Poetry Series

Carol Fleming Klein - poems -

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Carol Fleming Klein()

Carol Fleming Klein

I hope your day is beautiful and blessed!

I am an elementary school teacher residing in California. I grew up on the East Coast until I went to college. Over the years I have had a relatively small number of writing experiences, although I have been "writing" since age 4. As an 8 or 9 year old, a classmate and I made a mini book of popular rhymes. In my preteens there was a single "newspaper" issue written by my cousins and I. Our sole subscriber was Grandma. On another occasion we began writing a play, but baseball and sour apple fights in the tree house crowded that out. My brother and I also began writing mysteries populated with family and friends going on for pages, but not usually reaching conclusion. In my teens I began writing poetry, and my senior year of high school, I wrote news stories for the school paper. In college, I began in Journalism, but finally opted for Liberal Arts. I have taught the range from Kindergarten to fourth grade. My writing has consisted mostly of term papers and Christmas letters and numerous journal entries. In the last eight years I have sensed a recall to focus on writing. I have written a few sermons and teachings, and short inspirational stories. My greatest desire and aim is to reflect Psalm 45: 1: 'My heart is inditing a good matter; I speak of things which I have made touching the King: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.' If you have the opportunity to visit some of my poems, I welcome comments, reflection and enjoy knowing if something I said struck a chord or blessed you in some way. Also feel free to repost and share my poems with others in your life who might be blessed by a particular poem. Thanks, Carol

A Common Singer

I am a common singer Singing a simple song Inviting all who hear To join and sing along

As we climb up Faith's Mountain Our voices lift in song Inviting the whole earth To hear and come along

This song is heaven's story Is the key to heaven's gate The song of Christ's returning And His grace for all who wait

I am a common singer Singing a simple song Inviting you who hear To join and come along

Monday, February 17,2014

A New Dance

Forgive me Mother forgive me Father But the dance you wrote and the choreography You've supplied is mostly all wrong.

The melody is filled with too much discord and the minor key doesn't suit my dancing feet.

Forgive me now if I turn my back on the rhythm of years.

But we the Lord and I have improvisations to write A score to hear with jubilation enough to suit my dancing feet.

Above The Clouds

Above the clouds the sun is shining Through the rain the light scatters to form a rainbow

Through the gray hope pierces faith shines And wraps me warmly against the chill

Upward presses my soul, upward and almost I feel the sun's warmth on my face Soon I know Soon

Tho' tears fall now On the other side of pain waits peace and joy When the waiting is over I will embrace the joy and know it with all my heart Even as my heart traces it now in hope.

May-June 1990

Aftermath

After the storm is a quiet when the clouds scud together and the moon peeks from behind to view the damage

the battlefield is scouted for the groans of survivors. A melancholy calm envelopes all

to which a blazing dawn might be called a desecration thro' which the voice of a songbird may shatter like machine gun fire

A heavy hanging calm which can be felt and touched and tasted in the salt of sweat, blood and tears.

June 27,1990

At Sea

A vast sea But a small world Shut in four ways By heavy fog Dripping, deep, dark fog Lonely Alone The only vessel on the sea The splash of waves On a solitary ship Salt spray Lonely raucous gull cries

Sun shining Smooth sea All plain Many other vessels Who radio messages across Smile And wave Gentle, golden, sparkling, shining After morning mist And tranquil now In the inner evening sea

1978?

Autumn

Leaves wind dancing drift downward cover frost kissed brown grasses round my feet.

Leaves rustle, crunch... silent as I momentar'ly stop haunted by Autumn's fallen glory this strewn battlefield this lost richness about me.

And I feel like a windblown leaf, thrated, destiny commanded by the lordly wind who tightly wraps his chill fingers about me to toss me forth.

Must my fate balance in his cool careless fingers?

Must my gold-scarlet splendor be doomed to indifference and decay?

November 1981 or 1982

Birth Day Prayer

Father, keep her in Your care Hold her in Your arms Wrap her in Your embrace As You have longed to do Since before her birth

Father, whisper in her ear The Secrets Those things destined before time You chose for her Those Paths With adventure waiting Just round the bend If only she will venture To follow You There

Father, silence the lies "It is too late..."' "You have waited too long..." "Nothing is left..." Silence the enemy And the world around her

Father, let her see Your face Let her see only You Let her hear only You Let the truth resonate through her Let it be like a bell Chiming the hour Your chiming Your hour It's Time!

February 28,2012

Brown Eyes Have A Hard Time Saying Goodbye

Brown eyes have a hard time saying goodbye

A light in them continues to shine Even when all the words have been said

Brown eyes Have a hard time saying goodbye.

February 2,1987

'California Girl'

Oh, I'm a real 'California Girl' For sure, and I mean really. Born outside of Boston And schooled outside of Philly.

I'm a 'California Girl', yeah really. And with my California suntan And my Bette Davis eyes I can make a man feel warmer Than these sunny southern skies.

Spring 1989

Called To Wildness

Something in me thrills to far away people and places it ripples into me on tides of poetry a wildness sweet and distant a wistful call silvery echoes from rich tapestries and foreign faces the titillating sounds of water splashing through a hidden glen

How can I be free and yet be with called as I am to wildness

Spring 1987

Caterpillar Dreams

Although your cocoon is dark and the sun is far away,

Although the wait is long and the time drags on

Although the delay seems endless and the quiet dark of the changing seaason forever

Yet in the misty dark aloneness beats a promise the golden glow of wings

In your haste for warm air fragrant musical breezes and delicate beauty

Don't venture a broken wing in your struggle to be born

Instead give yourself the fulness of time for your graceful wings to unfold and dry in the Sun's rays

Wait for the promise of wings

to come to you

December 19,1995

Classroom Prayer

My prayer, oh Lord Is for You To touch these children In every way possible In the midst of noise and clamor In the silence And in the mist of tears And vulnerability

Let me somehow be The guardian of their fragile selves Defender Of their future destiny Show me the way.

Thursday, May 27,2010

Communion And Cleansing

I bring my trailing-mud soul feet to Your table laden with a banquet of many-guest anticipation.

And before them all Smiling at me with tenderness You bring out a great tub of soapy steaming water sparkling red.

You kneel to my cleansing.

Saturday, December 1982

Cup Of Crystal

Lord Let me be the cup Of clear shining crystal Full and running over With Your goodness And Your love

Plunge me deeply Into the ceaseless fountain Of "living water" 'till I'm brimming And drops flow Down the side And absorb into thirsty ground.

Quench the thirst Of the woman coming to the well With my contents Upturn and empty me Then fill me up again For the others who will seek The scores of other wanderers Who will discover the well And ask You for a drink.

Saturday, July 12,1980

Dark Cocoon 1

Surrender

Dark cocoon You engulf me All I know is the black emptiness

Far from the warm sunshine

I am alone

In Silence

And thus

I await wings.

Sunday, June 12,1988

Dark Cocoon 2

Dark Cocoon You encircle me I am alone Yet not abandoned

It is dark and still and the sunshine is far away

But even in the silence Hangs a promise Beats the golden glow of wings.

Monday, December 26,1988

Dark Cocoon 3

Dark Cocoon You release me Exploding Into the dazzling day

Warm sunlight caresses my new won wings

No longer alone or silent with mystic magic the fragrant breeze beckons me to glistening horizons

and into my promise

I unfurl in a golden glow of wings.

October 1,1989

Desire

Desire is the intensity of driven rain on a tin roof

the relentless ticking of a grandfather clock toward the chiming of the hour

the pounding of my heart as you touch me and your lips meet mine

the feeling which fills me when you have been too long away.

October 22,1995

Dream, Joseph, Dream

Joseph, your princely coat of colors is getting small now. The father in a distant land weeps over it's tatters weeps over the death of your dreams.

Joseph, weave a new coat, now. Weave it large with hope color it richly with dreams that will be. Dream, Joseph, dream And the Father will weave.

Joseph, Dream strong seams in your prince's coat; rich colors, strong threads, bind it with eternal dreams.

Joseph, Your princely coat of colors is shaping in the hands of the Master Dream Weaver now. Dream, Joseph, dream. and the Father will weave.

Saturday, July 4,1987

Drinking Gourd

Big Dipper Arrow to the pole star Floating vessel in the heavens

Slaves escaping north followed you to freedom Did they work harder, fear more cry more silent tears? Did they taste numbness, did they reach past despair to hope as I must? Did they catch a vision in the night of free air?

Oh Drinking Gourd these haunting visions, will the night never end? Sailors trusted you to lead them home. Where's my pole star? Where are you Dipper, now?

I'm tired of drifting I'm tired of endless sea tired of new ports and distant crowds of stranger's eyes

I want to see a soul to dream a dream to carve a place some roots for me

Dipper where are you? what are you? Can't you bring me safely home.

Wednesday, April 12,1989

Early Morning Feeling

The clock ticks softly The only sound The early morning darkness like a heavy blanket calm and peaceful now No one stirring A glad dream close Not awake but not asleep.

1976-77

Emerging Butterfly

When I'm with you It's as if you take my heart and cup it in your hands like a newly emerged butterfly

You hold it safe and warm protected with a touch that's secure yet gentle

With knowing and wonder my fragile self opens

to the beckoning breeze to widening horizons and exploration.

November 18,1993

Eyes Of Brown-A Limerick Of Sorts

There was a young lady With eyes of blue -but they were brown Who charmed the populace of the town With locks of gold -no they were brown

Could this be true? Oh what to do? No eyes of blue but heart of gold. His heart went down for eyes of brown.

1997-or so....

Faith Walk

Your mountain high O'er towers me No peak I see.

And yet I know As up I climb That where I go Your steps I'll find.

Summer-fall 1982

Fill Me

I am happy now Help me Lord to keep that happy strong Twinkle me With the joy winds of Your Spirit Bathe brown eyes In the rushing tide of Your Love warmth Voice me With the lilting Refrains of heaven's song

Happy me Abroad on the winds Of crowd and phone And clatter And in the midst of many With still serenity.

Summer 1985

Fireside Companions

Sometimes in the night firelight beckons from the chill of deepening twilight

and calls weary souls to sit awhile break bread along the trail and cast shadows in its light

Then with the dawn fresh energy bestowed the urge to carry on break new trails

calls each one a different way

Changed by the night of breaking bread and touching hands and hearts.

Summer/Fall 1990

Free Bird

Your fleeting touch awakens once more the freedom cry in my songbird throat

Only a voice once caged sings as sweetly of free air

Torn between security and the open door I linger

But your transient touch urges my sleeping wings to soar again.

Tuesday, January 25,1995

Gateway Of Orion

Orion, starry wonder Celestial Gateway -or so I hear the scientists say.

Heavenly band, Mighty warrior with sheathed sword. Behind your radiance Paces my Lord.

Behind your twinkly studded door He waits with longing more and more, to walk your starlight pathway, Rivaling your splendor; with trump of gold-exultant thunder!

Summer 1980

Ghosts There Are...

walking through our night. Chill I feel their breath against my cheek.

When you draw near I hear rustles in the mist of moonlight -shadows drifting between as almost I touch you.

Where they pass through a cold wall stops my reaching finger tips.

You on one side I on the other with this living moving space between us.

Frozen I stand rooted in the moonlight a haunted moonlight echoing with voices of the past dipping and drifting in the wind.

Please help me make their peace -then free I can reach out to you and meet answering freedom in your eyes.

Giving Hearts

Roses are red Hearts are too When you give them away Love comes back to you

February 13,2014

Going My Way?

Your eyes smile at me across the space between us. But what is behind your eyes? Who are you there?

My hand tingles when you reach out and caress it. But who is the man that lives and breathes in the zone where that impulse travelled from?

My heart skips a beat when you say 'I miss you' on the phone. But what rules your heart? Where does it lead you? Where are you going?

Is it truly my way?

January 14,1990

Gypsy Hearts

Leaves dancing in the street outside your window tapping out a rhythm to my thought

Music of castanets how I wish I could join them dancing on the ground and play for you wild music haunting melodies of the breeze

But I am confined to smiling as you pass, eyes straight ahead unseeing

July 5,1980
Gypsy Songs

Gypsy songs run in my blood the rhythm and the passion a cadence pulling me to feel and touch new things

Gypsy songs burning through my bones calling me to experience life at it's full

Join me in the songs Join me in the rhythms Join me in the fullness and the passion

Join me with heart and soul

Or join me not at all

May 24,1994

Hall Of Mirrors

I gaze at you. You gaze at my mirrored image. Or is it you I see, or another Yet another mirrored illusion?

Fearful is this hall of mirrors. Dare I cast the stone I carry? Would it be tinkling glass I heard? Or a soul shattering?

1985-6

Hearts Can Fly

Hearts can fly and prayers on wing are faster than most anything.

Prayers can fly on angels' wings those thoughts for you with tones that sing.

Hearts can ride 'cross desert wastes and steep terrain 'cross badlands trace through storm and rain straight to your side. Oh hearts can ride.

Hearts can ride with joy anew straight to your side our love to bring.

Hearts can fly with them as guide this is not goodbye 'cause you can't hide. Our hearts can fly straight to your side.

Saturday, September 24,2005

Heavenly Valentine

The sky painted in windswept gold and billowing magenta

Clouds reflect it's dawning light.

The heaven's declare Your glory.

Vivid pink and glowing golden

Letters speak Your invitation to a brand new day

Which You have made for us to be glad and rejoice in

The sun comes forth as a bridegroom from his chamber

To speak Your words of warmth and everlasting love to Your rising Bride

Oh Bridegroom in the heavens oh King of love receive our heartfelt adoration as we bask in Your glorious radiance

And lift our eyes above the enduring hills to Your heavenly valentine

Friday, February 14,2014

Homesick

Inside brickwalled buildings drapes drawn tight over small windows looking out on wrinkled cracked blacktop and neatly regimented thin trees blown by hot desert breezes I dream of green mountains reaching heavenward clear rushing streams cascading down the sides of them to form rivers in the rich valleys below carpeted with hay and corn and red clover and visions of misty days among the birches and the fern and the sweet violets.

Saturday, July 5,1980

Ι

I

stand inside myself Looking out upon the world Wanting to join in But afraid of the untried I stay there; unsatisfied.

1977

I Am Me

Ring the bells! Sound the horns!

I am me. I've seen my soul. I've been born!

I am me. Jubilant phrase. Exulatant cry!

I am me. I've dared to be, Before I die.

I Can Wear This Mask

I can wear the mask you ask It would be an easy task But to know the things I feel I must leave the acting and be real

But to see the heart within I must drop this charade I'm in But to hear heart's symphony I must play it's truest key

I can don this mask you ask It could be an easy task But you would never truly know The woman living deep below

March 1,1990

I Forgot

I forgot you knew me as a school girl in blue jeans with ribbons in her hair young, serious and silly a sister, a casual friend

I forgot I am a woman now in dresses, pumps and poise young, warm and wistful a soulmate, a renewed friend

I forgot I knew you as a school boy in t-shirts and sweats young, open and intellectual a brother, a casual friend

I forgot you are a man now in sweaters and suits young, comfortable and caring a soulmate, a renewed friend

I forgot... did you?

May 1988

If I Were Magic

If I were magic would be glee to creep down streets so silently; to slip thro' key holes with such ease and for such wondrous changes please. Taking gently with no signs some bank executive's worry lines easing laugh lines into place stealing frowns without a trace. Would be such abundant joy to snatch tear streaks from girl or boy to leave sunbeams that wouldn't fade and call it just an even trade. Would be super-would be fine to change the world to 'ours' from 'mine'. Then back inside, unseen and slick. With a little magic, it'd be no trick!

Saturday, June 23,1984

In Your Presence

When the sun's a golden chariot Riding far and climbing high And tomorrow's shining, splendid, Gleaming promise fills my eye I forget the blackest midnight And the cold chill hand of fear That twined tightly to my heartstrings When lonely blackness drew me near

But shall I forget Your Presence glorious When the darkness has fled away? As in Your calming, caring nearness I saw night vanish—before yet day.

Spring-Summer 1985

Indian Summer

Come dance with me in the red and gold Dress in a sweater and jeans and run through the woods crunching through the fallen leaves and dance in the sunshine with me.

And be free for a moment without 'have to' and 'should' and twirl me until my skirts billow full and I am breathless

Then we will laugh and catch each other spinning in the crispness of the fall.

October 22,1995

Interlude

Dear Mother in such sweet repose We lay you by the rest of those (The parents gone these many years) Though now you sleep We will not tarry here in tears Nor pause along the way to weep Your Lord you loved and whole life gave Hoping those you loved Might know His power to save

The dimming torch to us you've passed Through darkness deep it's beam we'll cast We won't forget the path you've lead; We will not sleep. We'll follow in your footsteps just ahead. Dear Mother in such sweet repose Your faith and confidence we've chose.

Edited October 2009

It Is Spring

Behold it is Spring Dead leaves rise up And dance Their defiance. Winter winds bring An icy chill And try to still The songbird's voice They blow With North Pole's frosty breath They whistle in anger Shrieking " Death! " -but we know The words still ring "Season follow season" -so returns the Spring.

It is Spring The sun kisses the earth And the quiet violets Raise in silent mirth Their gladness and thanksgiving. Hidden springs Erupt In shocked surprise To sparkle, bubble forth In crystalline glory And priceless worth.

It is Spring And over glen and hill More softly still The air casts a spell Weaving misty promises All is well.

It is Spring Tall stone buildings Impressive Distant Erase the memory Of laughing water ripples Pulling at toilworn robes And muscles rippling To tug at a sinking overloaded net White teeth flashing In deep smiles On sunbrowned faces.

And Blazing early dawn Tries to erase The sacrilege The cries of agony Mixed with sneers The horrors of creation Rocking in pain Splitting with anguish Beyond belief Finally numbed And unmoving Veiling from it's heaven's A "ladder" On earth A Man Stretching between

Reaching up Reaching down Dying to join the two

This too was done And creation rested The joining finished The two one.

But Winter's deathly hand Cast chill To keep the Man A prisoner still But it's Spring And at dawn Not with trumpet's ring But Angel's voice "Come forth, Thou Son! " And joyful noise Awed earth expectant Opens And the Man Comes forth The misty promises Fulfilled So all with thankfulness Rejoice! And echoing again With " Peace on earth, Goodwill to men" The echoes also ring Thank You, Heavenly Father For Your Spring!

April 2,1980 Wednesday

January Thaw

Sunlight, sparkling at my windowpane Gliding across the floor, Outstretched hand inviting me to dance. And I long to hear you knockin' at my door.

Sunlight, caressing on my face Warming blues and greens Tugging at my heart with dancing rays Pine limbs beckon-on to sun-glad scenes.

Sunlight-calling, imperious with no restraint Flashing in my eyes, commanding to my soul. Oh why must you arrive so late! Come whirl and dance in union -before my curfews toll.

Saturday January 31,1981

Just Because Doesn't Mean....

Just because the worm is there Doesn't mean there's never another apple. Just because he doesn't care Doesn't mean there can never be another love.

Just because you're burned right now Doesn't mean you'll never strike another match. Just because he said, 'So long, anyhow' Doesn't mean there'll never be another fire to watch.

It just means you'll look twice when you take your pick. You'll check twice before the tinder's set and the flames are lit.

But just because... Doesn't mean you can't love and live again.

Sunday, October 30,1988

Just One Day At A Time

Just one day at a time One day to walk with Thee My hopes and dreams all Thine The future all to Thee.

Just one day at a time Help me to fill with praise The even tenor of the rhyme Of all these precious days.

Just one day at a time My commitment I renew To keep my will in line With all You'd have me do.

Just one day at a time Pray make me more like Thee That my life be filled with Thine That Thy face others see.

Spring (March?) 1984

Life Line

A long line of people march from here to the horizon

A line of those who have passed through who have known who have loved and have left me

A line a life line of my life of those who have walked away

My heart aches to stand alone and watch

to watch as you join their number

to watch as you wave and walk away

to watch as you become a speck on the horizon

in the line that marches from here to forever. July 26,1993

Like A Bird On A Migration Flight

I have flown time and again When the weather changed and the season waned

From one feeding ground and watering hole to the next From one place where the sun shines to another

With you I have stayed my flight although the season changed and the air grown cold and the sun rides distant in the sky. I have bided by your side

Yet at the seasons change when the air warms and when teh sun shines bright and smiles down when flowers bloom again and the flocks of singing birds return

Will you fly or bide?

Lord, I Don't Know

Lord, I don't know Your reasons And I'd like to question why Yet I know You hold the seasons And You hear my lonely cry.

Lord, I don't feel so joyous With my life plans all awry But I know your view is glorious As You're guiding from on high.

Lord, I don't see the answers In the mighty oceans roar But beyond it's awesome surges I know Your love sweeps even more.

Lord, I don't see the answers They aren't written 'cross the sky But I know You keep me As the apple of Your eye.

Friday, August 12,1983

Love Of A Young Heart

I gave you the love of a young heart Love that was new to me And untested Love that was fragile and shining like the first glimmers of dawn on a dew wet rose like shimmering beads of an untouched spider web and the golden glowing of an untried day Radiant fresh and shining

I gave you a heart unused to being given A heart gentle but fearful in the gift A heart hurt, timid and testing A heart longing longing to give longing to receive longing to find a home

I gave you the love of a young heart

Monday, August 22,1988

Masquerade

Are the curving fringe of dark lashes And the ruby lips With the quick flashing smile Just another mask of the many artfully applied

How can a smile walk When tears wait on the wings and the stage curtain hangs shut

How can the audience applaud When the only actors are the mimes and the clowns

And the gaze from behind dark lashes is still, shuttered and black And lips close slowly over a steady smile And the curtain has gone down for the night

How can a smile walk When tears wait on the wings?

Friday, December 23,1988

Memories

When loneliness closes in heavily upon me I open the door like a treasure chest on past memories

of holding hands thro' sunbleached summer's surf...

of city lit splendid evening drives...

of festive leaves and feasting thankfulness...

of your warm, crackling hearth fire smiles across pungent pine branches lit with rainbow twinkled lights...

thoughts of your eyes lighted with easter lily loveliness and new things.

My future treasures the moment I see you again

and we make new memories....

Sunday, September 1,1985

Migration

The time has come to fly like a bird who lifts her wings in the time appointed for flight to new places and things

I prepare to fly

I lift my wings and draw away Familiar paths grow distant Hazy in the distance Blurry with the distance of space and time Blurry with the wind in my eyes and the sense of distance The unspoken goodbyes

I prepare to fly The time has come.

May 8,1995

Misty Memory

The memory of you is fading like the mist off a rainy winter morning when the sun appears.

The pressure of your touch receding from my hand even as the blue-green of your distant eyes.

Friday, September 14,1991

Momentary Witness

How can I magnify Your name? How can I proclaim It's power? Life is but a fleeting moment. I am given one short hour.

But let me add to Your great plan My little bit of time. Let me tell my fellow man And leave the working in Your hand.

Fall 1979

My Heart A Balance Is

My heart a balance is, weighing in pain the end results of love.

weighing in loss the definition of absence...

weighing in weight the burden of caring...

weighing in wisdom the intellect behind principle...

weighing in foolishness the measure of folly...

My heart a balance is, weighing in pain the end results of love.

October 1981

My Mask

Oh God look down I 'm such a foolish clown I know you smile. But hold me for a little while. I laugh to make the hurt recede. I joke around to hide my need. But it's such a wearisome task To constantly adjust my mask. And I'm afraid someday "I'll" slide And show the tears I hold inside.

Spring 1980

My Overlord

You are my Overlord. In Your great hall I kneel, my vow to wield Your sword. Myself, my home, my all - Not mine, but Yours....

You are my Overlord.

1981-2

My View Of Things

One day long past in earnestness thought I could swoop down on shining wings

Swoop down and lift the wounded or call the strong up to my shimmering view of things

Thought blindly that the sparrow would have strength to fly that the eagle would deign to lower his eye to soar on wings to my view of things

I wanted to share my sky my glorious view and wind currents defy in my screaming ascent

But only I can tread my sky And very few will ever even catch a glimpse of my own shining view of things.

1989

Nicodemus

Robed in black Stepping slowly through silent stony streets Covering his face from curious starlight overhead

He guides his doubtful steps upward and on the mountain finds the Master waiting

Masking his doubts and saying slyly 'Teacher, we know you come from God' Flattering to avoid Jesus' soul searching inquiry, and pressing questions

But Christ without regard to propriety and forms and divining his intent Straightway fitted arrow to the bow and sent it piercing home

'Unless a man is born again from Spirit life renewed Coming, as a cautious lover wooed to feel the gentle blowing wind song of the Spirit he walks in night, forever alone.'

Saturday, March 17,1980

Nightfall

When night has fallen You can feel In that brief eternity The heartbeat of the land In it's stillness When time seems to stop and hold forever and then in a blink be gone.

May-June 1978
No Man Is An Island

No man is an island. That truth holds surely still. May careless act will reverberate in waves that others feel.

Summer 1985

Not Alone

I felt I walked alone in the night Quiet darkness pressed in around me I could hear the crickets and katydids In the stillness Small lights flickered distantly Leaving me feeling as if set assail in blackness.... A world of my own Lonely, aloness, only me....me... Me and the vast emptiness And the unknown, the fears, the insecurity That clasped itself around my heart Like a cold hand Bringing the tears I feign would not admit In my fear and my aloness In my ignorance I cried "Oh God." And suddenly -although I neither saw Nor heard a thing I wasn't alone anymore. Your Presence touched my soul And now warmed And with more confidence I walk into the unknown In Your Company.

Sunday, August 5,1979

Outdoor Cathedral

I should always be where a songbird sings beneath a tree and the flutter of wings.

I should always be where the sun shines where the wind blows free with the breath of pines.

I should always be where the grass grows green and the mountain peaks can clearly be seen.

I should always be where stream water rings over rocks to the sea

As I bend my knee at the wonder of things.

June 1989

Outlook

I see the world Painted in the colors Given me by my parents My heredity, my environment And my own experiences In walking thro' it.

1978-79 BMA

Phantom Limb

Phantom limb I feel you back again A heart catch A cheshire grin Fading in mid air A turn of head A tilt of chin Across a crowd A blink of eye Then gone again

Phantom limb You're an itch I can't scratch A quirked brow A throat catch A passing scent that rings a bell like Pierre Cardin Then gone again

Phantom limb You're an old joke A voice with a familiar ring Passing on the street not missing a beat

Yet even without you I know Somehow I'll be whole then... even though You're gone again.

Monday June 27,1988

Praise

That Your complete will Shall become all mine My joyous heart thrill At Your call to dine With You

Complete may I stand Ever in Your presence Subject of Your hand Praise flow- like incense To You

January 25,1983

Prodigal Daughter 1

Hey Prodigal Daughter, bright lonely girl with heart in the far country.

Charming smile and brown eyes whose thoughts behind dance off to the far country.

Slim profile, prim demeanor gracious manner contradict rebellious soul reaching out for the far country.

Warm lips, strong embrace soft words And passion carries you off, to the far country.

Hey Prodigal Daughter Your Father waiting by the gate calls you home... calls you home from the far country.

Thursday, June 24,1988

Prodigal Daughter 2: Home From The Far Country

I see You, Father waiting by the gate for me, thro' blurred eyes.

Home never looked so good; Your eyes so warm;

And the place I belong so close as Your reaching arms.

Monday, December 7,1992

Psalm 84

Like a sparrow hawk alighting And the swallow home returning When the home nest it is sighting And the heart within it burning

Flame my homeward bound desire Into tongues of leaping fire For the peace and quiet rest That, oh Lord, is in Your nest.

Tuesday, September 6,1983

Psr Mornings

Sun touching green peaks Alight with God's morning smile Casting shadows in our valley For just a little while.

June-July 1981 PSR

Regrets To Carl Sagin

Father, God, I am glad You Are the One Keeping it together Pulling the strings Willing even to Beam down Your Only Son From a harmonious Warm universe To a discordant galaxy To a solar system Gone sour Filled with cacophony I am glad it is You That You are there pulling the strings.

Spring 1985

Reluctant Mask

I'm sorry if I've shut you out. I haven't meant to.

Sometimes the darkness of my fears overwhelms me and in their cold clutches I am insecure.

I am afraid that if I let you see my tears that when I need your arms around me instead I will feel the cold wind as you walk away. It has happened to me before.

And when I can't touch who you are can't feel your soul in the space around me, it is hard to trust.

When I don't know who you are sense what you feel know with a surety that I am safe my mask is a reluctant companion. Forgive me if I hurt you in my struggle.

For my struggle is to be real.

And to be close to you if it is safe.

Sunday, May 13,1990

Restored

In Your hand is peace And tension finds release Tears trickle down my face And find sereneness in Your place Fears flee, they melt away For Your might is my shield today.

Saturday, August 23,1986

Save Me

Lord, When I'm sliding down the hill of sin On the seat of my pants Please retro rocket me Back to sanity And Thee

Summer 1985

Second Chance

Oh it's agony to have you go steadily, surely on your way once more Without having a chance to touch your hand breath the air that inspires your soul To look at the world thro' your eyes

Cheated I feel to have but twice looked in your eyes and caught your sidewise glances and to have passed the weather and time of day not knowing your name but burning to know you and to clasp hands together with you in spirit

If I beckon if I call will you turn back will you retrace your steps and let our togetherness have a second chance to be?

Second Coming

You come! Exultant thought. And yet You wait....

Angels rustle out by the pearly gate. The hour is now! But still, not yet.

Oh Lord, let me wait while now And yet NOT yet.

Free me from dulled eyesight somehow Lest I forget.

Send The Rain

Send the rain, Lord That I may understand my brother Who sees it only.

Make me lonely, Lord That I can sense the inner pain Of yet another.

Water my efforts with tears Lord That I can better comprehend My sister's years Lived in sorrow.

But above all give me love, hope, Christ, To give each one a sunnier tomorrow.

Saturday, February 28,1981

Ships Passing

Ships passing in the dawn Waving greetings on a golden sea Reaching out to touch-then gone Is that the way it's meant to be?

Ships passing in the day Sensing rhythms quietly Giving only words away Is that how it ought to be?

Ships passing in the night Isn't that all we're meant to be One sailing left, the other right And soon between the widening sea.

Wednesday, July 6,1988

Snowflakes

The snow falls softly Blanketing the ground in white With tiny snowflakes Each an individual self Taking it's place with the rest.

December 25,1996

Someday Perhaps

Someday perhaps On some bright spring morning in a distant future we will look back together as friends and reminisce and laugh about the things we did the times we had.

Someday perhaps But today is a cold winter in my heart with an overcast sky And emptiness where I wish Your love could be. I love you and I wish you could feel the same

But I would never want you to be untrue to who you are and where you're headed or wish you anything but free.

Please don't think badly of me because I weep because I wish our direction was together.

I love you But today it hurts Today the child howls and the woman weeps.

Someday perhaps On a bright distant spring morning I will look back without pain with fond memories and understand.

Tuesday, January 5,1993

Something Missing Without You

There seems to be something missing in my day when I have missed your hug have not seen your smile or laughed with you

There's a little emptiness in my heart when it has been too long that I must picture you in my mind and not with my eyes

There seems to be something missing in my day without you

Spring 1996

Soul Walls

Thro' the crowd our eyes catch an instant attraction sparks drawing us together I feel drowned in the firm sureness of your grip and the intense blue of your gaze.

Then in fear I create soul walls which leave me standing in the cold as I watch you walk away

If I had that time again I would ask for your help breaking down the barricades and melting the blocks of ice.

Sunday, November 8,1992

Summer Bride

If I dress in white Can I be a bride Slowly walking down A jacaranda lined aisle? If I dress in white Can I be a bride?

Thursday, June 5,1986

Sunset: A Haiku

A ball of red fire Hanging on the horizon In a hazy pink.

Taming

You tamed me. I did not ask for it -nor seek it. I did not know it would happen. Early I shied away from your professions of love. I feared it. But time and space and your patience turned me around. In the years since-you tamed me. Bit by bit I-the flighty filly was won over. First I tested. Then I began to trust, to be gentled. You tamed me. I began to learn of give and take, of communication. And finally of love. And while I was still seeking to understand me, us, and real love, You left me Tamed.

Sunday, September 11,1988

The Blues

I know of blue, the color, the shade of eyes that were brown when the blues were made.

I know of blue the color, the shade of skies that are gray when the blues were made.

I know of blue the color, the shade of a heart that beat true when the blues were made.

The Father's Song

Your song He sings over you your song from birth

As the sun rises golden and glowing the song drifts over the hills warming and awakening

He sings a song a love song a song of design and destiny

At times it pipes out sweet and strong inviting like a spring morning

At others it pours out like a steady stream of water flowing over rocks

In the watches of the night the Father's song comes at times so sweetly so tenderly it resonates in darkness wrapping around you like a comforter of down the song He sings

Your song Your own

from Zephaniah 3: 17 Tuesday, February 4,2014

The Heart Of The Rose

A perfect rosebud Prophetic promise In it's pause To grace a day Untouched But by heaven's dew

A blossoming rose Opening Sunlit Beautiful, Perfect, Bathed by heaven's dew

A fullblown rose Wide-open Fragrant Giving A mother's heart Blessed by heaven's dew

Sunday, May 12,2014

The Merry-Go-Round

The merry-go-round music... The carousel of colors and lights...

They all slow coast and you get off and walk away.

The ride resumes but the flashing lights and watching people

are a spinning, aching blur.

I want to cry 'Stop! ' To say 'don't go! '

But I can't my throat is too clogged with tears.

I can't even say goodbye. Just watch as you walk away.

I want to beg or follow. But I can't speak. And it isn't my time to get off. So tears spill silently as I clutch my mount.

The carousel turns and I watch through a blurry kaleidoscope of colors and sounds.

You walk on.

Monday, July 26,1993

The Open Road

This stop and go is driving me crazy

I want some clear road to cut loose to let it roll to let the wind blow through my hair

I'm tired of stop signs and redlights

I'm hitting the road care to join me?

The Passing Of The Fire

There is a moment when the flame burn low. The candle flickers, the light about to go. The spark may be rekindled and the flicker returned to glow at this point in time with a careful hand you know.

But when that moment passes... when the darkness snuffs the light, comes the time of no return. And then blacker grows the night. The candle might not be relighted, nor the coal be coaxed to spark, when late becomes the hour in the deepness of the dark.

So pause you on the threshhold of quenching my desire. For cool and distant grows my heart, with the passing of the fire.

Friday, June 17,1988

The Quarrel

Angry words Bitter words Going on and on From the next room. Accusations Filling the black night Until the rain Falls faster And the wind With a roaring sound Going by my window Carries them far away.

Spring-Summer 1977
The Road Is Long

The road is long and watered by tears to the place where I go

The road is long and watered by tears to the place where I see myself and know who I am

The road is long and watered by tears to the place where I can see you and walk along side

Wednesday, September 23,1992

The Song Of The Gypsy

The song of the gypsy is an open road the path inviting blue sky beckoning limitless all of nature calling and life to be danced

The song of the gypsy is the opportunity of the moment the zest of the present moving and breathing existing fully in the now

The song of the gypsy is color, creativity and exploration energy, action and the eternal voice of intuition directing

The song of the gypsy is passion and power unbridled and free expressed fully

And

The song of the gypsy evokes, invites commands

Dare you sing the gypsy song?

December 19,1995

This Gray Ocean Rolling Between

Unfair expectations faulty misconceptions filling the air between us the widening gap until there is a vast sea on which we float

Face to face but not eye to eye Your eyes are veiled to me except for now and then an open glance when fog rolls back and in your expression is wistfulness and inner turmoil reflecting for an instant

But expressionless with iron jaw and burning pain inside I gaze back with defiance I don't feel...

Oh bitter fate and cruel irony Oh let me be.... This lack of honesty that tore us apart is splitting me in two.

This gray ocean rolling between.

Saturday, October 18,1980

This Little Dance I Do

This little dance that I do I'm trying so hard just to please you Give me the measures, give me the beat In no time I'll teach my dancing feet

This little dance that I do Something creative? Something new? Come on, give me a clue I'm trying so hard just to please you

In this little dance I do.

June 28,1989

This Mask

This mask -it traps me in I can't climb past it's charming grin

It's twinkling eyes and gaze so wide afforded me a place to hide

But see me now all feathered and tarred a soul caught fast and prison barred

Oh, release me now from this prison of 'nice' My soul is turning into blocks of ice

and trickling away.

June 1988

This Rainy Day

This rainy day you walked into my heart across the phone lines you spanned the space and pressing gently touched a place that festered in my heart

Your words both cutting and caressing as I wept

And even amidst my tears and the soft fall of the rain I felt your love

November 1989

To An Olive Tree

Silvery you sing rustling soft rustling

I listen wisdom your gift

Centuries silver song

School year 1985-6

To Slumber

Sleep gathers forces Quiet, pressing but momentary stop to wield his sandbags; Set distant looks in weary brains and lull with sing song lullaby and night hawks cry the storm tossed wanderer into his tempting chamber soft, star filled fantasy.

March 15,1980

Try Again

Laughing, crying Losing, trying Selling, buying Living, but to try again

Singing, weeping Working, sleeping Giving, keeping Failing, but to try again

That but inbred in me With that trait you're bound to win me For that purpose say you sin me? Failing now and then Living but to try again.

Sunday, June 18,1978

Twilight

Twilight sweeps the last gossamer threads of light from the dew and sweeps clean the slow moving images on the pond -with last wink of sun

Tuesday, February 23,1981

Two Roads, Two Choices: Which One?

Two roads diverge again Two choices are before all men

One way is right, -the other wrong You know the right But the call is strong To go the other one It just looks so much fun

You know the right one now But it is hard -and how To go the better way

The choice you make today Might decide eternity So stop and think right now Where you want to be?

1976-77

Two Sides Of Me

Yes, Friend There's two sides of me. There's the rose and the thorns. You say you want to know all of me. Well there's the kitten, and the tiger too. What else can I be? Well rainbows and lightning are part of the same storm. And what about steam and ice each a different form of the same matter. Then there's both pain and pleasure from the same fire. And electricity that takes many paths from the same wire. And just the same many the tunes by the one lyre on which I play.

Sunday, January 1,1989

Unconditional

Love without Key

Love with no lock No binding ring No puppet No mannequin Or bird on a string My heart is Set free To love, to see To be, To give, To give, To live In Thee

May 6? 1988 Friday

Unconditional Love

In a moment filled with pain. I reach out in desperation. And You touch me once again. Reminding of the flowers that follow from the rain.

At a time of great despair. Blindly fleeing to the mountain. And at midnight find You there, Touching me with tend'rest care.

Your presence giving one step more, When my last - the one before. When the night is dark and stormy, Then You light up heaven's door.

When my friends have all forsaken, When my family left alone, When my joys have turned to sorrow, and my heart's a heavy stone,

Then You reach down to lift me. From the tantrum I have thrown. Gath'ring my crushed flowers, Showing patience never known. It is then I'm not alone.

Sunday, December 9,1979

Walk The Eye Path

Only those who dare walk the eye path face to face eye to eye unflinching walk down the hallways of the soul hear and see without turning back who can risk opening doors and facing what lies behind

Only those with that courage to know some but never all can be called friends of the deepest kind.

May 2,1994

Walk With Me

Walk with me don't race but walk beside

Reach with me don't grasp but gently stretch

Talk with me don't tell but quietly be

Hold with me don't clutch but softly touch

Pray with me don't preach but only trust

Stay with me don't stop but simply let me

Be

Wednesday, September 23,1992

Welcome To His World

Welcome to His world I'm inviting What the Lord is doing It's exciting

Welcome to His world I want to testify Listen to the stories Don't let Him pass you by

Welcome to His world His Presence you can feel Cry out in desperation For He has the power to heal.

When I Am Free

Give me Oh just a day in the wind So free Without feeling I have sinned

Let me be One night among the stars Wildly free Without seeing black bars

Send me Your love on the breeze Lend me Your heart and soul keys

Let me go Please free my love For you know It soars above

And in the end Your heart will mend You'll turn away Forgetting me Then I'll come back to stay Then knowing I am free

Tues or Wed April 22 or 23,1980

Wind Blown

Wind Blown Like a feather dipping and drifting on a playful wind.

We often drift through our lives moving here and there but without purpose or place to belong

Until the "wind" of the Holy Spirit is allowed to carry us in the grip of love which calls our "feathery" frivolous self Into place and position... A tool in the hand of Almighty God.

Winter Moon

Tonight there's a ring around the moon. It's halo shimmers over the hill. A magic winter moon A midnight moon riding low toward the western sky.

The stars shine crisply overhead. The winter circle carrying the hunter stands over my doorway.

There's a ring around the moon Somewhere fairies dance. Frost fairies preparing their icy lace for windows and sidewalk designs. Maple leaf fairies calling the scarlet and gold from the tree.

Magic moon cast your glow on me as you slip over the hill on your way. Sprinkle your moonlight magic as I watch your glow. Leave some here for me.

November 20,1993

You Caught Me By Surprise

A casual friend -Until I turned around Captured by a look in your blue eyes Now things just won't go back the same.

Your Gaze Of Green

Years ago on a rain splattered night

I sat across the table from you and took your measure over a deck of cards

and measured again for the cards had cast you my partner

You gave me back gaze for gaze green eyes to brown brown to green

mixing humor question and prediction

Even now years after our flirtation over a deck of cards the rhythm of a rainy night speaks to me

And your gaze of green releases in me the same magnetic pull

as on that rainy night in a year now long gone

orig Spring 1996 edited Feb.14,2014