

## When Will I Be Brave Again?

There was a time  
In urgent youth  
When the birds flew south  
And I flew north  
Against an angry wind  
Will I ever be brave like that again?

There was a place  
Inside my heart  
That laid itself bare  
For strangers to touch  
And fate to dare  
When will I be brave again?

Carelessly driven  
Out on the high wire  
Precipice living  
For dreams and desire  
Taking chances  
Ignoring circumstances  
Will I ever be brave like that again?

There was a me  
Who dared to fly  
Refused to die  
Persisted resisted  
The inevitable fall  
Will I ever be brave like that again?

There is a flame  
Burning deep in my heart  
Raging within  
It wants to set  
The world on fire  
When will I be brave again?

## **VIRUS**

Voice in my ears: The end is near  
No quake dramatic shaking me  
A quiet virus stalking me  
Embraces me possessively

Awake dramatic shaking me  
My lover with thermometer  
Embraces me possessively  
Another fever 1-0-2

My lover with thermometer  
And chicken soup and herbal tea  
Another fever 1-0-3  
Eleven days of hot and cold

And chicken soup and herbal tea  
Fire burning under my lids  
Eleven days of hot and cold  
My blood and X-rays won't explain

Fire burning under my lids  
A quiet virus stalking me  
My blood and X-rays won't explain  
Voice in my ears: The end is near

## My Deepest Secret

My deepest secret rises high and falls

My chest a twister births a green-eyed beast

Settles in my belly like cannonballs

My eyes tattletales I keep on a leash

My words bald lies that speak a toothless truth

My body shifting, a melting ice floe

My secret carves caves inside where I hide

Cavernous craving; I want it to show

My deepest hunger gets the sharpest bite

Every Tuesday I never let on

Why I'm crawling out under his sight

His eyes dark windows with the curtains drawn

Sweet bullseye butcher to my target heart

Smells the coffee tastes the toast I have burnt

## Personal Apocalypse

You opened your mouth  
and moths flew out  
They devoured the things I kept  
in my closet  
Things only you were allowed to see

I opened my mouth  
and the words tumbled  
Like blocks and stones they clattered  
to the ground  
Words I never told anyone else

I opened my heart  
and arrows pierced it  
Laced with some poison I should have  
expected  
Poison I've come to know so well

You closed the door  
and the walls shook  
My world shattered glass flying  
and painting  
My personal apocalypse

## Elbow Room

Every time you leave me

Lying by myself

Bed unraveled sheets strewn

Odd happysad pang

Worms its way through my belly

Relief blends regret

Our agreement comes loose

Our bond lags wagging a docked tail

My toes wiggle my heart breaks