

1. Why is a Vacation so Alluring?

Oh! The pleasure in leisure!
The gift in a new twist
The joy of footing the bill,
Especially when you can't afford it,

Oh! The freedom in catching the next flight!
A night out, on the town
The weekend away, in the country
The peace one finds on retreat

The yearning to see a dear friend, again
Or sit at someone else's table
The comfort of taking the train
Or visiting a horse at the stable,

What is it about changing the pattern?
Why, if we love routine
do we crave change?
How is it that changes make us crazy
and happy all the same?

Why do we wish to break with tradition
When we strive everyday to preserve it?

Chaos enrages us
Discovery engages us
Yet an airplane presages us
As we judge a foreigner: outrageous!

Still, how freeing to be in a different place
Finding myself in a stranger's face
Memories of old feelings in a new space
Tasting exotic flavors on strange little plates!

Give me a condo at the beach
The quiet cathedral off a busy street
A ride in the convertible through air so sweet
The mysterious person one chances to meet

A voyage to nowhere
I'd take any day
Closing my eyes, I'm already astray
My heart fills the void; it's in play.

2. One True Love

In the beginning, we read by candlelight
In the darkness, we sailed by the stars of night
In the cold, we slept side by side
In the heat, we moved slow, in tones soft and quiet,

Electric light gave us more working hours
The automobile gave us more roads to travel
The AC made our front porch obsolete
Central Heating bills put more people out on the street,

Can't go back to that place
Cannot pin leaves onto trees; that's Emptiness,
Can never again touch his face
Can't place eggs back in the nest; that's Loneliness,

I'll never hear my name, spoken in your voice
I can't call you, like the phone I'd lost,
News of you comes from the internet;
That's Sadness,

In the end, we don't get to choose
I'd prefer cigarettes to booze
Empty, alone, sad and blue
Toss in ill and infirmed, too,

I'll take all of the above,
In place of the loss of one, true love.

3. The Death of Mother

Lord, had you a worldly ear to hear
Now, when winter's breath draws near
And, you take her from me, as you gave
May she be joyous and we be brave.

A gift of her,
Life
Full breathed
The breadth, the scope of a life well-lived,

To share her knowledge in the maternal sense
Generous with things natural
Enchanted with other people
Dynamic though enigmatic

Simple gifts, but I beseech
If these be so, or just memories speech

There is this one truth:
She gave me life

Courage in that one, unholy night
Courage chasing fear to flight
While I fought motherhood,
Maybe now I'll try; maybe now I should.

4. Did I Miss Anything?

Cast your nets at night
Moonlight shatters the water
A glimmer on a ripple of white
Glittering sheen of something

How strange to be strangers
After such a friendship
Chasing shadows
That meant so much

Stretch your legs: no room on this flight
Search seats for a glimpse, a hint of him
So dim are the lights,
Squint as I might; he is unseen.

How lonely to be alone
Spot of white on a bald spot,
Lips look like slits, lit from above
Sanctifying softly,
Strangers on this voyage

Steer home from the airport at twilight
Headlights hesitate, waiting for my revelry
To be punctuated by a memory
Dinner for two? dinner with you?

How lost it feels to lose you
Stare into the abyss of
Night as it approaches
Eternity awaits us, My Love.

5. A Worry

Lie alone at night
Counting your distresses
Anxious moments,
Weather too hot to be in bed.

Or arise, unshackle
Fear in a shower of warm water
Wash away anxiety,
Dry the healing tears.

Walk out into the midnight
Barefoot in wet grass,
Cold and silent as the moon
Swoon from the scent of lilac.

Lie back into a fluffed-up pillow
Stretch your shoulders wide
Puff out your chest and
Yawn in exasperation.

Put the Pity Party lights out
Claim who you are, what you know
So, what do I know?
That what you reap is what you sow.

Snow is pure and pretty and white
Dark is the long and lonely night
Worrying if where you are is right
wears you out at night.

Without you, I'm afraid to turn out the light.