

## HEALING

A young girl  
is smiling blond pigtails  
wanting love and affection  
Do you adore me?

Silence.

A young girl (A "big" girl)  
can play outside  
The mailman  
An awkward walk  
Cracked sidewalk  
Cracked viewpoint  
Icky words daddy told me I never heard

Little sister, see your shiny and sticky bottom drawer  
This is love and affection  
Big brother shows me how to be adored.

An 8 year old girl  
Can walk to the park  
With girls, and boys  
Behind the tree  
Wanting love and affection  
This is normal, so very (ab)normal  
Your hand, a finger  
Do you adore me?

A 13 year old girl  
Can visit her friend alone  
An older brother can play too  
downstairs  
in the basement  
That's all folks  
That is all  
Underwear and skin and hair  
This is love and affection?  
A 13 year old girl can  
RUN  
home to  
Icky words mom told me I never heard  
(I wish I knew an adult word for icky)  
Does anyone adore me?

A teenage girl  
can live on the streets  
Is safe  
Is "adored"  
The streets  
Give love and affection.

A young woman  
Travels 500 miles  
to find love and affection  
Use me  
I don't adore myself  
Marry me  
the illusion in cracked mirrors  
Abuse me  
I have 2 children  
You don't adore me.

A woman can go back home  
to find love and affection  
You don't adore me  
Use me  
You don't know me  
Marry me  
I don't adore myself  
Abuse me  
I have 3 children  
You don't adore me  
I don't adore myself  
I cannot be adored.

I WANT LOVE AND AFFECTION  
I WANT TO BE ADORED

A woman  
wanting love and affection finds Jesus  
He adores me  
I don't adore myself.

A saved woman  
wanting love and affection finds a new man  
A new kind of man  
He can adore me?  
...  
He will adore me.

This is addiction  
Not love and affection  
Use me  
Abuse me  
"God's" man does not adore me  
No man  
Ever  
Again.

A shell lives  
Many safe years  
without love and affection until  
A family friend  
A Christian man.  
A CHRIST-I-A-N MAN!

I don't adore you  
The floor is wet,  
covered in sin and stains  
15 minutes until  
the yellow bus

God, you adore me.  
God, who do you think I am?  
...  
God, I adore you...I adore myself.

A daughter speaks  
with love and affection  
To a woman  
To women. To men.

Praise.

A daughter is healed.  
A daughter is still here.

## **PROMISE**

Driving home slowly,  
struggling  
not to let the icy road spin the car  
out of control  
In the white darkness  
Asking, wondering, knowing  
it had to be this way  
this brokenness

It had to be this way

Being prayed over, told to be still, moving ahead  
...slowly  
Like you have to when  
the road is covered with ice and snow

I have a map,  
really I'm given a new piece  
Each day

I take a step,  
then another  
I see very faintly in the distance

Where does the sky meet the sea?

Driving slowly, I do not know

All I know are pain and tears  
An embracing push  
A joyful pain

And Paul was in prison  
And I'm singing too,  
strong in weakness

I am Abraham  
Countless grains of barren sand  
As I'm driving along slowly  
And I'm free

Because you whispered  
You whispered to me  
...a promise

## **SOVERIEGNTY**

The evening rush, a mild night, ordinary  
Sun setting  
A smooth ride, just like any other

CRASH

Slight  
My chest hurts.  
A man running  
White shirt, stethoscope danglin<sub>g</sub>

BLINK

Where is he? That car  
Oh, God, no

HYSTERIA

Don't leave me my love.  
Sirens, inside, strapped down  
Quick, clear  
Too much fluid  
Clear...

GONE

Oh Lazarus, my friend  
But we don't know  
Where is she?  
The most painful part  
My heart rips

RIPS

Jars of clay and Pharaoh  
And now Moses and Israel are free  
Redemption  
Pain and blessing for a vulnerable heart

REDEMPTION

## **REDEMPTION**

Welcome to America.  
The most beautiful day?

Marriage.  
The most beautiful day?

Here is your child, one of four.  
The most beautiful day?

Newark, NJ, 1940's  
15<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
A six-family home: husband, mother, father, sisters, children.  
Days in old factories, sewing.  
Days spent driving, loving to drive.  
Weekend nights dancing with pretty dresses.  
Any beautiful days?  
Any beautiful nights?

Irvington, NJ, 1951  
A single life.  
A two-family home.

Another marriage.  
Beautiful?

A single life.  
A small house with a sister.

Are there any beautiful days?  
Are there any beautiful nights?  
Are there any beautiful moments...?

A son married, once, then again.  
A daughter married, once,  
then again, then again, then again, then, yes, again.  
A son married.  
A son married.  
Beautiful grandchildren.

Driving, an accident  
Vision wanes  
Stomach pains

A different kind of home  
Parsippany, NJ, 1980  
A cafeteria and a rec room  
A visit to the hospital to see the sick  
A visit downstairs to play cards

A visit for Christmas  
with eggplant and biscotti

A visit to the hospital to be sick  
A visit to the hospital to be sick  
A visit to the hospital to be  
A visit to the hospital to  
A visit to the hospital  
A visit to the  
A visit to  
A visit  
A

A sister gone

90 years of a life  
A fall, a broken hip  
A visit to the hospital to be sick.  
A visit to the hospital to be redeemed.

A grandson visits  
With words of truth  
Words of truth and a prayer  
A new feeling  
An understanding

93 years of a life  
A sister gone, unknowingly  
A final visit to the hospital to be sick

Who's even here?

Two days to say goodbye.  
Words from a son.  
Tears from a daughter.  
Strength from a son.  
A stern face from a son.

## **BLESSING**

Red Hair and Green Eyes.

You need it

Odometer ticks ticks ticks  
Yellow lines White lines  
A concert and dinner.

You need it  
Swipe  
Swipe  
Swipe.

You need it  
Enabling engines idle  
While a heart is broken and one last kiss is given  
Stars close with a book in hand.

I would have driven to Ohio.

Pads pop and whistles blow  
Shelves soon lose their figures  
and drinks manipulate into abuse.

Loved  
(Maybe too much love)  
But always loved.  
A Word from a grandson  
And another makes his decision.

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The most beautiful day?

Marriage.  
The most beautiful day?

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The most beautiful day?

90 years of a life.  
The most beautiful day.