

One Look

One look into your eyes
And my heart was lost.
What shall I do now?
Shall I beat the night with a stick
To see if a piece falls back out?

One look into your eyes
And my mind was gone.
Shall I lie in the stream
Arms outstretched
To see if a shred of sanity
Lodges in the palm of my hand?

One look into your eyes
And my breath was taken away.
I shall join the howling wind
And cry your name
Among the mountain tops.

More Than A Sigh

It is high noon, and I am seeing stars.
Something is wrong.
Bending like a blade of grass
 in the autumn wind - alas!
I never have been too strong.

What you see is what you get, you said.
Such a beautiful lie.
Heart pushing forward, mind feeling regret,
 body tense with a mounting dread -
This will cost more than a sigh.

All I See

Did you hear the news this morning
Out in the forest clearing?
Three hungry little beaks
From the robin's nest
 stretching

Did you taste god's glory at dawn
By the side of the road?
Covered in dew
Sun-sweetened strawberries
 ripening

Did you smell the poplar at noon
At the edge of the woods?
Countless as stars
Seed fluffs drift by
 seeking

Did you feel the wonder last night
Down by the small creek?
Giant ferns in rows
Like sails on a ship
 unfurling

Yet all I see
Is drooping cedar
And the driving rain

Betrayed

I was just beginning to
Look forward to the rest of my life, when
With a few simple words
You took it all away.

Now I am standing here, all confused
Like a stagecoach passenger of the gold rush era
 who had just been relieved of his purse
 by four burly highwaymen.
I suppose I should be happy
 I managed to escape with my life -
Though I don't even know if I want it,
 if it's still worth anything.

I was just beginning to
Look forward to the rest of my life, when
In one single minute
It disappeared.

Now I am sitting here, betrayed
 by my own feelings.
You promised me paradise
Then delivered this hell

And I still love you.

Passage

*“Sticks and stones may break my bones
But words will never hurt me...”*

Words

Words in my head

A relentless spin cycle:

 I love you

 I need you

 I can't let go of you

Despite my commands

Yelled at the top of the lungs

 inside the cab of my little car

They don't come out past my lips

And be gone like they should

Dissipating into the universe

No, they fester, and grow like tumors

Until, finally inflated beyond their own bearing

They float up through the top of the skull

Raising the hair as they go

Eyes wide open, hands gripping the steering wheel

I love you

I'm flying down the road at the speed of suicide

While in my mind's eye

I am bashing my head against a wall
Upside down, of course,
The better to shake them out,
All of them, those words in my head
I need you

And I whoop with glee as they fall
One by one
The little monsters

But it's hopeless
I can't let go of you
New ones are sprouting in their place
As fast as the old ones can be driven out
A veritable garden of lingual nightmares,
With me, never possessed of a green thumb,
Suddenly the most successful gardener in the world.

I want to feel your skin
Not this grease on my hands.
I love you
I want to waste my life
caressing your tangled hair
I need you
Not changing tires
I can't
by the side of an empty road.

Let go of you

I don't even know where I am.
Right here, I am kneeling on the ground
Tears lining the inside of an empty cardboard box
And I forget –
Was I looking for something?

Love

Why are all my worldly possessions
strewn about me on the grass?

Need

We are all the same, we desperate refugees
Cowering in the bowels of some heaving emigrant ship
Dazed and confused, reeking of vomit and fear
Must it always be like this?

Let go

Some make it. Some do not.
But this seems to be the only way,
A violent passage to a new world
Where flowers bloom
And slowly
Life is made whole again.