#### Looking Grim

I drink bottles of fresh pressed cranberry juice, soothe the pain of urinating Sip tinctures of herbs in alcohol These hopes don't cure me I can't halt the haunting, as if my soul wanted to cast me aside And go the high road, way up high Did I desecrate my temple? I was oblivious until now Let's see... I do not run the trails nor do I skimp on meals when I should I sleep so much I wear the hour hand out on the clock In fact, I gobble time up I don't groom my mane, four months after it is a Brillo pad Suppose it makes sense if my soul didn't want to pay rent I can feel another realm beckoning for my presence I know I have been invited, yes, I have been expected But I will stubbornly refuse to go, because...I have other plans Will the reaper be so kind to understand? Not yet, not yet, no no no ! My essence is a slow march to the grave A receding flame Sand in an hour glass, biding its time, just playing the game I hold the torch for no one I bear the cross for no one I did wrong only in the eyes of me..... Having a difficult time swallowing my fate

I am capable of crossing this bridge by myself! Reaper, do not wait for me Let me sing, alone on the pier Dangling my feet in the tears of for-never Stay far away, stay far away! Many votive candles, encircling the oak trees High flames to heaven Light be by my grave And in this moment it is not real But a slow march coming down my street The light inside me is evaporating Like my soul, no longer trapped but being set free Don't let me die on me Try on me All the remedies couldn't replace the heart I gave The nights I stayed, awake endlessly Steadied teetering cups of silver on my old wooden dresser, soothe the uncertain degree of infection-mask the mystery I see you run and dance, and all I can give you is a glance Sorry I can not be holding your hand Let me sing, alone on the pier Dangling my feet in the tears of for-never Forever And always

### War on Candyland

There were sparkle bombs igniting from every direction There was licorice trip wire and tootsie roll bullet shells sprinkled all across the fluffy lemony terrain She had to watch her every step for it could be her last The smell of cherry gloss pervaded the air The enemy was near And then BOOM! She found her skin fading to a shade of cupcake pink as she slid down a hill that ended at the foot of a molasses swamp She had been shot.

### Solid Blue

Living in a luxurious prison Decorated with feel-good memorabilia I extract myself out of the void of mystery that lingers there on the border of my consciousness With lighting the smells of balsam fir to enable my comfort that lives dormant inside my uncertain self I light the rooms to ease the feeling of this emptiness For "misery loves company" I sit like a cat on the couch, staring out into the abyss of the unknown Far beyond the bay windows, not visible to the naked eye Far beyond the nights parallel power lines And here I thought you could catch a star, so gullible, he would tease me. I am living in a delusional illusion Maybe more of a profound nightmare than a superficial sensorial dream And it is all too overwhelming, for me. I will have to be patient from here on out Patience in an orange glass vase In the center of a waiting room Facing a picture of a tidal wave and its impending crash.

## Lovely Love Love

Into the woods we went With the wind pushing us into each other The trees watched us from afar, curious about our exchanges I offered his mouth a kiss -he kissed me -he kissed me The breath of my heart filled the room in his lungs I offered his hands a song -he played me -he played me We sat down on blankets of rocks and pillows of moss He held my hands and traced my fingertips across his lips And kissed each one, with an even gaze A surge of heat flooded my feet, so hot it ran and streamed up creek -I blushed -I blushed I offered him a hug -he held me -he held me

The sky was like peaches, the clouds were like cream We sat in nature We sat in a dream Lovely love love We floated away in bubbles To the tops of the trees -he popped me -he popped me Our bodies a helix, our flesh intertwined The birds turned to bats Twilight melted the sky The wind pushed us out of the woods Out of its confines To home we drifted back Riding the tide So happily, death couldn't of caught our high Lovely love love Lovely love love

# **Belvidere Man**

Now I know I have seen you here before Looking out of the corner of my eye Down the dark and narrow alley way My, how time has passed us by But wait, not without us meeting again In the same place Between these iron gates Our bodies face other, but our heads told our hearts to wait Let me go around to the back Down the old decrepit fire escape Like a little girl with wanderlust Searching for her long lost treasure "What is that?" I asked myself As I approached this tall dark figure His brown curls were burgeoning out from his tightly pulled navy blue sweater He fidgets and bounces up and down, but in place, as he holds up a brown paper bag Oh, yes! Do I recognize To a drunkards delight! How right! Yes, it is To a drunkards delight... I reassured myself, giddily After accepting his sweet tasting invite That he was only here to visit his friend Teasing myself, because I knew why he was really there The initial gathering took place in a little depraved part of town Where the late night loners roamed around Where the vigiliantes sat slouching in their plastic lawn chairs under the orange street lights "Belvidere" read the sign on the apartment complexes front window The place housed tenants of a peculiar kind One was an old man who smoked crack and flied planes in WWII He boarded with his young acid head friend who had befriended you

In another room lived a grocery store employee, whom I met while out on the town, who always insisted on me coming over to meet his wife One was a friends friend of mine Where I meet you, that lonesome and late September night I sat on the lap of someone wicked, sipping spiked punch I took a liking to him, for an actor t'was reminiscent Though he enforced his will upon me, I had not a sense of better judgement When you saw me be passed around by him as if I were a good joke A wave of sympathy came over you, a heroin-attached "hero" here to save a broken ol' me Here, in this place Where my heart stopped to say "Hello" and "What are you doing?" As you played with a cat whose claws were tangled in a beaded curtain It was hard to make out what you were saying Though for claiming to being inhibited, you did not shy away to show me your tonsilitis This, I admired, your belief to "lay all cards out on the table" As each card folded right before me I could not help but to pause that moment and rewind to 7 nights prior When I prayed on a bench outside of a Catholic church Knees to my chin, staring at the rainbow mosaic stained glass window above my head "Please God, save me," I begged. "At this rate I will not last." And how funny that I found myself in this place of all places A slumlords dollhouse from Hell! Where there was a troubled 25-year-old man Looking for that same kind of salvation I was seeking And as you were leaving, I felt an urge

To step out of my own spacial comfort I am not one to look people in the eyes beyond a glance But I felt like I had already known this stranger So I locked my eyes with yours A broomstick was still strapped to your coat, a prop you had as a joke Every molecule of me screamed "Don't leave me!" As yours beckoned back "I will be around." When I awoke on the Belvidere floor the next day I noticed how the sun rose very slowly I sat up nauseous and thirsty My friend had gone home My duty to escape had drained me, and so I stumbled to my departure As I left through door number 4 Incidentally, there you were At the bottom of the stairwell You quickly thought to say "Would you like to see this movie with me?" I had an illness inside me. I should of not indulged in the brown bag's splendor "No, I do not feel good. Sorry." He backed away, his body hindering traffic through the corridors "I will ask my friend, it is okay." And then he literally ran away I knew inside of me though he meant what he said It was okay Then I heard, two days from the last He gave a pineapple to my friends of a friend for me

Though she kept it for herself, his intent was sweeter than his fruit

My hand dialed for his voice instantly

And you answered immediately

"Where do you want to meet?"

This time at a place of our choice

A place where we could interlock our flesh and bones so tight, I think our atoms would actually touch

A place where we could melt our wax

How we spent hours admiring each others lost pieces

I could not stop myself from thinking in between our kisses

That God is something else

He lead me to a place that was stranger than stranger

Through the dark, there was a light on the other side

If you can part your hands from your eyes

The sound of church bells resonated inside of me as they went off while we sat in your car

The vibrations left after chiming

"Life starts for you now"

Bhagavad Gita books were piled up under my feet where I sat in the passenger seat

While we held each others hands

You informed me, gothically

"Every man and women is a star" so you quoted Mr. Aleister

Then off we drove into the future

The friends I had, I left them for what they really were

At the bottom of a crinkled and damp brown paper bag

In the alley, under a fire escape

Or on a chair with a broken leg, encrusted with sticky red juice

Never did I miss any of them

And years later, without any regrets

I am still with the Belvidere man.