

## Melody

A few strings get plucked  
And a voice rolls over  
I know this tune too well  
Even when I'm sober

Woe catches old thoughts  
Reels 'em into light  
The feeling surrounds me  
Bitter and contrite

Stay my hand, keep it still  
Don't scare away sorrow  
I need it to cleanse  
Let my tension follow

How could I forget it  
Even dreams know who  
It's nothing you can hear  
The song, darling, it's you

## The Invitation

Come away my young friend

Crest the hill near the bend

Moonshine lights your path

Find somewhere to store wrath

The ecstasy; free air

Among us it's all fair

They tell you your heart's bright

But I've seen under the light

There's no need for eyes wet

For the night is young yet

## Choices

I know these faces  
Familiar. Memories and emotions  
Shape their cheeks

What happened?  
It seemed just a year ago  
That we all  
Were so sick of home

And now we miss it  
And each other  
We make memories  
But they aren't  
Commonplace

I think I wasted  
A few years  
Looking for friends in a bottle  
Instead of in  
My life.  
I hope they don't forget me

## Passenger

Hand in hand we board the vessel  
All our money gone; future spent  
Full sails, the wind at our backs  
The lightness of being while carried

The journey slows, days merging  
Souls aboard grow restless and pent  
The wood groans against the sea  
Sincere effort clings to safety

I wish I'd told you, 'fore the launch  
Sails torn and the hull is rent  
We've been going in circles  
Secrecy leads to mutiny

Thunder roars o'er the horizon  
Lightning cracks and the frame is bent  
Roiling waves consume us  
Watery void knows no quarter

Now I cling onto a fragment  
No inkling of where my home went  
The splintered edges tender  
I can't help but gather them up

## Kindling

It started out as a candle  
On my mother's table  
The flicking bead, dancing orange  
I'd pass my hand over it, unable  
To catch hold

It grew when I discovered words  
For myself. Greedy eyes drinking them in  
I was a dragon, and novels my hoard  
Precious piles of them strewn about, in love

It burned when I lost myself in green  
Eyes. Voices rushed with excitement  
A cell. An atom. A molecule.  
We experienced heaven, rent

It blazes for me now  
A bonfire that can't be extinguished  
And when the clouds hide the stars  
And her words pierce my ears  
It keeps me warm