

HARDENED REALITIES

No apologies required

chapter seven

1/90 to 10/94

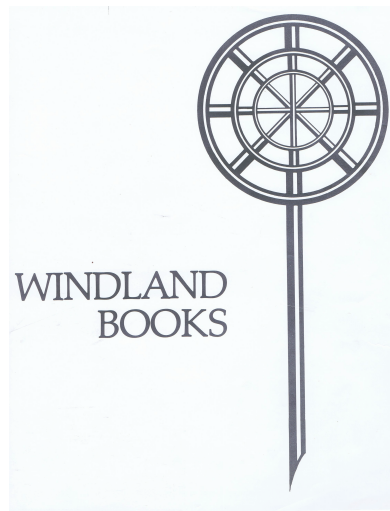
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*It is not the end
It is not the beginning
It is not a place to stop living
It is just another step along the way.*

*It has been reflected before
It has been broken into parts
It has more colors than the eye can see
Its just a part of your hardened reality.*

WINDLAND
BOOKS



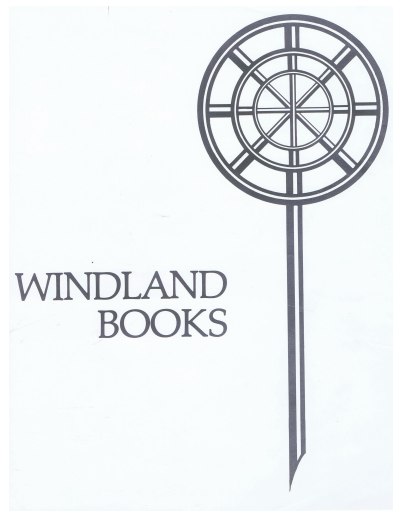
THE COLLECTION

One Morning
One Day
One Night
One Wish
I Need You
Searching
Fires
Another Chance
Between The Lines
Are You Listening
The Last Kiss
Turbulence
Something Simple
Quiet Nights Sleep
Confusion
The One
Ready-Set-Stop
My Greatest Fear
The Death Of Irresponsibility
Thunder
One From The Masses
A Crack In The Sky
The Balloon
I Do
Exposed
Alone
I Am
Falling In Love
At The End
How Old I Am
Reaching Outside
The Sunlight Is Yours
No Explanation
My Apology
Just Us Against The Wind
Discovery
One Step Back
Time



WINDLAND
BOOKS

The Real World Of Planet Earth
The Gift
The Healing Process
Hardened Reality
Lost Love
Incidents And Accidents



ONE MORNING

*The darkness of the night
broken by a streak of light,
A man walks quietly by
lifting his eyes.*

*The early morning
chill in the air,
all the trees
sit so quietly there.*

*The sunlight casting
long shadowy shapes,
a boy on his bike
peddling to escape.*

*Sheepskin slippers
glide across the grass,
the breeze from a car
that moves quickly passed.*

*A drop of dew
from a tree above,
hands so cold
feel warm in gloves.*



ONE DAY

*Quietly working
shuffling papers around,
one slips
and falls to the ground.*

*Reaching over
to grab my pencil,
I found my patience
to be thin still.*

*Pounding out
the work that comes,
I look at the clock
for the moment to run.*

*Lunch times here
a break in the day,
I long for freedom
somewhere far away.*

*Four more hours
to end this day,
I refuse to go on
living this way.*



ONE NIGHT

*I reached my limit,
rushing out into the air.
I could not see anything,
I did not care.*

*I wanted to go anywhere,
somewhere far.
I felt I needed to go,
somewhere in my car.*

*The sun fell,
far from my sight.
Shadows raced across my face,
from the street lights.*

*It was not long,
before I reached her.
Her touch melted me,
her fingers ran in my hair.*

*I touched her.
each time softer.
all the talk soon
turned to laughter.*



ONE WISH

*I didn't know, how easy
it was to teach you,
the things he had
taught me.*

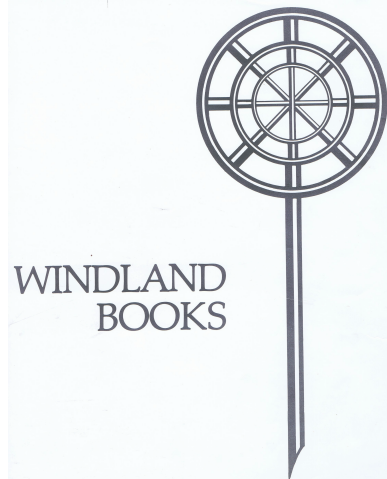
*Sometimes its hard
to show you,
the things
he has shown me.*

*In the moment
I am not aware,
of the movements
of you around me.*

*There was a time
where I thought,
of nothing else
then to hold you.*

*Somehow
it would be so simple,
all you had to do
was to say I love you.*

*Why is it so hard ?
for someone to love you,
as much
as you love them.*



I NEED YOU

*I need you,
I don't know how
much more growing
I'll do before I leave you.*

*I need you,
I trusted your thoughts.
Now I'm not sure
how to love you.*

*I have changed,
you have been there.
When I needed you,
even when I cannot be with you.*

*I need you mom,
I need your visions
to guide me.
I need you to love me.*

Published in: Poetic Voices of America Summer 1992



SEARCHING

*I am doing
what I don't believe,
I sometimes work
for the hypocrisy.*

*I'm trying to shelter you
from the things that hurt you,
It can be so confusing
when you look for the truth.*

*There has been times
when the point doesn't come across,
but I cannot see you
caring my cross.*

*I cannot believe how little time
there is to teach,
but I've deliberately
made the answers hard to reach.*



FIRES

*When the fires
light the evening sky,
your love becomes
so uncontrolled.*

*The fires that light
the late night,
the change
from something cold.*

*When the sun has fallen
from the horizon,
the NORTH STAR
continues to shine.*

*The stars light up
the point of no return,
and directs us to
the meaning of life.*



ANOTHER CHANCE

*What kind of
feeling do you have,
when I am not at
my best with you.*

*You are becoming
your own man,
you are growing
as fast as you can.*

*Running and fighting
standing your ground,
I do not want to fight
all the time you are around.*

*Sometimes I cannot
tell if I'm reading you,
if love is going through hell
I want you to know I need you.*



BETWEEN THE LINES

*It takes more
to know me,
then to read
between the lines.*

*The words
I express,
each different
from the rest.*

*It takes more
to know me,
please don't
judge my life.*

*It takes my
heart and soul,
and parts of me
some not at there best.*

*It takes more
to know me,
each line written
just another piece of time.*



ARE YOU LISTENING

*Lets admit now
that we only share,
the love
of our children.*

*It seems impossible
to go ahead,
and lie to each
about our dreams.*

*Its unfortunate
that we do not share,
its understandable
to show that we care.*

*I love you for
bringing forth new love,
bringing new life
to new ideas.*

*I love you
because we share,
a future that is their's
not ours.*



THE LAST KISS

*I thought
as time passed,
that its beauty grows
from under the grass.*

*I thought
as time passed,
its subtle colors
would always last.*

*I thought
as time passed,
that each touch
would be better than the last.*

*I thought
as time passed,
that a kiss from the flower
would not be the last.*



TURBULENCE

*I walked by a curtain
without touching it,
I made it move.*

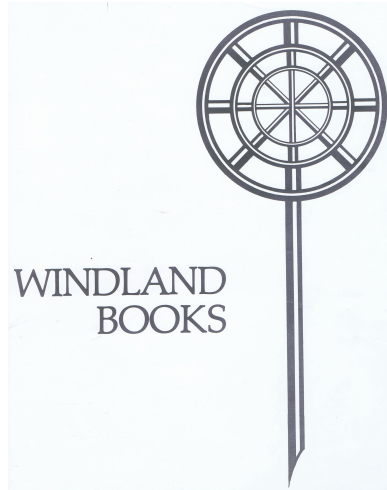
*I was moved to try
it once again,
and I made it move.*

*I walked past friends
busy talking,
they noticed after I passed.*

*I walked by a sheet
hanging on the line,
and it moved.*

*I walked up to my
son playing,
he felt me moving closer.*

*I noticed the turbulence
we all make,
as we push through life.*



SOMETHING SIMPLE

*I could simply
lie down and go to sleep,
but with you lying there
my eyes cannot sleep.*

*I can sit
and watch you playing,
not simple games
just maneuvers that are unique.*

*It is a simple
tactful war you play,
you push thing back
and forth your way.*

*The more I pay attention
the more you take away,
its a simple desire
my dreams pushed away.*



QUIET NIGHTS SLEEP

*In my dreams,
I have touched
the suppleness
of your breast.*

*I could sense
the warmth around you,
I could feel
your smooth skin.*

*I saw us,
laying on a hill,
in the grass
at the break of day.*

*I tried so hard
to identify you,
but still I could not
see your face.*

*In my dreams
I've tried
to touch on
what is real.*

*I was aware
of you then,
and I knew just
how you felt.*



CONFUSION

*I do not see the stars.
A flash,
and my vision
is faded by the clouds.*

*Its not that I walked away
from those that feel,
its the turbulence
that changes the direction.*

*I have not searched
enough.
Enough to learn about
that which is all around us.*

*Its power
surrounds the very
movement,
of all the winds.*

*Its broken movements
push on me
like nothing I
have felt before.*

*As I try to make
any sense,
of what is driving
me this way.*



THE ONE

*I will not leave
I can not leave,
until I have said
all that I dreamed instead.*

*I will not push
I will not rush,
until I am sure
that life has not crushed.*

*I will not go
I will not leave,
until I say
I love you more than me.*



READY - SET - STOP

*I felt life ending,
there was time to
only send a warning,
and no time for explaining.*

*I did not feel
that I wanted to go,
I was scared
I was not ready to go.*

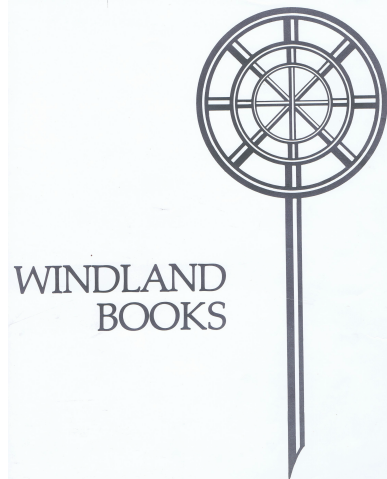
*There are dreams
that I have not seen yet,
and there are dreams
that I want to see once more.*

*I did not want
to leave my children,
my own
and that of the world.*

*I could not excuse
the feeling I've felt,
its more awakening
then life ending.*

*Its hard to explain
the feeling rushing through,
I always thought
I could handle leaving.*

*But at that moment
all I could think was,
I did not want to leave
all that I love.*



MY GREATEST FEAR

*I came here with a great fear.
I sat and watched each of you,
come up and share your's.
I waited, and waited,
for the right moment.
My heart pounding faster and faster.
I wanted to jump up and scream out,
I wanted to stand here and shout.
I tried breathing deeper and deeper,
trying to build my confidence.
I do OK when I am in a small group.
there I can entertain,
but here, here there are so many eyes.
Here all I can think of,
is how I will be judged.
But that is not why I am here.
I am here to share a part of me
hoping for your acceptance,
wanting to know if what I say
makes a difference.
Knowing that my time has come,
I stand up here before you.
Shaking, and trembling,
every inch of me moving,
fearing that you would feel me
through the earth.
My heart all the way up in my throat.
I start to read,
I feel each word leaving my mouth.
I feel so scared I'm almost certain
I will forget how to read them.
And then my greatest fear of all,
that you would judge me: not for my clothes,
not for cut of my hair or the color of my eyes,
but for what I say.
The words I've written,
and the emotion of my poetry.*



THE DEATH OF IRRESPONSIBILITY

*At what point
did I stop digging,
at what point was I no longer
looking for the truth.*

*At what moment
did I let go of my dreams,
at what moment
did my vision turn away.*

*I've looked for reasons.
Maybe I'm trying
to blame you
for my own failures.*

*Is it the pressure
from you that I feel,
or is it my own
apathy that has sent
me sitting, staring into
an electronic image,
flashing in front of my eyes.*

*At what point
will I turn around and look.
At what moment will I
begin again to move.*

*How far will I fall
before I pick myself up.
How much do I have
to lose, before I look
once more toward my dreams.*



THUNDER

*Like a child dreaming,
I stand here looking at the sky.
Covered with clouds
I see cotton balls scattered
across the oceans eyes.*

*I see lighting in the distance,
I wish it closer to me.
I want to feel the strength,
I want to feel its power.*

*I begin counting;
one, two, three, four,
trying to judge its distance from me.
The thunder shaken's me,
I feel it inside me.
I stand waiting, wanting
it to be closer,
to breath in its strength.*

*I am standing in a clearing
watching, it overcome me.
I am covered with rain.
Being apart of what I cannot create.
Feeling all the intensity
of the flash of light,
of the breath of God.*



ONE FROM THE MASSES

*This is life for me,
this is the time
I take to share a part
of myself with anyone
who will listen.*

*I'll share with you more,
if you will let me
do it quietly,
and not expose myself
to the masses.*

*When I was younger
I did not feel so
vulnerable to the
judgement of others.*

*But today I feel the
need to be accepted,
to be a soldier marching
like a thousand others.*

*But I do not want
to be exposed to them,
I want my feelings
to be my own, not there's.*

*And if this you can see,
if this you can do,
as a human being.
then remove me,
one from the masses.*



A CRACK IN THE SKY

*Once I was driving,
staring at the sky,
unaware of the moon.*

*Once I was standing,
looking at the clouds,
their color a steel blue.*

*Once I was aware,
that the day,
did not come as it should.*

*Once I saw the sun,
its light looking through,
the reflection on my hood.*

*Once in a moment,
the reflection of a day,
I no longer looked,
upon creation the same way.*

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THE BALLOON

*As the string slipped
through your fingers,
and the balloon lifted
into the air.*

*I watched your expression go
from amazement, to sorrow.*

*"Daddy, My balloon, you cried."
I'm sorry honey, but I cannot
jump high enough to reach it.*

*It followed on its course,
it was straight,
it did not move from left to right.
But it kept lifting up,
going higher and higher.*

*As we watched,
I noticed the path it took.
It was lined up with a lamp post,
and even as it went higher,
it still did not stray
from its course.*

*You were afraid that the birds
would get the balloon.
So we talked about its traveling
to the moon.*

*I saw the balloon,
as I hope your life can be.
Following a straight path.
Not faltering left or right.
continuing upward, reaching
for new heights.*



*I pray for your safety.
That the currents
that carried the balloon upward .
Can carry you to greater heights.*

*Later that night
as we stood outside.
You looked up and pointed
at the moon, and said.
"My balloon daddy, Its with the moon."
I knew then, you were safe.*



I DO

*I did not believe
you were here that time,
when I opened the door
of my heart.*

*I do not believe you cared
for all the emotions
I directed your way,
or if you saw them.*

*I do not think,
that if I were to take
on the world at that time,
that you would have cared.*

*I do believe I could have been
attracted to the Idea,
of the physical contact,
with you or any one else.*

*I do believe that if I were
to tell you what I know now,
about what happen then,
it would make no sense to you at all.*



EXPOSED

*I wish my heart
was as strong as yours,
I wish mine felt as secure
with the world.*

*I often wonder
why I'm so insecure,
I wonder constantly
if you mean your word.*

*I wish my heart
could understand yours
I wish mine could beat
as one with yours.*

*I often wonder
if my love is clear,
I wonder if you
could change my fears.*



ALONE

*I am lying here on this flat plane,
alone-I am left to wonder.*

*My hope is that you
would walk in and lay beside me.*

*The night comes and I dream again,
this one does not include you,
but your presence is there.
I know because the dream leaves
me feeling that I am not missed.*

*In it I am fighting or maybe I am just
struggling to reach for the answers.
Its unclear, but I feel it
deep in my stomach.*

*It's a feeling of abandonment,
like my heart is no longer there.
Even drifting out of the dream,
awakening I noticed I am alone.*

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I AM

*I am challenged
by the fascination
I have,
for looking into your eyes.*

*I am amazed
by the way you
look at me,
as I look at you.*

*I am aware
of the feeling
of a kind heart,
not afraid to touch another.*

*I am watching
your movements
as we talk,
and those of my own.*

*I am wandering
what you see,
and what you
see of me.*



FALLING IN LOVE

*You cannot stop it,
no matter how hard you try
it will come anyway.*

*You cannot please it,
you can work hard
but it will work
on you even harder.*

*Try to run
but it will be there,
it will only take the one
broken promise to push it away.*

*There is only one
who can stop it,
there is only one
who will make it right.*

*Look,
search for the answers,
look before she is
no longer there.*

*Don't turn back,
don't turn away from
the one chance you have.*

*And what ever you do
don't let her get away.*



AT THE END

*Once there was
a chance to reach,
an opening to
go into.*

*There was a place
inside for you,
but you covered your heart
from the advances.*

*Know that its over
there is nothing,
no more to add
to the silence inside.*

*It would be reckless
to bring pain,
it would be senseless
now that its over.*

*Now not another word
must be spoken,
not another word
should be said.*

Published in : Poetic Voices of America Summer 1993 Edition



HOW OLD I AM

*Im looking out at you,
I do not feel my self here.
Im seeing a point of view
that does not include me.*

*Im not aware of my presence,
Im not able to distinguish
the difference at times between
what I see, and what I pretend to see.*

*Im looking at myself,
and Im not aware of
the world around me.*

*Im taking one step forward
and turning to look back.
Im trying to tell you how much
Im willing to fight back.*

*Not until the day I die,
do I feel I will I be able
to tell who I am.*

*Not until then,
will I be able to tell
how I really feel
about the kind of life I had.*



REACHING OUTSIDE

*There are times
when I just stand and stare.
I'm looking out the window
from the second floor.*

*I see only what Is happening
in front of me,
the movements surprise me,
I forgot that I was physically there.*

*Its like im watching a TV,
That I am just the audience.
Then with some effort
I start to focus in.*

*I begin to recognize that I am here,
standing, taking up space.
I become more aware
of the movements of others close by.*

*I sometimes wonder if Im missing
something by my focus of view.
I am always looking to reach out
I need someone to wake me up.*



THE SUNLIGHT IS YOURS

*I will wait until
the mornings sunlight,
for you to awaken
to this new day.*

*I will sit and wait
to catch the strength
of the light and keep it
for you to enjoy at anytime.*

*I will bring the delight
of the sunlight,
into your imagination.
So you will be guided
by its direction.*

*I will work harder for now,
to see you in the light.
It is more important to me
then dancing about in the night.*

Published in : Poetic Voices of America Spring 1994 Edition



NO EXPLANATION

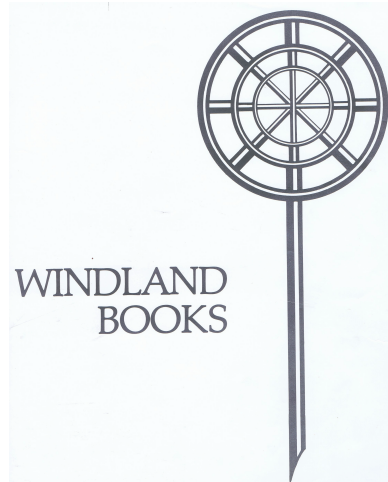
*There is no book
there is no instruction,
or school to teach us all.
We make mistakes along the way
I am trying to be my best
to help you to live with the rest.*

*I am searching the rivers
walking along the shore,
I am looking for the magic
I am looking to open the door
and let his presence guide me in.*

*There is no book to read
some mistakes have been made,
I've been looking past the trees
rising up above the ground.*

*I am learning to be patient
but sometimes its hard to do,
I wish that I could help you
more or less it all can do.*

*There is now way to change
my own experiences,
but when I look at you
today we both have another chance.*



MY APOLOGY

*While sitting in the cool
outdoor air,
I have not
always looked my best.*

*I see the same mistakes
surfacing around me
as I lose my cool
with you.*

*I release the most
inappropriate behavior
to you,
instead I should be helping you
to be all you can be.*

*I'm sorry that
I became so distracted
by other things around me
that I forget to
show you the attention you need.*

*I wish at times you
could slap my face and wake me
from this sleep,
Its as though I am here
and at times
I am drifting about on the water.*

*I wish you could rock the boat,
tip me out
and let the cold water
wake me from where I am.*



JUST US AGAINST THE WIND

*Walking about this hot
summer afternoon,
watching the summer winds
blow across the lawns,
shaking every tree in its path.*

*At times the wind is relentless
tearing into all things around us,
there are other times when
one tree must take all that it has
to stand up against the
force of the winds.*

*Even myself walking,
not with the wind
or directly into it,
but as it pushes me on the side,
trying to push me off
the path I'm walking.
As if trying to tell me
I'm not supposed to walk there.*

*I've watched you too,
struggling against your own wind.
At times I am there to help you,
fight against its force
and there are times when I try,
but fail to reach you
and help you along the way.*

*It is at these times that
I feel I've failed to be
there for you.
I have not helped you with
all that I have.
I do not have the strength
to try as hard as you do.*



DISCOVERY

*There are many great moments
each day
there are many opportunities each
a different way.*

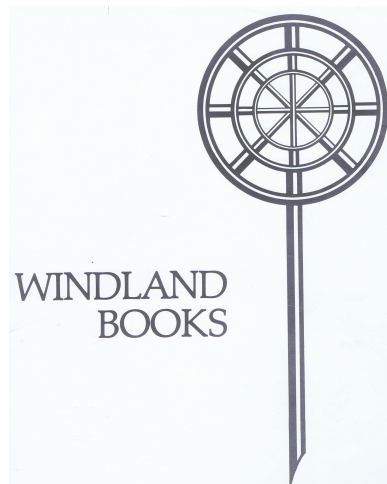
*There are times when even
the smallest accomplishment,
means your greatest victories
in your own struggle for growth.*

*There are many Ideas
to tell you.*

*There are many words
that will help you.*

*There are times when all
else is not going your way,
that you may feel you have
failed, but later you find
that the small setbacks bring
you closer to winning.*

*There are moments,
there are opportunities,
there are many great ideas
and words for you to discover.*



ONE STEP BACK

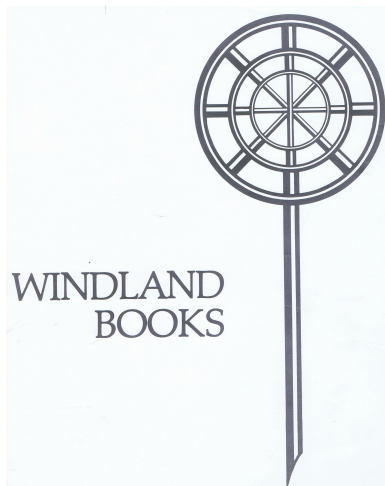
*If I could take one step back
if I could be your
size for the day,
what a wonderful time
we would have.*

*If I did not have the
worries of the world
If I did not have the
responsibilities of everyone
in the family to take care of
if not only myself.*

*I could run and play
I could do all the things you do,
I could get dirty and
climb, get wet, and jump off trees
and play in a much smaller world.*

*I could use my Imagination more,
to help me explain the
wonders of discovery,
of things I've yet to see.*

*If I could only remember
the good times that I
shared with my brother and sisters,
If I could do those things
with you that I did as a child.
What life, what energy
we all had then.*



TIME

*So there are times
when I wish I could
be a child again
and there are times
I wish I did not
have to work all day
There are times I wish
I could spend all my
time with my children
to help them grow*

*Here its late
I've been up all night
wondering, thinking
about it all
why I did the things I did
more than fifteen years ago
all the time gone.*

*The hardest part of life
is the lack of time
I have to spend with my children
I keep looking for the answers
to the questions.*



THE REAL WORLD OF PLANET EARTH

*These days on this planet earth
how hard is it
for you to hear me,
sometimes I shout
and then, there are times
I do not feel myself here.*

*Is there a way
to show you
these last days
a moment to share with you.*

*Let us sit and watch the clouds
come together
and turn the light blue sky to dark blue.
lets feel the coolness
a sudden drop in the night air.*

*Rainbows around the moon
and the dew
that makes the harvest night air
feel thick as a comfortable blanket.*

*These last days here
I want to share with you
the love for the real world
and not the lies we tell each other
because we are afraid of not being.*



THE GIFT

*Its not a mistake
or an accident
that happened.
It did not just happen
because the routine was forgotten.*

*I know that
you are a blessing
who came to my life
from my dreams.*

*Its a short
time that passes by
when you find
more to love.*

*Its time to reach
in and pull up
one more time.
The spirit inside
to share with
one more time.
The spirit inside
to share with one
more soul
the love I have.*



THE HEALING PROCESS

*The music from the past
is struggling to come out
once again to tell
you what life is all about.*

*Time has past us by
I still have the same hopes and dreams
I still have the same
feelings to share with you.*

*There seems to be
so much to share in
trying to express who we are in an honest way
and again with out harm.*

*Its been said in the
past, that time heals all,
but we mustn't be the ones
to start or the healing will never begin.*

*Why question the truth
just let it out
its ok to express your true self
everyone must except you for who you are.*

*The music is there
its been sung once before
and it should be sung again
there is no more time
to waste
to the end.*



HARDENED REALITY

*Be prepared to be shocked.
Be prepared to hear the truth.
Be prepared to not judge.
Be prepared to feel.
Be prepared to love.
Be prepared to hate.
Be prepared to win one.
Be prepared to share.
Be prepared to hide.
Be prepared to give.
Be prepared to die.
Be prepared to take.
Be prepared to live.
Be prepared to lie.
Be prepared to give.
Be prepared to accept.
Be prepared to dream.
Be prepared to take all
that life has to give.*



LOST LOVE

*I lied there
watching you breath,
I placed my hand by your heart
to feel it beating.*

*I lived there
seeing the vision,
of you standing
behind the glass door
while watching.*

*Dreaming
I could follow your eyes
and touch beyond
that which is real to you.*

*I could feel no more love,
then when the warmth of your skin
as it is pressed against mine.*

*It hurts me more
when I sense that you do not feel
the beat of my heart.*



INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS

*Today there was an incident,
that brought me back to you,
it wasn't just an accident
when god created the sky's blue.*

*I began to speak about you
but something stopped me again
I looked into your eyes
and witnessed all the pain.*

*Today there was an incident
that has changed my point of view,
It wasn't just an accident
that life was created new.*

*I reached out to touch you
but the crowds kept me away
I wanted to take your sorrow
and tuck this day away.*

*Today there was an incident
a day of new beginning
it wasn't just an accident
your life began today.*

