke  
Through the ground

## Mary and the Little Snake

Mary had a little snake  
Her parents worried so  
What are we to do with one  
Who picks them up for show  
No cuddly teddy for this child  
But wildlife in her mitts  
Where did she come from  
They both cried  
I think she's lost her wits!

## The Warp and the Weft

The wind shifts in the loom of the sky  
Propelled back and forth the pick flies  
The past present and future  
One warp thread  
One weft thread  
Repeated  
Until we poor weavers have completed the cloth  
There is no unpicking of time  
The finished work stands when we fall  
Our lives defined in woven lines

## The Laughing Dormouse

Isn't life grand  
I'm feeling so fine  
It's rare for me  
To be up at this time  
In fact it's better  
That it's said  
I'm hardly ever  
Out of bed  
But for this flower  
And the view  
I'd probably be  
Asleep now too!

## Beauty of the Soul

The soul is a book  
To be read by the literate  
A pretty cover  
Won't help you discover  
The value of the words  
To be read from it

## The Shade Garden

A little shade

A little glade

Away from South exposure

Variegated leaves brighten

All the darkest corners

The lilies at the ends will bloom

In contrast to their brothers

A happy family indeed

Including this their gardener

## Lamb's Ears in the Garden

Another view I'm waiting for  
The lamb's ears and their silver  
The silver stays through winter days  
And thrills through summer's wonder  
Its soft and furry leaves will spread  
And send blue flowers soaring  
It's cold here now but I can't wait  
For warmer silver mornings

## Much Ado About Anything

Call them what you will  
Grand things are small things  
In the scheme of things  
Call them what you like  
Tears of joy or tears of pain  
All run together in the rain



## Riding Pegasus

You taught me to fly  
To ride the back of a horse  
To leap the earthbound fences  
As we threw our hearts ahead  
And jumped them  
The horses and I flew  
And like a dance in the sky  
Under your care  
We lived in the air

## The Hungry Shadows

As life goes on  
Moves forward  
Shadows grow longer  
And hungrier for attention  
As we step they cling  
Our heels dragging them along  
The baggage of the past  
Weighing them down  
They beseech  
As they pull at our feet  
Calling us to see  
To look back  
Lest the burden of the past they carry  
Should break their grip  
Leaving us with lighter steps  
But now shallow and empty

## The Black Flower

Aren't there days  
When you wake  
And imagine  
The black flower of Death  
Its petals and curls  
Unlike other flowers  
Have the power  
To put us to rest  
Its beautiful blanket of night  
Will cover  
The worst and the best  
With its soothing perfume  
Of rich heath and  
Its mattress of the earth

## The Cremation Playground

No cold earth for mine and me  
Set us free  
We'll ride the winds away  
Swirl our last atoms  
Into the rising day  
Jump the sun beams  
Finally holding hands fast  
Twirl together  
In this new form  
Rather than leave the earth  
We will stay

## Sweetie Baby's Invitation (Death)

Sweetie Baby! At my door  
You're looking good  
Black suits you

Don't kiss too close  
Your nose is cold  
It's not your warmest feature

You've got an invitation  
In your hand  
Which I don't feel like opening

I've hurt your feelings?  
Oh too bad  
You really should have called first

## Yakety Yakety Yakety Yak

Jabber jabber

Why on earth

Do people blather

On so much

It's not as if it tends to matter

So and so did such and such

It keeps them feeling

They're in touch

But really through millenia

Repetition yet again

Ad infinitum to the end

## Observation About a Train Conductor Who is Always in a Bad Mood

Any man who loves yellow chickens  
That lay green eggs  
Can't be  
All bad.....

## Little Tiny White Things

All the flowers of Spring  
All the little white things  
Some grow here and some far  
But wherever they are  
They sing to our hearts in the mornings

Artists may flourish  
And gardeners may nourish  
But they charm as they relish  
The sun and they cherish  
Their freedom

Their little lives short  
They won't come to naught  
Sing their songs and their praise  
As they cover our graves  
When the time comes



## Buy By All Means

Buy another tie  
Or spaghetti for the table  
Or a Jag if you are able  
Buy the flagpole then the flag  
A microwave and things with cables  
Techie stuff galore  
Furniture too big to fit the door  
Another house to put it in  
Live there part time and then  
Live in the other house again  
Working all the time  
To pay for the cruise to unwind  
A pricier funeral is best  
For one who has more than the rest

## The Good Bad Ugly and In Between

Low slung belt

Stomach taut

Muscled slouch

Sexy walk

Guns at the ready

Eyes slit and mean

I've been a gunfighter

In my dreams

## The Great Escape

Sleep presents alternative to fill a void  
When our ideas have dried  
It hungers us once more  
For food we tired of the day before  
It breaks into manageable pieces our lives  
We can put our heads into pillowy sand  
And ride camels of the night to foreign lands  
It undermines the dawns that over face us  
And gives dominion over fears that chase us

## The Ostrich Pose

Too shy to look for comfort's arms  
Too sad to laugh like yesterday  
Too sore from trials of life's alarms  
Too glad for no more company  
But there is still one thing she seeks  
To take her hands and block it out  
It can't get her what she can't see  
Behind the hands she'll have no doubts

## My Sails are Luffing

The sails on my little boat are luffing  
You are the wind that always filled them  
Yours was the compass I looked to  
Yours the direction I steered by

If the wind is dying slowly  
The voyage coming to an end  
Before you go  
Raise the wind again

Fill the sails enough  
To keep my little boat afloat

## The Flower Moon - May

Showers and showers  
And now the flowers  
Sitting in the soft moonlight  
Of the May nights  
Like pearls hung in strands  
Like multi colored sea shells  
Tossing back  
The light into the black

## Road Trip Conclusions

We took a trip to see some land  
Thought that we might buy some  
The price was right  
Our purses small  
And so we set off hopeful

But our hearts sank  
As we drive through  
A landscape flat and empty  
The day was long I composed this song  
As we were driving homeward

We'd rather be home than anywhere  
But  
We'd rather be anywhere  
Than Delaware

## Throw Out the Nets for the Wondrous Heart

If someone thinks  
You've hung the stars  
And made the heavens blue  
That you have shaped  
The rolling hills  
That the moon depends on you  
That the horses run  
To the paddock gate  
Whenever they see you smile  
That the lark in the field  
Sings a higher note  
Because you watch him fly  
That dolphins outrace  
The stately ships  
To show themselves to you  
Why then you have captured  
A wondrous heart  
And a love to hold onto



## The Tears of Lean On Pete

Sitting in the room so dark  
I truly think I lost my heart  
How could a celluloid movie  
Destroy me so, do this to me  
How could a boy of such young years  
Bring an audience to tears  
How could we believe it so  
We've carried it with us as we go  
This sharing of such poignant pain  
The summoned tears  
That still remain

## Cobwebs of the Sun

What light rises over there  
As vibrant as a candle flame  
That with its cobweb rays of gold  
Has caught the virgin day again

## Malarkey Blowing in the Wind

You stop to ask me if he's well  
If everything is dandy  
You're going to visit him as soon  
As Christ walks on the Ganges

And when the rainbows turn to gold  
You'll go and sit beside him  
And in your mind you'll see you there  
Although you never have been

While you remind me you're a friend  
You hope he will forget you  
So of your absences he maybe  
Never will remind you

You speak to me so sincerely  
I almost could believe you  
But I see clearly what you want  
You want me to console you

And with no effort on your part  
You'll think yourself so noble  
But I can see your coward self  
And watch you hide from trouble

Sit and stroke your ego'd self  
And spout your sad malarkey  
You're such a little man at heart  
We certainly don't need you

## Seine Haul Fishing For Life

We set out with our nets  
Our doughty hearts in hand  
And cast them out into the winds  
Not knowing where they'll land

The fishes of life swim round  
We catch them as we're able  
Like silver darts before us  
As we bring them to the table

Some of us are lucky  
We work to make it so  
If rocks come up in our nets  
We toss them  
Let them go

## Simply Shakespeare

His words of love and history  
From whence did they appear  
What muses danced before his eyes  
And whispered in his ear  
An ordinary man and yet  
A master we hold dear

## Oh the Joy of Knowing You

Oh what I would not have done  
If I had not met you  
What would I have known of the stars  
Or learned of staying true  
Of packing trucks for early rise  
And cruising morning miles  
Of holding helium equines  
Like kites on end of lines  
Their muzzles nuzzling our heads  
Your life force without pause  
Your energy beneath my wings  
My dreams holding up yours

## Choosing My Chains When We Met

I'm taking you on  
That's it for me  
A lot of wiggling around  
Till I found  
The right chains for me  
Now what you do or don't do  
It's a together thing  
That road will be rough  
For a footloose fancy free  
Girl like me  
But I'm taking you on

## Elusive Endorphins

If someone can make me feel magic again

Bring it on

But I doubt it

I think it's gone



## Time's River

It's done, the fun  
It's gone the dawn  
The years roll on in monotone

The moon suits me  
Much better now  
I like its contemplative brow

The river no longer breaks free  
But drifts along  
With moon and me

Just acceptance  
As we float  
Together in our little boat

## The Inevitability of 3 A.M.

People die at 3 a.m.  
It's a popular time  
To succumb

People cry at 3 a.m.  
The velvet darkness  
Is a friend

The past's alive at 3 a.m.  
The future clashes  
With it then

The future looms at 3 a.m.  
Its less optimistic  
Than in the sun

Leavings are planned at 3 a.m.  
No stopping time  
Nowhere to run

## Trees in the Breeze of Time

Another new tree I am planting  
Another old one coming down  
If acid rain will leave it be  
It should be here when I am gone

And many years in the hereafter  
Another voice will surely say  
I saw a crack in that old tree  
I think we'll cut it down today

## The Strawberry Moon (June)

Let us taste the Strawberry Moon  
Wrap us in the light of  
The pink dawn-at-night moon  
Let's pretend that June's perfection  
Never ends  
That the strawberries and cream of June  
Will serve to mend  
And to our troubled thoughts  
A peace lend

## Indecisive House Wrens

Your little feathers all flutter  
You bring your wife you chirp and mutter  
You love the wreath that's on my door  
To set up house there you'd adore

While that won't do as clearly seen  
By the mess you make with mossy greens  
I've hung a house for you nearby  
A red one just for you to try

I'm waiting now to see if you  
Are smart enough to move into  
Through curtained windows watch you both  
Contemplating this new birdy house

But so far you are nowhere near  
To setting up a family where  
We'll both be happy with the spot  
Where you will raise your little tots

## Who Put Me Here?

Honestly, did they ask?  
Don't I have rights?  
I was the last  
To be consulted  
I should be insulted  
Set down in perplexity  
It's a mystery to me  
And dangerous  
Things coming at you  
From every direction  
A great deal of deflection  
Needed to survive  
Never mind thrive  
So much reflection needed  
To analyze  
Life's bee hive

## Wanting To Go With You

Who am I now you're disappearing  
Who will I be when you are gone  
Will I be a lone survivor  
Or a song that has been sung  
Searching for the far off portal  
You'll hold open once you're gone  
Will you call me from the ethers  
Will your new voice drift to me  
Will I have to spend long years while  
Searching for you in my dreams

# Coffeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee

Before coffee

Comatose

Life stinks

I think

Best then to drink

Just enough

So I can blink

And think



## Pink Royalty

Peonies' pink petals please  
And nod quite prettily to bees  
And to the lesser plants and trees  
Holding sway over their court  
Of stately greenery

## Second Best

Old maid turkey  
Absurd bird  
You've given up  
On being loved  
You've turned your back  
And left the herd  
They don't want you  
But you don't care  
You stay quite close  
To the feeder where  
The seeds fall most  
Upon the ground  
You've been shunned  
By all the rest  
But found a spot  
That's second best

## The Downs and Pick Yourself Ups of Life

When the blue downs come along  
Like a mean streak bearing down  
Stand up quickly back upon your feet

Like a tiger bare your teeth  
To show them who is boss  
And never ever show them that you're weak

Put steel into your backbone  
There's no loss here but your own  
If you let life knock you to the ground

You may very well be sad  
But it's better to get mad  
And rouse that fighting spirit deep within

## A Honey of a Day

It was a honey of a day  
When you first came her way  
The kind of day that makes the whippoor wills  
The breezes soft and mellow  
And your fingers on her cheek  
The kind of day that makes a girl go weak

She let herself believe  
From that morning to that eve  
That all your pretty words were honeyed wine  
But she could not kid herself  
That those words were from the heart  
Or that time would prove that you would never part

So when next day clouds blew by  
Which you saddled up to ride  
She watched with knowing eyes as off you flew  
And she kept that honeyed day  
In a box with ribbons blue  
As a way of holding onto it and you

## A Flirtatious Understanding with Death

I dreamed I was Titania  
And you were Oberon  
And in our green lace bower  
We would stay both safe and warm

Your arms were strong and constant  
Your eyes were clear and wise  
It never dawned on me that this  
Would change as time went by

That woodbine boughs would weaken  
That nodding violets die  
That musk roses and eglantine  
Would wither on the vine

Our bower now is skeletal  
The dew drops have grown dry  
And death is reaching out to you  
Before my very eyes

But more fool he if he believes  
That this could ever be  
For I will wheedle him until  
He take both you and me

## The Freedom of Wolves

In a cubicle in an office  
In a concrete box  
On a chair that swivels  
Round the cage  
The one window they eye  
Shows the sun  
From noon till one  
Then shadows fall again  
Sometimes they can imagine far off  
The call of the wolf  
Running in the wild under the moon  
His fur smells of snow  
His longitude and latitude  
Define a place  
Where they can never go

## Welcome the Nights

Have you ever looked at someone  
Who says Have a Nice Day  
And thought with quiet irony  
Easy for you to say  
However looked at  
In quite another way  
The best trajectory for daylight hours  
Is for them to go away

## The Buck Moon (July)

The Buck Moon struts his way across the sky  
And plants his feet in the heat  
Of summer clouds  
Lifts his nose to ionic lightening  
Bathes in thunderous rains  
And grazes on the stars



## Charles Trenet - La Mer

When you sing  
You close my eyes  
My soul grows wings  
My heartbeats sigh  
I've left the earth  
To find you where  
We both are sailing  
On La Mer

## Mourn Not

Mourn not for the days of old  
Nor cry for them your tears of gold  
Nor set them jewel-like in a ring  
Nor of them many songs do sing  
But set them free knowing them gone  
For you'll rejoin them ere long

## Delightful Disconnect

I don't want  
To touch the ground  
Or to be shackled  
To things found  
Where hearts can't fly  
And souls do die  
Bereft of air

Don't take me there

Just let me roam  
The fields of time  
The living feast  
Of bells that chime  
Concerts of birds  
Dances of wind  
All merry notes for us to sing

## Alone Together

Eye to eye

Heart to heart

Hand to hand

And yet apart

Alone together

Can't be one

Not meant to be

It can't be done

## What Breezes Bring

As breezes blow and kiss my face  
The whispers that they leave behind envelop me  
The souls of everyone I have known  
Have just blown in the wind  
And sewn a patchwork of love  
Out of the nothingness of air  
I am so glad  
That they are there

## The Surgeon Moon (August)

The lakes reflect the Sturgeon Moon  
As she calls upon her silver water children  
To dance for her  
And so create the ballet  
Of August nights  
Which she stage manages  
And lights for them

## Invisible

I am such a tiny cog  
A little puff of smoke  
That with some wiggles on a page  
Reaches out to folks

I do not mind my being small  
I do not mind at all  
I'd rather be invisible  
Than anything at all

## Girded for Battle

Every morning do I stare  
Into the mirror where  
I artfully arrange my presentation

A curl here a curl there  
As I attitude my hair  
And share with my reflection knowing laughter

Now I look like who I am  
Oh thank goodness I still can  
And with my armor on I'm steeled for battle

As the day wanders on  
You will find me going strong  
Deflecting all life's arrows of destruction



## The Harvest Moon (September)

The old Harvest Moon  
Shines his light  
And rocks on his porch  
With his corncob pipe  
Satisfied as he surveys  
The rolling fields  
And strokes the hair  
Of the golden maize

## 6 am Quandry

Shall we peek out  
From the white pillow clouds of sleep  
To acknowledge the day  
Or stay wrapped in safety  
And avoid the fray?

## I Know You - I Hear You

Hurry back you said  
But I heard  
Hurry back time  
The Past  
Memories

Hurry back you said  
But I felt  
Don't leave me  
So alone  
Without.....

## The Hummingbird's Farewell

The little jewel is rushing  
As she is wont to do  
Among the hyssops  
Still standing in the fading garden  
Kisses for all as she flies  
She eyes the next and next  
So many to say goodbye to  
Before she leaves  
So soon  
Packing her sugar trunks  
For the long lonely flight  
Off and away before the Harvest Moon

## In Reply to Michael's "The Months" (2018 version)

Seasons come and seasons go  
Bringing with them ice and snow  
Slush and mud and wind and hail  
Rain that's falling by the pail  
Microbursts and tornadoes  
Tsunamis and volcanoes  
Landslides, sinkholes, avalanches  
Fallen trees and broken branches  
Stop! I think I see some blue  
I don't know what that is  
Do you?

## Blue Silence

Blue flower in the vase  
Sitting in the silence  
Water is gone  
But still the color carries on  
Speaking to the quiet  
Its blue flower words  
As it fades away  
And leaves the space  
More silent than before

## Doing One's Best

To help you  
I've made your memories mine  
Taken on your pain  
Squeezing sunshine from the rain  
Dancing alone for two  
Making you smile once in a while  
That's what I do  
We'll be all right  
It's worth the road ahead  
To see you through the night

## The Hunter's Moon (October)

Dark branches are his hide  
As he climbs slowly through the night sky  
Breathlessly stalking in shadows  
The elusive stars  
To add to his collection of light  
He'll do no harm  
They'll be released at dawn



## The Beaver Moon (November)

The beavers  
Building their ramparts of sticks  
Against the coming cold  
Work steadily through the night  
Among the moon's silver drops  
That shine  
On their sleek fur, the lake  
And the distant stand of pines

## You Will Search

When you are ether  
And I earth  
You will search  
And shine a beacon for me to follow  
Like a buoy in the night sky  
That tolls a deep voiced bell  
A sure fix of your location  
And a beam of light to connect us  
Point to point  
Though out of sight

## Bring Spring To the World

As your smile evokes a sunbeam  
As your eyes the moonbeams bring  
As your arms hold promises of love  
Let your presence bring the Spring

## Remember When

Scattered photos on the floor  
Or is that me in pieces  
Or is it tears splashing the ground  
Over lessons that life teaches

## Time Unacknowledged

The hail of time fell  
For all to hear it  
But she did not  
Walking along  
As a river flows  
Surging from the runoff  
Of those hails and snows....  
She did not know  
Time passes

## Where I Find You

I reached for the last summer flower  
And you were its center  
I found you this morning  
In the call of an unknown bird  
Scooping water in my hand  
Your face ran through my fingers  
The fire died down  
But the warmth of you still lingers

## Autumn

The elfin Autumn has conspired  
To fashion herself  
As a kaleidoscope  
She hopes  
To dazzle the admiring sun  
To have him with his crystal elegance  
Spin her round  
To facet her colours  
Into a glorious dance

## Time's Bouquet

This new Now is a great big flower  
About as beautiful as it gets  
It's got its place in my golden bower  
And mingled with the Past it sits  
The large bouquet that they both build  
Has its roots in your old heart  
And the days that it will fill  
Take us back to where we start



## Heaven Is All Very Well But.....

What an oddity  
Where have they all gone  
Perchance you know  
Jeffrey Bernard is UnWell  
Unwell indeed  
His condition has escalated to death  
But where has he gone  
Just a simple inquiry  
I seem to ask so many the same  
As I wander through my days  
Asking the air  
Perhaps it's silly  
Kate away with her Calla Lilies  
But where did she go?  
How could they not be here  
I don't want to interact  
But do expect  
Everyone to stay intact  
I don't fathom the Where  
Oh dear  
The question must be too complex  
So few take the trouble to respond to it  
Although perhaps I ask too distractedly  
To command the respect of an answer  
That with half a melancholic mind  
I vaguely still hope to find  
But then if they could answer me  
They would still be

## The Last Night

The soft mud pillowing my head  
Will be my last embrace  
Prone I see the valley and the sun's last light  
My last light  
As my comrades and I  
Prepare to march into  
Our last night

## The Prairie

There is a flat plain  
With wisps of crisp grass  
Yellowed and dry  
Captured in the mass  
Of space and time  
The prairie of the life that was  
With its wagon ruts  
Cut by the wheels of fate and design  
As moments rolled on  
And left it all behind

## The Long Nights Moon - December

The Long Nights Moon holds the hand  
Of the cold darkness  
And they comfort each other  
The one using his light as a beacon  
While they slide across the frozen sky  
Towards the welcome of the far off dawn  
Where, the lantern extinguished,  
They head for home

## The Letter

Folded it lay and white  
Folded tight  
On the white of the cloth  
A hasty read  
Then idly tossed  
No seeds  
Were planted in the heart  
It had flown so far to find  
The wind that had carried it  
With high hopes aloft  
Turned back alone  
And imparted with soft sighs  
As he roamed  
Sad news of a love that died

## Separations

The waves pull in and the waves pull out  
And the sea's hand cups your sturdy boat  
I cannot take to the sea to roam  
So must walk back in the dust alone  
Back on the path that leads to home  
And turning there hear the gulls far cries  
As time and circumstance separates lives  
You have no choice you have to go  
I have no choice life welds it so  
And the sun will set and the sun will rise  
And the clouds change shapes  
And the winds will sigh

## The End

Stop struggling little fish  
Stop struggling  
And I will sit by you  
And stop struggling too  
Together we will explore  
This new state  
Of unambitious fate  
And because we have each other  
We can agree as breath slows  
That Quiet is the friend  
We will invite to join us  
For he too knows  
There is no need for noise ever again

## Words

Words needed so  
Not conjured long ago  
Spoken  
No not too late  
Richer the endearments  
For their long wait  
Earned merits  
Heard earlier  
Would be shallow  
Welcome long awaited friends  
Love more wisely poured  
From a mellowed core



## The Transom Window

Today the blue and white and lacy branches  
Tonight the moon will sport its silver dances  
The pinks of dawns that steal the mornings' show  
The doomsday clouds of storms the winds that blow  
The blazing sunsets burning magnifique  
The autumn leaves falling as ground they seek  
The sun's relentless glare of days too dry  
The sideswept veils of rain that wander by  
The snow that falls like theater's magic curtain  
In this revealing window's view I'm certain  
That I will see your soul after its parting

## Our Best

We cannot hold a person tight enough  
To save them slipping slowly to the dark  
We cannot kiss their eyes and hold their hands enough  
To stop the frightened beating of their heart  
Our minds can only ride the clouds of their distress  
And saddle horses named unhappiness  
The best that we can do for them is ride abreast  
The best that we can do for them is do our best

## Evening of Our Great Content

The slant of the late day sun  
Shadows over the garden walls  
Stripes the creatures foraging  
Their evening nuts and seeds  
Dapples greenery with soft light  
Sets off bursts of twinkle  
As it skims the bird bath  
Kisses us  
Then dances off to join the night

## Rainbows

Rain  
And again rain  
And again more  
But in your room  
You are dry and warm  
Now at last in a safe place  
As if in cotton  
And your mind wanders not  
Nor does it worry  
But settles to the rhythm of the drops  
That kiss the windows  
And you smile at me  
And you smile at it all  
A kind of life  
A kind life  
Where you can't fall  
Where you no longer remember  
The colors of Fall  
But somewhere in your mind  
Rainbows still form

## Red Cushions

Having just freshened the room for summer  
Bright new pillows fewer cluttered pieces  
Pretty  
And silent  
I sit somewhat at peace to see something lovely  
Around me  
If you can't be here  
I will content myself with this  
I will tell myself that nothing is amiss  
That all is well  
That this surely is bliss

## Flowers Musing on Rain

Over attentive lover  
Prince of Spring and life it brings  
Your plenitude far from teasing us  
To put on garments just to please  
Is causing us to glance wistfully  
At our dancing slippers of colorful silk  
In the closet still and until  
The sometimes overwhelming Sun  
Returns to chase you back a while  
All's fair in love and war  
Where less is sometimes more  
Over ardent Rain  
Stay back and let the yellow might  
Coax us up into the light  
Gentle up sweet Rain  
And let us dress in colors once again

## Someone to Watch Over You

I am the gatekeeper  
I do not set the cost  
Or raise the pole  
But stand silent to watch  
As you pass through  
Nudging you towards the direction you must take  
As you go on to something new  
I will remain steadfast  
Till you are safe  
And only then will I take to the path after you  
Waiting for your hand to bid me near  
Listening for the song of what we've done here

## A Time for Everything

What has happened that  
I've turned my back  
Completely on the past  
I'm suddenly free of all of it  
And grieving now at last  
Didn't think I had it in me  
To come alive again  
Your turn to keep me in your heart  
Your turn to be my friend  
Release your hold and let me breath  
The air of sunny Spring  
Wait if you like but be discreet  
Don't hang about the wings  
Don't come back while smiles abound  
To cast the kiss of death  
Make up your bed and think towards  
Your loamy sheets of earth



## The Evening Ball

The evening brought the invisible breezes  
That danced the trees into the night  
Leaves tossed about in a flurry of delight  
While dresses of tuile, jeweled on each panel  
Were held at courtly arms length  
By cavaliers of the dark wind  
We can only assume them to have been  
Black tuxedo'd escorts by us unseen  
Who commanded starlit orchestras to sing  
The elegance of their swaying partners  
Enchanting the watchers  
As the day's light went dim

## Troubles

Are you crying?  
Even though they said  
Everything will be all right  
And for a moment you were soothed  
Now it's night  
And dark  
And you realize the truth  
That at the end of the day  
Troubles don't just go away  
But often stay  
Forcing us to mold lives  
Around these worrisome guests  
Until their wants and needs  
Have been addressed

## The Carousel Ride

And so they put us on the carousel  
How cute we are  
How adorable  
As our little legs run haltingly  
Towards the future  
Round and round  
And some of it is wonderful  
Then the gears seem to stick  
The protective cover erodes  
The rain falls through  
The seats rust  
Our friends fall off  
And there are tears in the horses' eyes

## Where We Still Meet

I thought your dying  
Meant you would be gone  
Why is it then  
That as I wander through the rooms  
I am hearing you  
And you are seeing me  
And we have made a pact  
To touch the same wall  
And feel the heat of each other  
In that touch

## His Old Hat

Memories linger in that old hat  
Which I refuse to wash  
By my pillow it lies at night  
I sometimes hug it  
Sometimes wear it  
Savour the smell of your hair  
And ride again through our life together  
Remembering the green days  
And how you'd take it off when you came home

## Entirely Gone

Things have to be the way they are  
It is what it is  
Your soft tweed jacket  
And hat and old school tie are here  
But the fact is you are not  
I must remember this  
It's not a lot to take in  
That you have died  
I just resist  
And so I will have to apply myself to try  
Not looking for you  
In the next room and the next

## Carolyn

Today she's off to camp under the Western stars  
She'll wake perhaps on mossy bed  
And with the Sun  
Have breakfast with some honey on her bread  
She is a happy soul at peace  
And in her garden some sweet woodruff shines  
Her kitchen smells of spice and tea and flowers  
Her hair hangs down some silver there entwined  
And in cold winter when ice forms  
Both her house and her good heart are warm

## Palette of the Day

Running outdoors to rake gold  
And tidy it in piles  
All yellows today  
The Sun himself, the Master,  
Sketches in the corners  
With his inspired hand  
Adding sometimes a touch of red  
In a garden bed  
While I work



## The Winds on Which We Sail

The Wind and its directions  
Daily shifts our hopes and dreams  
Northerly the winter gales and frost  
Keep us together  
Easterly the morning and its dew  
We have so much to do  
Westerly the gold of evenings  
When we sit beside each other in the glow  
Southerly the gentlest of all  
Is where we'll sail when all is through

## Kites

Blow the wind  
Loft our kite  
Look up and see  
Our hands against the light

Climb the string  
To catch the view  
To bob and weave in  
Gusty skies as falcons do

Hear the music  
As the breeze  
Vibrates the string  
And softly starts to sing

## Wild Company

I've had turkeys in the grass  
And a wild red fox run past  
A bear who's there but I have yet to see

A coyote 'neath my trees  
Indeed a mangy sight to see  
Hugged the brush and slunk away into the night

A white crane who strutted by  
Early here one summer day  
A more magical a sight there's never been

Now a bobcat has appeared  
Somewhere up beyond the field  
With his whiskered little ears he's greeted me

So when I think I'm all alone  
In my cozy little home  
But a little bit forlorn that it's just me

All I have to do is call  
Throw a little food for all  
And one by one I've got some company

## For A While

Always restless  
Always on the move  
One more place to be  
Another road  
Tinted fields flashed by  
Mist mountains ahead  
Unfolding landscapes  
Your hand pulling  
Urging mine along  
Until you found a hill  
I couldn't climb  
A place I couldn't  
Go just yet  
You couldn't stop  
I did my best  
And so, for now,  
You've had to leave me  
Here to rest

## Ode to a Sticky D Key

I have a sticky D key  
On my laptop  
So if I'm missing d's  
It's just a type flop

## Bucket List Senryu

I wanted your love  
So fabulous I got it  
One thing off my list

## Autumn Rain

Autumn rain is best  
Despite the chill  
It sends us indoors  
To look through windows  
And softens the view  
Of watery landscapes  
With soup in our hands  
Or hot chocolate  
We appreciate the dry  
As the wind blows

## The Things They Do

Our tinted iris orbs  
Peer shyly out at others  
From a safe distance  
Their actions are phantasmagorical  
We applaud  
As they twirl their inexplicable dances  
Aren't they wonderful we say  
I wish that I could be like them some day



## Lunch at My House

My salad spinner  
Took off on me today  
Flew across the kitchen  
Smashed into a tray  
Brought dishes down  
As it flew by  
But the lettuce is dry

## The Four Letter Word

Most believe that finding Love  
In the scheme of things  
Is grand

We all want someone to  
Reach out to us and take  
Our hand

But it can be elusive often  
Blowing in the wind  
Like sand

## The Arrows of Time

When young and strong  
The stance of men  
Confident and agile  
They could lift the world  
Wanted you to believe it  
Until it reflected back to them  
From your captured heart  
It was unassailable  
Their assurance  
But left you unprepared  
For when the years rusted the armor  
And the visor parted  
To unmask the vulnerable eyes beneath

## The Sheets and Time

Wednesday .. and I change the sheets  
This marks the passing of a week  
No sooner are the clean sheets taut  
Than yet another week is caught  
Now hear the clock tick frantically  
Time rushes to its metronome  
The sheets take with them all the weeks  
And quickly so our lives are gone

## Staying Alive

Perhaps all the work I did  
The nails I drove  
The garden beds  
I labored in and love  
The paint that cheers the inside light  
Were a foreshadowing  
A Hadrian's Wall  
Defense against the stealthy foe  
A safe place to retreat  
A flight  
Which I thought you'd share  
But you had to leave  
Yet another reason why  
I stay in my house of Peace

## Quarantine Senryu

On this side of the door  
Without access to the store  
Send my pizza in

## Separate Skins

Oh those young eyes  
Watching me  
Searching my words  
For the mysteries  
Of my time before their time  
If I could show them every little moment  
Sing them every song  
One by one  
They could tilt their heads  
And try to comprehend  
They would yearn  
But never ever know

## Days Like This

This is an August day  
The skies are gray  
Rain half heartedly falls  
Not enough to quench the garden  
Above the clouds are stalled  
And hang about  
The grass grows slowly now  
The young birds feed themselves  
Bird seed does not sink so fast  
In hanging feeders  
The parental rush is over  
I caught a mouse in a humane trap  
And let him go  
So he is free  
And so am I  
It's a restful time to be alive



## Shadows

There is a world in darkness of the night  
Most of us are strangers to that land  
Children of the light  
We dare not question shadows  
So slip through green fields and flowers  
Accept the Sun as home  
And when he closes the door  
Pull the curtains tight  
Set flame to the candle  
And wait

## The Course

The course has been plotted  
The horse taken from the barn  
The rider mounted  
The journey begins  
Over sunlit hills  
And down into dark valleys  
Wading through streams of salt tears  
Fallen from love sick hearts  
And broken dreams  
The strain of struggle  
And on the horse and rider plunge  
Whipped by branches  
Side swiped by fate  
Cheered on occasionally by love  
Reaching for trophies  
Triumphant  
Then tired  
Then sore, perhaps lame  
When the horse is stumbling  
The rider unseated  
Ambition melts and fades away  
Quiet of home beckons  
Takes them in  
Enough of the world  
Peace is the last cup they'll win

## Brave (For Laura)

Que te pasa mi pequeno  
What worry is life handing you?  
What can we do?  
We will try to send a word  
To dry your eyes  
Make the darkness fade away  
And hold your hand  
With ink stained hands  
Try to understand  
We cannot save  
But we can cheer you on  
Mi valiente

## Cross Purposes

And so here I sit  
You are gone  
Away to somewhere wonderful  
I like to think  
The selfishness of wishing you back  
To the pain you were in  
Overwhelms me  
I cannot do that  
Perhaps you are afraid  
To wish me there  
Thinking I would miss life  
And so..... cross purposes  
Speaking strictly for myself  
Following you was  
All I ever really wanted to do

## Garden Art

Sun hit the bird feeder  
In such a way  
As to paint a primitive landscape  
Of left light  
And right shadow  
With jeweled birds dancing  
For all the world  
Like summer's last festival

## The Great 20th Annual..... For Charity

Bought a lottery ticket yesterday  
From a nice old man  
The Great Pootatuck Duck Race Raffle  
To benefit various Lions Club charities  
Only \$5  
And did I know  
I could go to my phone  
And scan their thingamajig  
To pay online  
But I said to him  
No thanks  
I'd rather pay to win  
Your chuckle in real time  
And see the laugh lines  
On your face  
For the honor of losing (again)  
The great Pootatuck Duck Race

## Sunday Shivers

Unnerving Sunday  
No stress no worry  
No dark thoughts of the coming Monday  
As used to be when there was school or work  
But foreboding nonetheless  
You can hear time  
Not ticking just passing  
The sofa becomes transport  
Through the quiet  
Something vaguely uncomfortable  
Teases in the air  
But is not shown  
I suppose it's quite normal at that point  
To hunch one's shoulders  
If one is alone

## Ennui

Hazy trailing of one's fingers  
Through hanging boughs  
In Uncle Vanya's garden  
The heat of summer  
Dragging at one's feet  
Supine beneath the willow  
Hand on forehead  
Springing turf to rest on as a pillow  
Ambition lost  
A passive giving in  
To giving up  
Desultory emptying of the cup



## Fury

Thunderous awakening  
On morning's breaking  
By bolt tossing Olympians  
Furious champions in their sky kingdom  
Who like tantrumed children  
Tear gashes in the day's first light  
And rend open heaven's cisterns  
With wanton blows  
Sending rivulets of drops  
And gushes of small rivers running  
To escape the wrath above

## Never No More

Once upon a time  
People could hurt  
Could wither with a look  
Cause duck of head  
And send us crying to our bed  
But that was in a land  
Far far away  
Today I'd know exactly  
What to say

## Lands Sake!

Mother McCree!  
Put the chicken in the coop  
Tie up the old cow  
And get the horses in the barn  
There's gonna be a storm  
It was telt to me  
And while I'm boarding winders ma  
You hunker the kids  
In the cellar  
We can't miss a trick  
Or we'll likely be blown down valley  
Spread all over this here county  
So let's just keep our heads down  
Like we done before  
And sit and wait for what's in store  
We'll be all right you'll see  
Cause that's the kind of hairpins  
That we be

## Old Clock

Tic Toc

That infernal clock

Ticking off minutes

It begs the question

How many till we die?

Like fingers down a blackboard

Change the tune

Toc Tic

Get it over with

How can anything pace so slow

And yet run so fast

It's got stamina I'll give it that

Not that anybody asked

## Worry

My heart  
Worries for you  
Wherever you are  
In the ether I wish  
Warmth  
And not the black cold  
Of the galaxy  
That you are not lonely for me  
As I am for you  
That time stretches hands  
To us both  
Through what is now  
Such an empty space  
That what we were  
Will always be  
Just one more touch  
Would reassure me

## Wanderlust

Oh that you could shatter yourself  
That a thousand pieces of you  
Could scatter to the four winds  
So you'd feel yourself placed everywhere  
Not confined to any one time or space  
Or other boundaries limiting your view  
Arranging yourself thus  
May leave me bereft  
But satisfy your wanderlust

## August Garden

Aging flowers  
In the August garden bowers  
With fading colors  
And wilting strands of green  
Still lift their gallant heads  
To offer themselves  
From their beds  
As sustenance to restless birds  
Who dance over the offered seeds  
Now outnumbering rosy petals  
Wrens singing thanks  
To dying friends

## Too Soon October

Early for that faint October shiver  
That creeps in like mist  
With a haunting twist of mind  
And so  
A slightly leaden heart  
Looking to the rear instead of forward  
Not escaping the clamp of past fears  
The sweat on the brow  
Where are the hands of comfort now  
Momentary panic of alone  
Then tell myself before I go to sleep  
That in the morning shadows will be gone



## Sugar Baby

Sometimes I wish I could drink  
I have enough of Scotland in me  
You'd think it would come naturally  
But no  
Oh I have experienced the thrill  
Of forcing the issue and feeling ill  
Or sipping a tall one then gripping the wall  
As the world around me was blissfully high  
But it's just as well I must admit  
That I won't be drinking my calories  
I'll put them aside for another treat  
Like something decadently sweet

## Unattainable

You may cry to the moon  
Let tears run  
And entreaties scream in the air  
Tear your hair  
Despair as you have never done  
And cannot do again  
But there are certain things or people  
That you may not have  
For each it is a different loss  
A different pain of heart  
In spite of what you have acquired  
A wound forever picked at  
Never healed  
Always on your mind  
That one thing that you lack

## When It's Time to Run

Two years ago today  
You left for Death  
And I say  
Happy Death Day  
Regardless I am left alone  
But you have found our new home  
Where horses nicker in the fields  
You tend them  
While you wait  
As wait we must  
Till this foolish life of flesh  
Moves on to dust  
Watch for me!  
Have a horse saddled for me!

## Fire and Wood

The fire is lit  
Flame kisses wood  
And the two in their embrace  
Send love into the room  
Where warmth will soon  
Undulate in shameless fashion  
They travel timeless distances  
From palaces of Caesar  
And Nubian huts  
From prairie homes  
And sailors' berths at sea  
Marc Antony and Cleopatra  
Wooed their heat  
In coolness of Alexandrian night  
And watched the dancing flames and wood  
By competitive moonlight

## Beginning

If the mountains are where  
You want to call home  
Don't go there alone  
I'll come in spirit and watch from afar  
As your roots grow in the woods  
While vistas of air and clouds  
Surround you  
Fox, bear and eagles will share  
And take you in  
I will guard your dreams  
As if they were my own  
Because we are  
Both kith and kin

## The Harbour

There are no carpets on the floor  
So if a fork falls  
There is a formidable noise  
I guess that doesn't matter  
For a little Monday meal  
Just the two of us....  
On a Friday night  
Full to the brim with people  
There must be quite a din  
If one likes that kind of thing  
For now let's just slip  
To the table at the back  
Where barely a soul passes by  
And in our harbour  
Be two much traveled ships  
That in that harbour's darkness hide

## Love

Going about your life my dear  
Isn't it the carpet your feet  
Want most to tread  
Isn't it what we fear we will miss most  
When we are dead  
Become bereft over when its music stops  
Or climb triumphant to its mountain tops  
So for now let's dance on its soft causeway  
Bask in its warmth like moths  
And let it work its magic on our dreary day

## Witchcraft

Sometimes I wonder  
Does poetry take us on voyages  
Where otherwise we might not venture  
Do you feel pain when images written in rhyme  
Call for crying  
Do you surprisedly dance  
The Red Shoes of words tugging pulling relentlessly  
Over gaiety that poets choose  
Leaden despair, heart moving messages  
Laments in the air over a love that palls  
The wishes of the unloved followed by verbal hugging  
Hope for a future  
Hope gone for any future at all



## Moccasins

Gliding through life quietly  
Like moccasins in the forest  
One drop of water  
In a cloudful of rain  
One shining drop  
On the edge of a leaf  
For just a moment's breath  
Then into the foreverness  
Of that last descent

## Frost

Beneath our shoes  
As we walk across the grass  
Another day  
Early morning calling  
The rising of the frozen dew  
As the sun lifts it gently back into the air  
We humbly urge the sun to also  
Lift it from our hearts  
For it has settled there

## The Red Tree

Luminous in the early sun  
Your colors  
Embodying the points of his soul  
From notes of deep despair  
Lighter shades of laughter  
Sometimes deep red anger  
Or shimmers of translucent tenderness  
All of him  
Hanging in your branches  
Like ornaments  
One by one falling away  
These cold nights speeding their journey  
Soon to be gone  
As he had to be just two years ago  
But it seems ever so long

## Green

Around  
And woven throughout  
Runs the green ribbon  
Of early Spring  
Of new leaves  
Of daisy chains on downy brows of youth  
And in those days  
Of enough green  
To tie together young hearts  
And hopeful hands  
With verdant tendrils  
Looking down we cry in pain  
As they turn brown

## Blue Eyes

I remember the blue  
Turning my way  
It's not that there was anything  
Particular to say  
A gaze with a hook  
That reeled me in  
And a lasso round my heart  
The hook remains  
My heart still constricted  
By the loss of you

## On My Mind

Inseparable from myself  
Your no longer face  
Punctuates everything  
Passing as thought these days  
Your wings slipstream consciousness  
Escape the feral world  
Race the wind  
Take me to a better place

## Holiday

When rooms are small  
Too warm  
Packed with wine and holiday good cheer  
Family shuffles cheek to jowl  
Like horses at the gate  
Which when opened  
Spurs them to the course  
Jockeying for position  
Loudest voices prevail  
Above overwhelming din  
The food eaten in excess  
Declared success  
Wine exuberantly downed  
While one or two of us  
Discretely eye the door  
Take to the inside lane  
Planning escape in our cloaks  
Of insubstantialness  
Hoping to flee  
Before the coffee pours

## Was It You?

Fingers curled around my hand last night  
No one was there of course  
But it was real and felt just right  
I wonder if my visitor will come again  
To let me know  
Exactly who it was that offered comfort so



## Ho Ho Oh No

Shall I put the Xmas tree up?  
Think I'll wait another week  
Looking at it for a month  
Might make my Xmas spirit sink  
All those golden balls and tinsel  
Will soon lackluster become  
Ho ho hoing way too early  
Makes me weary and then some  
Xmas songs I'll want to hear them  
On the eve of Xmas day  
Lest the notes get very dreary  
And so merrily I'll wish them  
Get ye hence and get ye gone

## First Snow

White dance  
Of frozen dew  
Risen from summer halcyon mornings  
Now sifting through gray skies  
Melting in eyes as they look up  
As ever before  
Sweet tasting  
But still the wonderment

## No Home

If I sit with you on concrete  
Warm myself with blasts of precious heat  
Rising from unyielding subway grills  
Put newspapers round my chest  
And on the ground of cardboard home  
Eat half sandwiches of strangers  
Pull my hat low over my eyes  
To hide the ever present shame  
That takes on a persona all its own  
If I add to this my overflowing tears  
To those you no longer think to weep  
Would that take away my guilt and anger  
Could understanding ever help me sleep

## Leadene Heart

I smile  
Oh yeah do all the right things  
To keep darkness under wraps  
While hours of the day tick by  
So as not to off put  
Don't ask to know me too well  
It will disappoint  
Laugh and they'll laugh with you don't you know  
Etcetera ad nauseam  
Ah well I ask  
What's the harm in that

## Notes

You tolerated when I sang  
Even smiled  
I couldn't sing a note really  
So I dance around the house now  
I do that pretty well  
More my thing  
But since you're gone  
If I'm not crying I am singing  
My badly fluted notes take off  
Involuntarily skyward to you  
Maybe the journey will round them out  
Take off those rough edges  
And play for you like the harp symphony  
They're trying to be

## Dark

Winter's white  
Belies the fact  
That it is Dark's season  
That he is master  
That he has no mercy  
For the light  
But encourages shadows  
As we shrink into ourselves  
He is a foretaste of death  
Some of the cold to come  
That Spring will not follow

## Smothered

And that is one reason why  
People have to leave  
Gaia is heaving  
Trying to breath away  
The weight of us  
Buried in the rubble  
We are not vegetable  
Or mineral  
Just a sci fi phenomenon  
Warned about  
On old TV  
Just rubbish really

## The Trade

Take it all away  
It's a bargain  
All this stuff around me can go  
If you'd just show yourself again  
We managed with so little  
In the beginning  
Surely we can do so  
At the end  
Amongst the stars  
We could spend each other  
Like valuable commodities instead



## Red

Seething anger

Volcanic fires

Stars exploding

Hot sparks in the dark of night

Dresses colored to incite

Passions inflamed

Arteries pulsing

Red rivers of Life

## Green

Verdant valleys  
The hue of home  
Shamrocks  
Eyes peering  
Beneath auburn hair  
Bewitching twilight  
In the glades  
Soft moss in the shade  
Arwen's gown  
Trailing through the ferns

## Yellow

Festoons

Delights

Begs carefree dances

Dresses the day

Demands smiles

Tickles eyelids

Drives shadows away

Adorns tresses

Of Nordic children

Retreats at sun's flight

Remains as pinpricks

In the black night

## Blue

Not always sad  
Often mellow  
Familiar as the sky  
Or winsome eyes  
Hair ribbons and oceans  
Forget-me-nots, harvest bells  
Choose their colors so  
Dress their days  
Said to be true  
Its language is deep  
The evening glows with it

## Purple

Meet me over grapes in a glass  
At a bistro set in a periwinkle sidewalk  
Under a lavender twilight  
Where heliotropes scent the air  
We'll watch people pass  
Put violets in our hair  
Hold hands across the table  
And hum Deep Purple in our hearts

## Brown

Tweeds and leather boots ramble  
Under late autumn skies  
Where dark bark of trees  
Are etched in snow dust  
And windfallen nuts  
Are strewn over brown landscape  
Cold winds follow  
Trailing back to wooden cabin warmth  
A log fire  
And tea in a pottery mug

## The Colors of Christmas

Bedeck with green  
And the berries of December red  
Over our heads white mistletoe  
To reinforce the seasonal message of love  
But add the brown of gravy  
Over the cream of mashed potatoes please  
And yes  
Honey of the roasted onions  
The yellow of the golden butter over the peas  
Now let's hold hands around the festive table  
Share the pink, brown, caramel, honey, black  
Of our entwined flesh  
Warm each other with a smile  
And feel our little gathering most blessed

## The Glow

I sit  
And as I sit  
The years roll backwards  
To dew on the grass  
And green  
And flights of birds  
And you  
Night is black as pitch  
As I sit  
Except for the glow you left me  
Such a gift to lantern  
What is left of my journey



## Home

Sweep the skies of gulls  
To free their enormity  
And gently encourage clouds  
To thin themselves in the vast blue  
All to good purpose  
To scan our sights  
Over our future ephemeral home  
Where anxieties have tired themselves  
Into non existence  
And Love as sustenance  
Will be our sweetmeats

## Resignation

I think there's a dusty road ahead mate  
Though far be it for me to predict bad tidings  
Never mind  
Mind over matter  
Let's push on  
Face the music  
When the wind kicks dust in our face  
Maybe we'll slow down  
Have to cross that bridge regardless  
And all that  
My hat is firmly on my head  
I'm guessing there's a full stop coming down the road  
But some peace of mind  
In not knowing the worst

## Awful Imperfections

People

All swift and sly

To point out flaws with a giggle

Like polyester

To put slip into insults

To better slide them deep

To hurt the heart

We pretend we didn't hear

But oh, we did, we did

## On My Way

Alone and in silence I speak to you  
And without a sound  
From afar you answer  
There are no ties here  
No connections pleading stay  
And I, half in another realm  
Avidly study maps for the journey  
Home

## Last Dance

Early Autumn bees  
Showing their appreciation  
Pollinating still for honey  
Away in a far off hive  
Flower dancing  
Sending a soft vibration  
Into crisp air  
The only sound now  
But for the rustle of dying leaves

## Spring Ascending

Such a hush  
The sun streaming  
Early Spring  
Quiet underground awakenings  
And flurries of feathers  
Awareness of old repetitious activities  
That are yearly new  
Never tiresome  
Raises a collective sigh

## Libra Distressed

Man you really rocked my scales  
When you died  
The blasts of wind  
That blew over your passing  
Teetered the fortress of the past  
Like a microburst storm  
Mortar rearranged itself  
And windows flew  
All I could do  
Was put my head in my hands  
Watch the destruction  
Wait it out  
Some of the damage  
I fear  
Will be permanent

## Plans

Let's drift towards tomorrow  
Try to shape it to our will  
Hope fate allows  
Our little fantasies and foibles  
To flourish  
While Time sits in our palm  
Like a heart  
Throbbing and trembling itself  
To death



## Speed

Slow till the quiet road  
Then manual shift  
Love of my life old car  
Moves into the wind  
Roaring in the opposite direction  
Forward in time  
Unfettered  
Thrumming the engine  
Like an Abba song

## Longing

Hungry longing  
Following through life  
Compelled to fill an emptiness  
Longing that's one step short of tears  
With fearful walls that silence builds  
And battles we can't seem to overcome  
Ah the hopefulness of journey  
Where the only prize worth winning  
Is a love

## Knowing

Never claimed to understand  
People or the lay of land  
Didn't know myself at all  
Couldn't sort out short or tall  
Stumbled over left and right  
Why the sun was gone at night  
But no doubts at all I knew  
When we met that I loved you

## Secret

We hide  
Under layers of survival  
And dangers above  
Safe in beds of denial  
Under threats  
That chafe and callous us enough  
To deflect when the rains come

## Morning Moon

Breathless

Take in the beauty of the sleepy moon

Night's labors ended

Nightgowned in the flush of dawn

Sliding beneath the sheets of satin skies

## Timeless

Birthday unknown

How old are you?

You can still reach for the morning sun

And woo the shameless moon

Laugh at birds' flight

Love the sea

See joy in green hills

A sip of wine

A dance

Perhaps no age at all

Neither old nor young

Just a ribbon