

## Walking Each Other Home & Others

### **Invincible**

When you tremble at my caress  
A loving and instinctive shudder  
Shakes off the world's weight

When you melt into me  
We are fused by our heat  
No rock or ice could withstand it

When we forget there ever were boundaries  
There are no trespasses  
No stop signs  
Only freedom to roam  
Exploring the mountains, valleys, glades,  
Riversides, and forests  
Our own landscapes unlocked

When I taste your kiss  
Finer than sweet, ripe fruit  
Or warm, honeyed tea  
I forget hunger and thirst  
And am nourished, course by sensual course

When we press our bare skin together  
We bask in the pleasure  
And are elevated  
With it and by it

Trust and true love take over  
Carrying us  
Protecting and freeing us  
Born of two souls  
And re-born as one  
Glowing like a star  
Sage like a prophet  
Humble like a pilgrim

And invincible

## Hate Me

You no longer have me  
I left the station on the midnight train  
Going anywhere else  
With only a one way ticket out  
And an armful of clothes  
Stuffed in a bag  
I dropped some  
I did not stoop  
To pick them up

I sat at a window seat  
Frantic eyes  
Desert dry from fatigue  
Grinding back and forth  
Trying to remember landmarks

You went to the depot the next day  
With a couple of friends in tow  
And spat, vehement, on the concourse  
And pounded your fist  
And demanded the conductor  
Give you yesterday's timetable  
Politely, yet firmly and deftly  
He refused your shrieks

You went to your house  
Yes, your house, not our house  
Breaking picture frames  
Throwing trinkets in the fireplace  
Lamenting to family  
Who nodded and looked down  
While they sat  
Sheepishly and quietly

You grabbed the phone  
And called the first numbers you had  
Rallying troops  
Turning tables  
Flipping stories  
Revising history  
"Oh, my, that's terrible"  
"Sorry, got to go, good luck"  
Again and again

You cannot have me  
Bitterness suits you better  
Go on and hate me

## **The Cafe**

You and I at a cafe  
In an ancient city  
I couldn't say which  
Right on an Avenue  
In places like that  
The table is a magic boundary  
The world whisks by  
With their accents  
But time and space hold still at the table

I was looking at you  
And eating off of your fork  
And sitting too close  
And tangling feet  
I was being quiet  
You always speak and write better  
With comfortable eloquence  
When we are together

A smiling old woman in a sundress  
Tottered over to us  
Cane in hand  
Walked right up to us  
I thought she was lost in dotage  
She walked up to you and said:

Good afternoon young lady  
I see how he looks at you  
A man told me once that I was beautiful  
I didn't think it was true  
But I trusted him  
And it filled me with radiance  
And became true  
That's how he looks at you

A young woman  
With khakis and a smart simple blouse  
And sandals and long wheat colored hair  
Jogged over  
Nan, are you ok?  
The old woman beamed at you  
And was led away

A young man  
Scruffy and magazine model handsome  
With perfect jeans and a t-shirt  
That covered muscles but not tattoos  
Stopped in front of the table  
He glanced at you and smiled  
Then looked at me and nodded knowingly  
With a half smile that wrinkled up one eye  
And walked away wordlessly

A middle aged man  
With dark hair and glasses, studious  
Carrying a notebook  
He had small eyes, keen but friendly  
He walked up and said:

I was a poet  
Until today  
I will never get it more right than this

And he bowed, oddly ceremonial  
Like a samurai warrior, bested  
He laid down his notebook and pen  
Not between us, but With Us  
Then walked away

I opened the notebook  
Flipped a few empty pages  
And picked up the pen

You looked at the journal and at me  
And a smile spread on your face

And you simply nodded

## **Sleep with Me**

My lover  
My moonglow  
My own sense of touch housed in your very fingers  
My own sense of taste lives on your tongue

Touch and taste me in Our Bed  
Lift the covers for me  
My skin slides along the threads  
I will hold them for you  
Come join me  
Taste me and please me  
And I You

And through our splendid rapture  
We release the woe and fear of this day  
For though those griefs are real  
We must not hold them  
We will not hold them

We commit to our love  
Through Our Love

And in that release we gain strength  
And in its denouement we gain peace  
Peace grows and envelopes us  
And we envelope each other within it  
Peace, made  
Grace, provided

And now  
Sleep with me

## **Walking Each Other Home**

The school bell rings  
On a new spring day  
A boy and a girl  
Meet by the tree  
He doesn't know what kind  
But she does  
He walks on the street side  
Instinctively  
He wears jeans and a flannel shirt  
And talks about baseball nervously  
She wears bib overalls and it's cute  
He thinks so and says so  
She blushes but doesn't answer  
She holds her books in front of her  
The way girls do  
He asked to carry them  
She wanted to let him  
But shyly and very politely refused  
And blushed again  
She can handle them and he knows  
The bossy sunshine teases them gently  
They don't know exactly what to say  
But they know the way  
They are walking each other home