

# **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.*

## **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*  
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*Quiet Nights Sleep*  
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*The One*  
*Ready-Set-Stop*  
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*The Sunlight Is Yours*  
*No Explanation*  
*My Apology*  
*Just Us Against The Wind*  
*Discovery*  
*One Step Back*  
*Time*

*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.*

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## **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.*

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## **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.*

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## **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.*