

## *Gossamer*

Come closer  
A hesitant touch will suffice  
Satisfy your insatiable curiosity  
Or stumble in unwittingly, innocent  
It makes no difference  
I'll love you either way

Admire the intriguing, the intricate  
Strangely beautiful  
Diaphanous, yet strong  
Caress and slowly pull away; or to try  
Perplexed—sticky, it stays, snapping you back  
Then a dose of adrenaline  
You're caught and quickly  
Frustrated, flailing, afraid

And I  
Waiting, longing, heart thumping  
Watching, sensing  
Vibrations along the filigree  
I feel you struggle, entangled, and I smile  
It only makes me love you more

My subtle stir catches your eye  
And you stop  
Subdued. Silent.  
Gaze locked on mine  
I move deliberately, calmly  
Closer  
Your countenance pleads, wondering *why?*  
And I respond softly, honestly, still smiling  
*Because I love you*

## *Would That I Were*

Wouldn't it be nice  
If I were funny  
The one who makes everyone laugh  
No matter the topic  
That I could as if by instinct  
Create good times from thin air  
To be the life of the party  
Would that I were

Wouldn't it be great  
If I could solve everyone's problems  
To step in at each moment of turmoil or heartache  
With a few words and gestures  
Change roadblocks into opportunities  
Turn tears into hope  
To be the one everyone leans on  
Would that I were

Wouldn't it be perfect  
If I could avoid the subjunctive  
The hypotheticals  
To be able to fit in and never worry  
About what others were thinking  
To be free of these vacant, immutable fantasies  
And released from this ceaseless want  
Of emotional refuge  
To live without fear of a rapid pulse  
And coursing adrenaline  
Awkward responses  
Pregnant pauses  
To be normal  
Would that I were

## *No One but Me*

The wonderful place  
Where my companions  
Confidants and loved ones  
Used to be  
Has been reduced to baneful ash  
By a torrid chain of events

A careless, buffeting wind  
Tosses the pestilent soot  
To and fro  
Then upwards  
Where it hangs in empty space  
Obscuring the horizon  
A wretched haze in every direction

Breathe it in, deeply  
Embrace anguish  
Validate despair

I blame them for leaving  
When I needed them most  
I condemn the world  
For this inhumane existence  
That leaves me asphyxiating  
On the charred remains of my life

I will never trust again  
I will never love again  
There is no one left  
No one but Me

## *Final Act*

As I take the stage I can just see the signs  
Veiled memories of happily ever after  
With some effort I listen between the lines  
Of this sad tragedy, and I can hear laughter

There's a trace of merry in this pantomime  
Enough to leave my waning sanity intact  
It is something I crave almost all the time  
To take advantage of it I will have to act

I'm grasping for some sense of alacrity  
And the compulsion to perform in a broad way  
Before life's random curtain call retires me  
From this tired satire, this comically absurd play