

# The Start of Winter

And an unexpected Spring



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# Introduction

A few forgotten poems in a forgotten notebook, and some from last month. The same topic, a woman. What else is there to say, forty years and he's still the same man.

The Photos are from the early 1970s and perhaps 2023.

~~

Kim Taylor, Dec 2023 – Jan 2024



# The Start of Winter



## **There's Another One Coming**

She worried about my drinking  
got a sad look  
each time I came home  
half drunk  
and nagged a bit  
about the whisky in the cupboard

But that day  
I came home stone sober  
and told her about the day  
about the boss  
about the stress  
about the injury



She sat me down  
kissed my forehead  
sat beside me and squeezed  
then went into the kitchen  
and pattered around  
She's making tea, I thought

But she came out with a glass  
whisky on ice  
a good dollop  
and she said to me  
You get that down yourself  
and there's another one coming  
after that

~~

## **Ashamed of Clickbait**

Lord help me  
if I ever get feeling  
too superior  
to the entertainment news  
masses

I scrolled past an item  
that said Sarah Silverman made out  
with a star on Star Trek  
and I resisted  
I resisted

I swear I did  
for half a minute at least  
and then went back  
to see who it was

Clickbait  
and Celebrity gossip  
and I went back  
to see who it was

I am ashamed  
~~

## Three Years

I knew her for maybe  
three years  
and in that time  
we spent together  
maybe a month  
a night at a time

A month isn't long  
but I remember each morning  
that I woke beside her  
I remember the smell of her hair  
the taste of the sweat  
in the small of her back

I remember her eyes  
as she slowly closed them  
when she slept  
The rise and fall  
of her chest  
as she breathed  
~~



## **You've Gone Away**

I'm a tiny bird  
who fell asleep  
and woke in the morning  
to find my feet frozen  
to the branch

I can't go forward  
I can't go back  
There's noplac I can  
Noplac I want to  
You've gone away  
~~

## **On the Wagon**

Figure out where the rich  
get their money  
and put yours there

That's the advice  
I gave my kids  
and I think it's working

The rich are not willing  
to lose their money  
so they'll change the rules

Change the laws  
to keep it rolling in  
Just hop on the wagon

~~

## **A Thought of You**

I fall asleep here  
at my desk  
my fingers don't work  
and the keyboard fights back

But I try to write  
to get you down on paper  
Mouse dropping to the floor  
as I nod off once more

It wakes me up  
Another line created  
another tear fallen  
another thought of you  
~~

## **The Hobbit Apartment**

That hobbit apartment  
you loved so well  
dented my head so deep  
the marks are still there  
they won't ever leave

You loved the small rooms  
and the low ceilings  
and I never seemed to learn  
how to walk like a hunchback  
how to duck at four steps  
toward the bedroom

The marks are still there  
on my forehead  
these years later  
and each time I see them  
I smile  
for the memory of you  
~~





## **What You Called Up**

Do you still murmur  
those half words at night  
when you're dreaming  
The ones I'd listen to  
while watching the window  
making sure that what you called  
never got near to you

I lost some sleep, sure  
but when the things you called  
came out of the moonlight  
and into our bedroom  
I would see them  
I would say to them  
You are not welcome  
and they would fade away

You would stop then  
and I would hold you tight  
arms around you  
legs touching yours  
as you shifted closer  
tighter to my chest  
and I'd kiss the top  
of your ear

When I kissed your ear  
you would smile  
reach up  
and stroke my face  
The half word you'd say then  
called up nothing  
but a deeper love  
in my heart

~~

## **It's Worth It**

Why does it always have to end  
why does love go away

I can't answer that  
I really don't know  
never have

but what I can tell you  
for sure  
is that for love to go  
it has to have been there

And that's worth it  
every time you try  
it's worth it

~~

## **Such an Asshole**

It always falls apart  
my friends said  
every time you try  
you fuck it up  
because you're such  
Such an asshole

I try again  
once more  
I want it to work  
I don't want to be  
such an asshole  
and maybe this time  
with you it will work

~~



## Spring Wind

You were the spring wind  
after a long winter  
Warm enough  
to cut through  
the ice and snow  
Warm enough  
to make the snowdrops bloom  
to make my heart turn  
away from thoughts of ice  
Thoughts of snow  
~~

## Long Distance

I don't do long distance  
she said  
as she moved out  
to go to school  
in another town

Yes, I said  
I know that  
but just understand  
you can come back here  
any time

She never did  
and really, I wasn't surprised  
she had never asked me  
to go with her  
Did I offer?

~~



## **Would Three Fit**

Cold, and rainy  
and the bed was damp

Do you think three would fit  
in this bed

I suspect so, why do you ask  
Would it be warmer  
do you think

Surely not, I thought

A month later she came in  
with a red-headed girl  
This is my friend

~~

## **Dancing Alone**

I would come through the door  
quietly  
carefully inserting the key  
swinging the door slowly  
so it wouldn't creak

All for the chance  
that I would catch her dancing  
alone by the stereo  
eyes closed  
hips swaying  
hands fluttering

So completely herself  
so completely in tune  
with the music she played

Whatever I'd payed  
for that stereo system  
all those records  
It was worth it in that moment

Worth it forever more  
for the memory of her dancing  
alone in our apartment  
~~

## **Over Scheduled**

Over scheduled  
that's what I told her  
each and every minute  
of every day filled  
so that there was no time  
No time to sleep  
no time to eat  
and not all of it got done  
No time for me

~~



## **Never Like That**

I had been undressed before  
but never like that  
Shyly, like an explorer  
each button  
each zipper something brand new  
and when the shirt was lifted  
over my head  
that gasp, that intake of breath  
as if the legendary emerald  
had been uncovered  
at the bottom of the mine

~~

## **The Secret**

We sat knee to knee  
facing each other  
heads almost touching  
as you confided the secret  
you had been hiding forever

I put my hands  
palms up on my knees  
and you held them tight  
as you told me  
that secret you never told  
anyone else

~~

## **Sick**

Remember the time you were sick  
and I brought you food  
You smiled so nicely at me  
saying  
You didn't have to do that

But I did  
because you were sick  
and so I took care of you  
just like you took care of me  
when we were healthy  
~~

## **That Cabin on the Lake**

We never did make it  
to that cabin on a spit of land  
moving out into a lonely lake

We planned to  
once, long ago  
when we were young

and had no money  
to rent a cabin on a spit of land  
moving out into a lonely lake

But Sunday mornings  
when we woke with the sun  
shining into our bedroom windows

We lay unbothered with work  
looking at the sun on the wall  
and we were there in our cabin

~~





## **Your Nose**

There it was  
across the cafe this morning  
your nose

Not you of course  
this nose was young  
as young as you were  
when you were with me

But that nose  
Yes I stared a bit  
and then I thought

If you were that age today  
you would be there  
earphones in  
computer on  
concentrating on your work

You worked so very hard  
on your studies  
~~

## **Clocks, She Said**

What are those things, masks?  
Clocks, she said  
and right then I realized  
my eyes are going  
I mean, for reading I get it  
but I used to be good  
at a distance  
Now I can't avoid it  
they're getting old  
they're getting fuzzy  
and I have to, once again  
adjust my expectations

~~

## **Cold Hands**

Scaring the hell out of myself  
once more  
I try, with frozen hands  
to use my workshop in the cold

Cutting something too small  
for a circular blade  
it kicks back into my thumb  
cutting some skin  
and bruising the rest

All to make a fridge magnet  
because the urge to create  
is too strong  
to be overcome by common sense

~~

## Late At Night

Late at night I would wake  
to hear her  
banging away on my typewriter  
finishing an essay  
for some course or other

The floor would be strewn  
with balled up paper  
a half empty cup of tea  
beside her on the desk

I would tiptoe out  
of the bedroom  
and pick up the paper  
gently lift her cup  
from beside her hand  
and refill it

If there was no more in the pot  
I would make her tea  
put a fresh cup gently beside her  
touch her shoulder lightly  
and go back to bed

~~



## Chinos

Chinos she called them  
loose pants  
coming half way down  
those impossible shins  
Big, where the pockets were  
but cinched in  
to that impossible waist

She loved those pants  
and the baggy white shirt  
she wore with them  
bare feet or at most  
sandles  
Born a generation too late  
she was mine for a while  
~~

## **Don't You Dare**

Don't you dare  
she said to me  
Don't you dare give up  
you are not alone in this  
and the cancer doesn't have you yet  
Promise me

I promise to continue  
until I can go no further  
I promise I won't leave you too soon  
but you must never forget  
that I will die  
sooner rather than later

I know that  
but not before your time

Very well, I am here  
but I also, must not forget  
~~



## **That Is Your Door**

Oh I love him  
she told me once  
He is so kind  
and treats me nice  
Not like you do

Go on then, to him  
I wish you well  
but my door is there  
across the room  
The door you have entered

The door you will leave through  
it remains your door  
and I remain here  
should he not prove kind  
Should he not treat you nice  
~~

## **Please Leave Me**

Please leave me often  
before I get used to you  
before I begin to assume  
you will always be here

Please leave me  
when I begin to stir  
To get restless and annoyed  
with my life

Before I begin to take it out  
on you  
Leave me for a while  
and remind me once more

Remind me of you  
and how much I miss you  
and how I long for you  
to come back to me

~~

## **You Would Come Home**

I would walk the city  
late at night  
and watch the cars go by  
If I had the wrong thought  
a thought of them going home  
to someone they loved  
I would begin to cry

I thought of you  
and how I used to walk home  
You would be working still  
and drive home to me  
Smiling so very happily  
when you came in the door  
and I would kiss you

~~



## **A Housewife**

How was your day  
she asked me

I washed the dishes  
and cooked the meal  
did a laundry  
and folded it  
and now I've come for you  
to pick you up from work

Wow, you're a housewife

I looked at the road  
my neck doesn't twist well  
but I said  
Keep it up woman  
just you keep it up  
And she laughed

~~

## **Baking for Christmas**

Here is Christmas Jazz again  
I remember you had an album  
that you played on my system  
when we lived together  
so very long ago

We didn't have much  
but it was more than I had  
and you were there  
and I was happy  
perhaps the very first Christmas

I was ever happy  
You spent time in the kitchen  
baking things  
and I sat on the couch  
reading, thinking of you

The smells were so good  
sometimes, forgive me  
I thought my mother  
was in that kitchen  
baking for Christmas

~~

## **Food for Water**

Water it is  
that I crave  
I know this  
and yet I eat  
rather than drink

What manner of stupid  
is this  
And yet I eat  
because I thirst  
because I was hungry  
when I was young  
~~

## **Losing my Legs**

I worry about my eyes  
they seem to blur  
and tell me less  
than they used to

But that doesn't scare me  
half as much  
as the idea of losing my legs  
Those mighty trunks  
that have run thousands of miles  
and saved me  
when my neck broke in two

A soft focus world  
a fuzzy world  
is still the world  
and I can still find my way  
from here to there  
with the old friends  
below my hips

~~





## **Not Enough**

I walked out of that apartment  
and straight to the gym

I needed the exercise  
the activity of lifting  
a hundred times my weight  
until my limbs shook  
and my chest heaved

And then the shower  
scalding hot  
and freezing cold by turns  
but nothing I did  
could take the filthy stain  
off of my body

The stain of not being good enough  
not strong enough  
not handsome enough  
for you  
~~

## **The Velvet Ribbon**

A black ribbon at her throat  
Velvet, of course  
and her hair all piled  
atop her head

She let me remove the pin  
and the hair fell down her back  
to sway just above her ass

But that ribbon  
that I could not touch

As I reached for it  
she drew back  
her hands went to her throat  
and she said no

You may have anything else  
but you cannot have that  
~~

## **We Are There**

We are there, are we  
No regrets  
time to go back  
to your man  
Time to say goodbye  
to the times we had  
the sweat  
the grunts  
the screams  
and return to the real world  
to your home  
with the picket fence  
and the dog in the yard

No, not quite yet  
but he may be the one  
and I certainly am not  
so it's so long Marianne  
and good by girl  
We may meet again  
on the avenue  
but until then it's been fun  
and the best of lives  
to you  
~~

## Half Asleep

Half asleep in the sauna  
drifting in and out of dream  
Faces rise up before me  
faces long gone  
with the hairstyles that framed them  
Blond hair, black, brown, and red  
all long ago turned grey

Smooth skin of youth  
turned to the texture  
of our grandparents  
Children, perhaps  
men and women  
I've never met  
now older than we were then

A smile to each of them  
and a hug

~~

## **There Wasn't Much**

She carried boxes and crates  
up the stairs  
into the place  
While I watched  
offering to help  
but no

There isn't much  
and there wasn't  
And I began to wonder  
why there was not much

After she moved in  
the place still stank of me  
very little of her there

Did I mention it  
I don't remember  
but she declared herself happy  
that the place contained  
so much of me  
Some of which she claimed  
~~

## **The Ginkgo Leaf**

Years later  
she showed me a leaf  
that she had pressed  
in the pages of a book  
Somewhere foreign  
somewhere exotic  
that we two visited

Feeling strangely touched  
at such a simple thing  
it brought me close to tears  
and I hugged her to me  
A piece of the past  
a sharp memory  
because you see  
I remembered picking it up

~~

## **Somehow It Worked**

God it was cold  
so very cold in that place

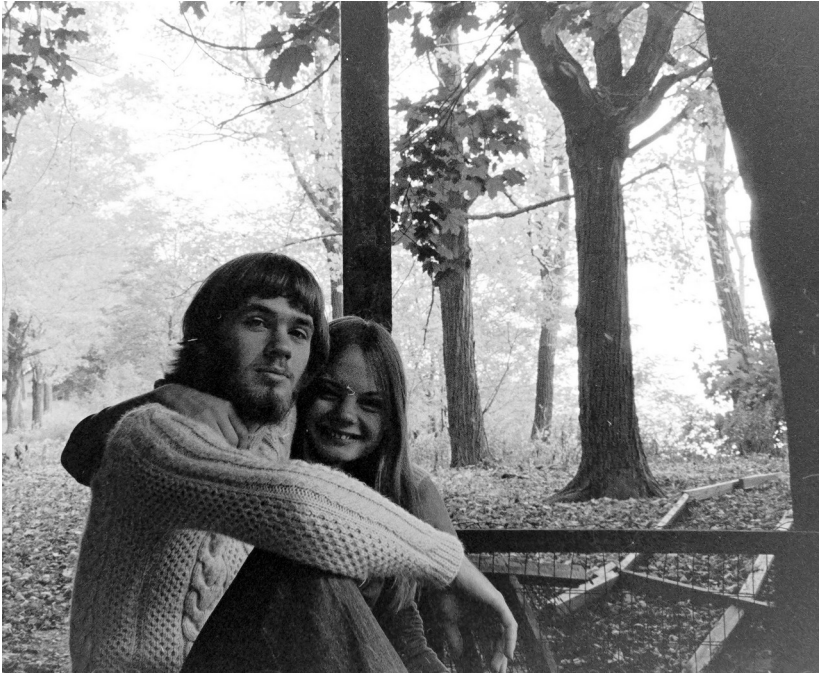
We slept together for warmth  
clothes still on  
heavy blankets covering us

She reached for me  
unzipped my jeans  
dug out what she wanted  
and somehow  
pulling away this and that  
bits of cloth

She got me inside of her

~~





## Lost Chances

Naked, three of us  
half way through the night  
half way drunk

Naked and laughing  
we waded out into the pond  
Mud between our toes  
we waded out

Her between us  
my friend and I  
as she told us about her boyfriend  
as we ran our hands  
up and down her body  
and perhaps each other

Later still  
back in our apartment  
my roomie and I  
I left them on the couch  
and went to bed alone  
and in the morning asked

No, he said, she talked all night  
about her boyfriend

~~

## Sweet News

Don't you worry about it  
she told me  
late, late at night  
If you knock me up  
I'll just get rid of it

And that  
as a young man  
my life stretching out  
for years beyond that night  
That was sweet, sweet news  
and so we fucked

Like so many others  
in those free days  
post pennicillin  
and pre AIDS  
We fucked all night

and in the morning she kissed me  
and walked out the door  
and I went back to sleep  
Thought about it  
no more

~~

## Later

She traced "I love you"  
on my back  
and I asked  
what it was  
but she shook her head

No, I won't say  
do you not know  
do you really not know

I knew something  
and so I smiled  
and said nothing more  
and she seemed happy  
with that

and so I was happy  
not to have caused her pain

Later

in one of those awful fights  
you can only have  
with someone you love deeply  
I told her I never knew  
and she threw it back at me  
as quickly as I'd said it

I love you, that's what I wrote  
I love you, stupid girl that I was  
Stupid to think you'd know

And I was  
Stupid  
~~

## **Bright Young Things**

All the bright young things  
and I was a kid from the country  
Never to fit in with that crowd  
I let them go their way  
and they allowed me  
to go mine

Such was University  
Such was school  
and do you know  
I never really noticed  
until years later  
when I wanted one of them

Kindness she met me with  
and a gentle letting down  
for the boy reaching up  
just a little bit beyond his reach  
she smiled and shook her head  
and sent me on my way

~~



## **Your Face on my Pillow**

Your face on my pillow  
so close to mine  
breathing in  
what you breathe out  
the smell of sweat  
on a summer afternoon  
on rumpled sheets  
on a student bed  
handed down  
from some unknown relative  
to be left here  
in a student room  
used by you and me  
and some later year  
abandoned, like this afternoon  
when your face is on my pillow  
so close to mine

~~



## **Blood Pounds**

My blood pounds  
as you look at me

do you not see  
what builds  
as you come near  
and put your hand  
on my arm

Do you not see  
what my blood builds for you  
as you speak to me  
and I watch your lips  
unable to hear your words

~~

## **Just an Old Man**

Drifting off to sleep  
in my chair  
as I type my poems  
of remembrance

Just an old man  
thinking back  
on the girls  
who were so kind to me

A poem for each  
or two  
or three  
every girl deserving

Each one a dream  
Each one a volume  
of gentle verse  
and fond thoughts  
~~

## **Stand Very Still**

Stand very still, she said  
very, very still

and I did  
while she ran her hands  
down my chest  
around my hips  
and up my naked back

her breasts on mine  
she drew her nails  
up my spine  
leaving marks

not quite as bright  
as the ones she left  
as she slid her hands  
down again

~~

## **Too Clever**

Deep, deep in my cups  
she found me  
having searched every bar  
in this small town  
she found me

Come home with me  
she said, all hopeful  
and I, in my youth  
in my callous youth  
said no

I was too clever  
I knew it would hurt her  
and I wanted to hurt her  
for she had hurt me  
and I said no

Once more she asked  
come home with me  
and in my drunken glory  
I said no  
Sadly, she turned and left  
~~

## **Good Enough**

I kissed her eye  
touched my tongue  
to the lid  
Then her nose  
down finally  
to her lips

Not good at this  
I worried  
until I heard her breathe  
ragged and with a catch  
and knew it was good enough

~~



## **Tongue Tied**

Wanting her  
so very much  
so very badly  
I stood before her

tongue tied  
fists jammed in pockets  
with nothing in mind  
Not a thing could I imagine  
to say to her

She waited a moment  
shook her head  
and turned away from me  
to speak again  
to her friend

I turned myself  
and tightened my fists  
cursing my tongue  
tied so carefully  
in a knot  
I slowly walked away  
~~

## **I Was Too Cruel**

With her I thought  
I would have children  
playing around my feet  
I thought  
she would be here  
beside me  
as I grew old  
as I grew weak

But it was not to be  
it was too soon  
and she was too kind  
and I was too cruel  
and there were no children  
and we did not grow old  
together

~~



## **Yes, It's Her**

Half a block away  
two blocks  
I would know her  
a dozen blocks away  
How could I not

The way she moved  
that sway of the hips  
the swing of her shoulders  
I would know her  
even if half blind

There, someone  
ah, my heart pounds  
my mouth dries up  
and my eyes fill with tears  
Yes, it's her

~~

## Change in the Couch

There  
a couple in the shop  
they are counting their change  
wondering  
if they can afford a coffee

So very young  
and I want to say  
that coffee is on me today  
but I remain silent  
I'm not part of their life

Still  
They are part of mine  
for I remember a girl  
I remember turning out pockets  
digging in couches

Hoping to find enough  
to buy coffee  
so we could sit  
and talk  
and look at each other's eyes  
~~

## **Half Exposed**

Breasts half exposed  
she sat in the bar  
and chatted with a friend

I watched those breasts  
half exposed  
for a short time  
when she looked around  
and saw me looking

As I looked up at her  
she looked at me  
smiled  
and turned back to her friend

~~

## **Button to Button**

I watched her hands  
so delicate  
so pale in the moonlight  
as she moved them  
from button to button

She dropped each piece  
of her clothing  
so carelessly dropped  
each piece on the floor  
as she kept her eyes on mine

I watched her face  
as she slowly grinned  
looked down to see  
just what she was doing to me  
and up again

Slowly she dropped  
the very last piece  
and then  
slowly she dropped  
to her knees

~~

## **My Hand**

I stare at my hand  
wrinkled  
blue veins  
and spots  
Is this my hand

I turn it over quickly  
and gaze at the palm  
now this I know  
smooth and unblemished  
at least most of it  
~~



## **I Can Remember**

I can remember  
so very clearly  
the feel of your stomach  
under my right hand  
as you slept beside me

The soft rise and fall  
of your flesh  
and the warmth  
the very soft fur  
below your belly

I can remember  
so very clearly  
the way your hips rose  
as you became aware  
of my hand on your skin

~~

## Careful of the Coal

It was a bitter cold winter that year  
and there was no work  
we had to be careful of the coal

In the evenings we'd go to bed  
I'd wrap my arms around her  
to keep her warm

The cat would jump up onto us  
and sit waiting  
to see that we were going to sleep

He would climb under the top blanket  
and find a spot behind my knees  
and there we would spend the night

~~



## **Snow for Believers**

Snow on the ground  
not the first of the year  
but the accidents abound  
Emergency lights flashing  
like Christmas decorations  
And it takes longer  
to get around

Perhaps the believers  
don't see the snow  
and figure they can drive  
as fast as usual  
to avoid being late for work

~~



## **Best Turn it Off**

How can I ignore the suffering  
of those who are caught up  
in war torn countries  
if I keep watching the news

Best to just turn it off

~~

## **Up Too Early**

You get up too early  
it's the weekend  
can't we stay in bed  
until noon  
Can't we make lazy love  
and doze for an hour  
then do it again

You used to be up  
for being down like that  
but now you're all grown  
and it's all  
The Day's a'Wasting  
But I want to waste the day  
here with you  
under the warm covers

~~

## **I Didn't Know It**

It was the last coffee together  
I didn't know it was  
but you stood and kissed me  
and then you walked away

When we were together  
you would light a candle  
and tell me to love you  
for as long as it burned

So many late nights  
turned to early morning light  
as the candle burned down  
and I loved you

And we'd wake up well past noon  
stagger into the shower  
and head downtown  
for a coffee

I thought it would last forever  
I thought you did too  
but I guess you thought different  
and I don't know what to do

I visit our cafe once in a while  
and I sit at our table  
I wait for you  
What else can I do  
~~

## **There's a City Street**

There's a city street  
it goes down a steep hill  
and on that street  
do you wait for me still

I can't come to you  
I have forgotten the city  
but I'll never forget that street  
and I'll never forget you

There's an iron fence  
along that street  
it's narrow  
and the cars move by

But I can't remember the city  
and I can't remember the year  
and I can't remember why  
I was there, but I remember you

I'd come to you tomorrow  
I know that I would  
I'd come to you with love  
and the promise I would stay

I must have parted from you  
because you're not here now  
but I remember you there  
on that steep side street stair

~~



## **Come Back**

I watch out the window  
hoping you will come  
Return to me tonight  
or soon, love soon

I promise I'll change, love  
I'll let you change me  
No more resistance  
no more pride

Come to me tonight love  
and I'll do it I swear  
I'll change for you  
just tell me what to do

I'll wait here for you  
until the candle burns  
until the streets are bare  
Come back to me love

Come back  
~~



## Lie to Me

Lie to me  
lie to me  
Lie to me please  
lie to me tonight

Tell me you love me  
tell me you'll stay with me  
stay with me forever  
Kiss me and lie

Tell me we'll be together  
that you'll make me breakfast  
I'll make you coffee  
and I'll see you again tomorrow

Tell me I'm the one  
that you'll be with me  
be with me only  
be with me tonight  
~~

## **In My Football Shirt**

Who knows  
where the time goes  
Who knows  
where the love goes

I remember you  
in my football shirt  
so many many years ago  
lying on my bed

And I a shallow youth  
a fresh young man  
barely more than a boy  
and you lying on my bed

I remember so very well  
that night with you  
the first time with you  
I was in love with you

In the morning you looked  
and found me beside you there  
lying in my bed  
and you didn't kick me down

I think you loved me too  
so many many years ago  
and I'll never forget my love  
You, my football shirt, on my bed  
~~

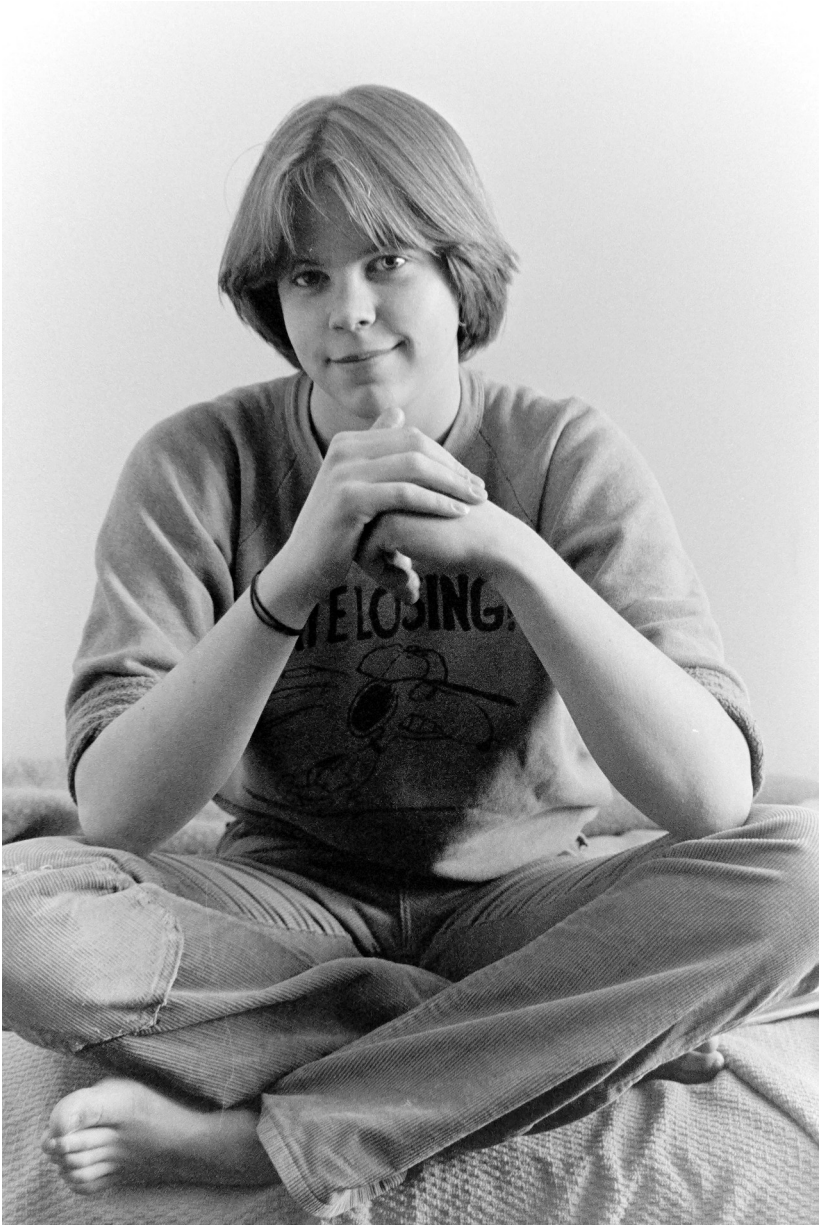
## **In My Dream**

You came to me last night  
in my dream  
a small peck on my lips  
and you resisted my hug

But you looked wonderful  
not aged much at all  
And you told me as much  
as you ever did

Has there been anyone for you  
a man, or a woman  
You nodded yes  
but said not one word more

~~



## **The Hood of Your Car**

Walking past a park today  
I flashed on another ball diamond  
and making love to you  
on the hood of your car

But you don't make love  
on the hood of a car  
you fuck  
On the car, on the bleachers

On a blanket, but the best  
was the hood of your car  
and you squirted  
and you got really angry

You thought it would lift the paint  
but it didn't  
Still, you never laughed about that  
you stayed mad  
~~



## **The Resonance**

I feel like learning magic  
I feel like making music  
I am no player of dead wood  
I want to play your body  
And make you hum and sing  
I want to hear the resonance  
Of your stomach  
When I stroke your breasts

~~

# An Unexpected Spring

Letters from so very long ago  
From when letters were written  
and thrown into a box  
to be saved for who knew what

To come back forty years later  
and haunt an old man's memory  
take him back to ghosts  
to people long gone from his life

Then to the confusion  
that comes with the present time  
trying to make sense of forty years  
a gap twice as long as his life

That young man, that kid  
who read those letters  
Perhaps answered them  
and threw them in a box

~~

The poems that follow are from the springtime of my life, that is, the first two semesters of my University career, 1975-1976.

They were recently discovered in a notebook.

## **Marginalia**

I've found a notebook from my first semester in University. It was obviously English for science idiots. The margins contain some found poetry:

The shorter the poem  
the longer the analysis

Eliot's images are faulty  
This grates  
Deserts live  
Patients live  
Prickly pears give life

Education up  
Money down

Miss Orator from the back  
Strikes out but got hit back  
Or I wish they would  
She plays the scales  
and comes out tone-deaf

Speechifying  
Special

I don't like being spoon fed

Bitch  
Bitch  
Bitch

~~

May 26, 1975

March 23, 1976

## **Hemingway Writes I respond:**

Man is not preoccupied with violence in the twentieth century any more than he was in the fifteenth. He has just refined the art to the point that it appears grotesque and has now started to vomit out violent works of art in an effort to purge himself.

Women class themselves  
as separate

Teach from speech

So what

Swing your philosophy  
like a willow  
The only philosophy  
is peace of mind

~~

April 1976

## **Sleeping Alone Tonight**

I'm going to enjoy sleeping alone tonight  
I can break wind  
as noisily as I wish

~~

April 1976

**For D. S.**

Little worm digs in the ground  
And eats his way through dirty mound  
From every way he sees the earth  
And knows himself for what he's worth  
Just believes what he will learn  
The worm he crawls so steady stern

Little plane up in the air  
Delights to feel her wind blown hair  
They taught her long ago to fly  
She never questions, she's too high  
They often tell her what to be  
She flies as high, she feels as free

The worm will never touch the clouds  
She'll never know the earth  
They tell her now to make it rain  
She does for all she's worth  
The worm is drowned upon his ground  
She combs her hair with mirth

~~

-I remember that at that time in my life I had a lot of sympathy for the worms drowned on the sidewalks. I think I called them "warm brown rain".





April 3, 1976

## **He Sits Alone**

He sits alone by choice  
Stares out of his window  
And thinks  
No one sings his songs  
No one reads his poems  
What will he be next year  
When his photographs fade away  
~~

April 3, 1976

## **Buzz Buzz**

Buzz Buzz Plane does -- female

Worm crawls steady stern -- me

~~

April 3, 1976

## **Cloudberry haze and you're the Cage (D.S.)**

Cloudberry haze and you're the cage  
All found within the lover's gauge  
Resistance fades and listen sage  
All 'round and now there is your cage

You've built the cage you happy cow  
You'll never be contented now  
You need the plan to tell you how  
You've got the man that needs the Tao

You captured when 'it is the thing'  
You hate it for you see your ring  
Take back your leash, the gruesome ting  
of cowbells never heard to sing

The cage is steel, the cage is strong  
It's walls contrast it can't last long  
All those within are crushed by wrong  
This man denies your trapping song

Cloudberry haze against your cage  
All will deny the lover's gauge  
Resistance made and free the sage  
Now set the Tao against the cage

~~

Apr 19, 1976

**(For M.M.)**

Mother womb, the struggle to escape you  
Explosive shock, the entry to another world  
Another womb, protect us from the world  
From one to another to another  
From son to a mother to a mother  
To cushion, to spoon feed, dependant on two  
~~

## Ice Cream Time

Double cones  
Matched apex to apex  
Filled, no packed  
With the ice cream of time  
Just where they meet  
The heat of the present  
And I ride a flow, wild and cyclic  
Time flows past and cools again  
To the same solid so far away  
and so closely packed.

~~

A poem in my notebook, not written in my hand.

## **To the teacher**

once more I take a step  
led by a hand  
a heart  
a mind  
other than my own

I was a student of your being  
used you to guide my way to  
a simple truth

You did not realize  
were not conscious of my ecstasy  
the joy of learning was your  
unintended gift

It makes me sad to think you  
could not share my feeling  
But I was caught and here is  
my web

You taught me that  
words alone teach nothing  
What can I say...  
But...

Thank-You

~~

Anonymous, May 1976

**May 12, 1941**

We had our time together  
We had it good back then  
We worked it fine together  
Just like we could again

You couldn't live it child  
Maybe you never could  
The ending's never mild  
You'll learn it never should

Two times you came upon me  
And twice you shied away  
Don't try the third one on me  
I'm tired of your play

Don't put your head trip on me  
That shit won't work again  
Don't threaten me or prod me  
I'm not your problem's end

~~

May 12, 1976





## **Cathy A.**

You would do well to remember this night  
You have seen a lover become a friend

You've seen a part of your childhood end  
You've enjoyed the evening, for the company  
Without drink, or sex, or philosophical thought  
You've enjoyed her company for a few hours  
Relaxed, no games, just the warmth of a friend

She is a special woman to you but  
Your relationship has been mutual misunderstanding  
Tonight she became a friend  
Never lose her, she'll always be a friend  
And a friend can be anything again

~~

July 1976

**Everything else is grown ugly**

But  
You  
Stay  
The  
Same  
~~

July 21 1976

## **Neckerchief**

A neckerchief  
Is all the collar  
A dog ever needed

~~



July 20 1976

## **Purpose**

I live my life  
In the hope  
Of finding a purpose  
The hope of proving myself wrong

~~

July 19 1976

## **Payment**

In all my life  
I have met one  
Who offered more than I could return  
With a world to give  
She asked naught from me  
But gave freely  
My only payment, acceptance

~~

July 1976

## **Caboose**

The first step  
Is to stop crying when she's gone  
The next  
Indifference  
Follows like a caboose  
~~

July 1976

## **Relief**

I rub my forehead  
As if it could relieve the pressure  
Funny  
It does  
~~





## **Coward**

You call him a coward  
Because he fears death  
I call you worse sir  
For you fear life

~~

July 1976

## **Purring**

What a beautiful jewel  
She wears  
Purring on her shoulder

~~

July 1976

## **Only a Cross**

Only a cross  
Can kill a man

~~

July 1976

## **Penny Was a Human Today**

Penny was a human today  
I thought we'd lost her  
But there she was  
Unsure, confused, grasping  
The uselessness of it

~~

July 1976



## **It Just Gets Worse**

It can get so complicated  
Thinking about her  
When she's not here  
Wondering where she is  
And who she's with  
It just gets worse

~~

July 1976

## **Corduroy Road**

We live together  
Like a corduroy road

~~

July 1976



## **Chris left with Scott**

I was at a party  
And tried to pick Chris up  
But Scott, a friend of mine  
Got her instead  
So I took her friend Sue to bed  
And she made me breakfast  
Chris came up to say hello  
I was pleased she spent the night with Scott

~~

July 1976



## **Your Moods**

The line between beauty  
And ugliness  
Is very thin  
Sometimes with you  
It doesn't exist at all  
Except as your moods  
Your body disappears

~~

July 1976

July 1976

## **An Explanation**

"I can sit and talk with Penny for hours and everything is fine and dandy and never wrong but the moment I'm away from her something snaps down and we've had a fight."

-In between poems was that snippet and a lot of coffee stain.

## **She Can Be Ugly**

There are times  
When I'm not happy  
And I see her suddenly,  
That she can be very ugly

~~

July 1976

## **Softer**

I didn't mean to speak that harshly to her

So I added another line

In what I hoped was a softer voice

~~

July 1976



## **Softness Becomes You**

Softness becomes you  
As does a harsher tone

There is a curious contrast  
Hard to pin down  
But always present  
Always insistent  
I feel I know a babe  
of twenty-six  
I know a harbour wench  
Raised in a Paris salon  
A ragamuffin  
Dressed in finest silk  
My captive, my cage, my liberator  
Philosopher child and Nebuchadnezzar wild  
Take care, stability is a trap  
Beware of life my Pagliacci

~~

July 8, 1976



## **Thank you babe for you**

And while we're saying thank you  
Within ourselves we two  
I've got a couple dozen  
I thank you babe, for you

~~

July 8, 1976

## 2 Cup Coffee

That second cup of coffee  
Is surely killing me  
The only way to keep it down  
Is use my methylene blue

~~

May 24, 1976

-Methylene blue? Must have been something in my chemistry classes.

July 1976

## **Both Here**

We're both here  
you working  
me reading

I've read the same paragraph  
four times  
Have you done any better  
~~

July 1976

## **Tight Enough**

When I think of you  
With all the men  
You've shared your bed with  
When I think of you  
Holding all the men  
You've met before me  
I feel it  
Deep in my gut  
I feel an ache  
That only gets worse  
Until I see you  
And hold you in my arms  
Tight enough to squeeze it out

~~

## **Early Class**

You get up  
and tell me not to  
But I can't sleep now  
I force my eyes open  
and watch you dress

~~

July 23, 1976

## **Orange Juice**

I tell you I want orange juice  
Though I don't  
Just to watch you get it  
Padding around with your pretty ass showing

~~

July 22, 1976



## **George**

Where are you going, George?  
So quickly you walk  
With intent but no purpose on your face  
I hope you make it there in time

~~

July 22, 1976



## **A Babe**

The prudes have succeeded by their failure  
More completely than they know  
I now fear conception  
To impotence  
Because of the image of a babe in this world

~~

July 22, 1976

## **Penny T.**

I look to her car and see  
Only her aerial  
To the side,  
The reflection in a black mirror

I see no more  
As I look at her

==

(I must wait for the car to move if I am to see it)

~~

July 22, 1976



## **A Long Time**

Is it going to be a long time

Before you cheat me

No

Ten minutes or less

You treat me

Then move on

~~

Aug 2, 1976

## **Can't Take Your Love**

I can't take your love  
If you must give it to me  
Regardless of my worth  
I can't take charity  
And pretend to deserve it  
I must earn your love  
On all of our facets  
There must be the same light  
~~



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