

# **THE NEXT STEP**

into the future

chapter eight

6/95 to 11/02

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*for Joel and Julia*

*More gifts from Heaven,  
more life that brings me closer to you.*

## **THE COLLECTION**

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*Understanding  
One Or Two Men  
Flying  
A Long Journey  
A Final Step*

## ***THE NEXT STEP***

*The next step  
into the future  
is an uncertain one.*

*Confronted by a veil  
not opened so easily  
we struggle forward.*

*Peeling one layer  
at a time  
unraveling the complex  
truths and lies  
that each of us  
have woven together.*

*The first time  
we pretended that  
it was not us who  
took the last cookie  
from the cookie jar.*

## ***THE WALK***

*Take the first step  
forward and beware  
of the thorns hidden  
in the thick grass.*

*Barefoot,  
we are most vulnerable  
and most sensitive  
to the pain,  
when our unprotected skin  
comes into contact  
with the first thorn  
that is felt.*

*Slowly over time  
we develop the many  
layers of protection  
that keeps us  
from being hurt  
as we take  
each new step  
with less caution  
than the last.*

## ***THE FIRST DREAM***

*You  
lying so peacefully  
across my chest  
lifting your delicate  
eyes up to see me.*

*Your eyes study  
the image  
that appears before you.*

*What do you see  
what are you thinking,  
feeling, trying to understand  
about that new world  
which is around you.*

*What is it that you dream  
when you close your eyes  
and fall to sleep in my arms.  
I wish I could understand  
that which you are feeling,  
what images that  
appear before you ,  
they must be wonderful.*

*And then I am afraid  
of all that you will learn  
and how all the new things  
that you see and feel will  
change the peace  
that must be within you.*

## **MEETING FREELAND**

*The smell of fresh cut grass as  
we sat, feeling the coolness  
of the air around us.  
On that early autumn day  
sitting and talking to you,  
I was changed forever  
by the sparkle in your eyes.*

*I am not sure if I heard  
a word that you spoke to me  
that first time together.  
I am sure however that your life force  
had so overwhelmed me  
that I needed to be near you.  
I am sure that I continued  
to dream about you  
even when the days had grown shorter.*

*Even today when I sit down  
in a field of fresh cut grass  
I can still remember that day  
and the sparkle in your eyes.*



**PAULA**

*I'm not sure why  
but the cold chill  
of the morning  
had no effect on me.*

*Not even the threat of those who  
could stop me from being  
there to see you,  
kept me away.*

*One rap of my hand  
on the cold glass  
and you were there,  
one waking moment  
so early in the cold  
winter morning.*

*I have never felt that desire again  
I have not felt the passion  
to reach for anyone else  
in the night as I had felt for you.*

*I do not believe I will ever again  
feel the desire to conquer the fear  
as I did each night to see you  
as I turned my back on the pressure  
or the feeling to stay away.*

*I am starving for you  
I am lost without you  
I am left with fragments of you  
I am missing your very essence.*

***SLAP IN THE FACE***

*I've taken one last look  
at your picture.  
I've taken one last breath  
for the night,*

*I have not felt  
that we have settled  
the feelings that are around  
us each night.*

*I have not separated you from me.  
I have not identified what it is  
that you want from me.*

*I have not satisfied  
those feelings that are left undecided,  
unattended do they mean anything.  
As if you noticed them at all.*

## ***TOUCH THE MOON***

*Once I lifted you  
and you touched the ceiling,  
your eyes lit up when you became  
higher than me.*

*You laughed  
when you felt yourself falling,  
as I lowered you,  
yet still safe in my hands.*

*Once I lifted you  
after falling,  
your wobbly knees could barely  
keep you up from falling.  
You cried for a moment  
and again you felt safe  
when I picked you up in my hands.*

*Once I lifted you  
and you saw the moon above.  
You lit up as you tried to reach it.  
You could not take your eyes  
from the brightly lit object,  
and then I saw the disappointment  
in your eyes when  
you could not touch the moon.*

## ***THE PRINCIPLE***

*Looking forward to  
being there,  
to reach for the light,  
have you begun  
to completed the quest.*

*Looking for the uncertain  
changes in the way  
the light appears to you,  
reaching thru your soul  
are you ready.*

*Looking for the answer  
to your question,  
have you satisfied  
all your feelings  
from the past.*

*Looking forward to  
completing this life,  
have you proven  
the worth of your love  
to them all.*

*Looking to complete  
the final steps,  
you must leave not  
one soul untouched,  
not one love denied.*

*Looking to move forward  
have you touched  
onto the basic principal,  
the act of being  
apart of all there is.*

## **A WHISPER**

*I want to be remembered as  
someone who tried  
to care for all  
those he loved*

*I want to be  
remembered as  
someone who was there  
when needed,  
by a friend.*

*I want to be remembered  
as the one who loved you,  
you more than any other.*

*I don't want to be someone  
of whose name is unspoken  
or a name that is whispered  
into the night.*

## ***NOW I AM BARELY ABLE TO SEE THE PIECES***

*There was a time,  
when I could take a piece of a tree,  
something raw  
and change it to be a part of me.  
The ability to bring out a piece of creation,  
as if God had touched a part  
of the very essence of man  
and used my hands to create  
another part of you.*

*As God is a part of the one,  
the life that had been brought forth  
and all the life force  
that joined each part of us,  
it was our own image that was created.*

*There was once a desire  
to shape the world,  
the very tools  
that were gained,  
the life I had lived.  
The tools of good and evil,  
those that were passed to me.*

*I had to decide which was the correct choice,  
which one would bring the most life.  
It did not take much effort  
to create images that touched the heart  
or create images that could fool  
the light hearted into believing  
they were following the correct path.*

*Now it seemed,  
that all the tools in the world,  
have shaped me instead,  
as I sit and watch life go by.*

*it may not be just me,  
that makes the images,  
that each of us love.  
It may not be the reason  
for bringing the ideas of life forward.*

*The strangest thing happened  
when I watched the role you played.  
The one scene that stole the very heart of me.  
I could feel that you wanted me to create  
an escape from your world,  
a way out from the very place you were,  
a place you did not want to be.*

*Other lives began to confuse you  
and your eyes since became confused.  
The very lives that were guiding you,  
soon began to confuse the purity of your heart  
and you could no longer see  
the opportunity that was before you.*

*You become separated from the one,  
the person that had the tools to help you.  
Yet your change of the vision,  
the one true idea that God had given you  
had become distorted  
because you could no longer see the man there.*



## **FOREVER CHANGING**

*Some things are not meant to last forever,  
though each night I try to make them so.  
even the lantern that lights the way  
can be put out by the wind that blows.*

*A storm is coming  
it will bring more changes to the air  
and how we see the world,  
it makes us see the despair.*

*Some things are not meant to last forever,  
even the bright colors of a flower  
or the crisp leaves of a tree  
have their end in the darkest hour.*

*The tide has risen  
and washes away another piece of sand,  
one place where man has stepped  
leaving an impression in the land.*

*Some things don't last forever,  
even upon the earth  
with its ever changing face,  
there is a rebirth.*

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## **SEVERAL FACES OF THE EARTH**

*Like so many rooms,  
we have each taken  
one for the night..*

*Like so many faces,  
we have each taken  
one to hide behind.*

*Like so many trees,  
each proving to be unique  
in the appearance they give.*

*Like so many places,  
each having its own  
feel for life.*

*Like so many pieces,  
each required to be  
part of the final puzzle.*

*Like so many places,  
god has given us  
a time to be.*

*Like so many feelings,  
each an important part  
of who we are.*

*Like so many dreams,  
each reaching out  
to teach us.*

*Like so many faces,  
each holds a part  
different from the other.*

*Like so many choices,  
once made  
we cannot change them.*

***I STILL DREAM ABOUT YOU***

*It's hard for me to admit  
that you can still  
change the way I feel,  
but just last night there you were,  
moving my emotions, moving close to me.  
I did not ask for you to be there,  
I did not summon you,  
I did not even plan to see you,  
but there you were, last night,  
telling me how far away you would be,  
as if you were not already  
far enough away from my heart..*

## ***I'VE GOT TO FIND YOUR VOICE***

*There you were,  
just another part of my dream,  
in a place where ideas begin  
and as I felt your love  
just for that moment  
and everything you said  
became so important,  
so many feelings expressed  
from hearts long broken.*

*There I saw  
your face so clearly,  
I could not  
take my eyes from you,  
it seemed  
that time meant nothing,  
there was the past,  
the present  
and the possibility of a future.*

*There I could not  
hear a word you said,  
as I tried to listen  
for the sound of your voice,  
I could not  
hear a note, a tone,  
but I understood  
only what you wanted,  
and I am torn longing to hear,  
that which I once knew,  
now I've got to find your voice.*

***IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE***

*It doesn't make any sense  
but I am reaching in  
trying to find all the many pieces,  
parts of a winters wind.*

*But what do they say  
about me today,  
it doesn't matter because  
I am not going their way.*

*People are trying to tell me  
that this is the way to go,  
but if it is then why do I hurt so.*

*It doesn't make any sense  
but today I am changing  
the way I feel about you, about me,  
about the world rearranging.*

*But what they say  
about the new world order  
has me separated, segregated  
and feeling so much older.*

*People are trying to tell me  
that this is the way to go,  
but if it is, then why do I hate so.*

*It doesn't make any sense,  
but here we are living,  
everyone else is around us  
taking, not giving.*

*But what do they say  
about the love that flounders,  
they still believe the world is flat  
but I see the world much rounder.*

*People are trying to tell me  
that this the way to go,  
but if it is, then why do I hide so.*

## ***YOU MAKE LOVING YOU SO HARD***

*You make loving you so hard,  
for once I would like to be*

*the one that is invited  
not the one asking you to come.*

*Back to the age of innocence  
a time when you would do  
anything for my love.*

*I am tired of trying to show you  
how much I care  
and all you do is change  
the way you part your hair.*

*You will not let go  
of all the pain inside  
instead you use it  
as an excuse to hide.*

*I have done all I can to  
help you find your innerself,  
but each time I think we've won  
you change your outerself.*

*There is a time to quit the quest  
when your heart is not there,  
but what is there left to do  
when the path leads you nowhere.*



**BLUE EYES HAVE REACHED SO DEEP**

*He sat there  
and watched her image before him  
and he felt the need to be there  
twenty years before.*

*This is not about him,  
this has nothing to do with  
the lights he see's  
in his dreams.*

*This has nothing  
to do with the mistakes  
he may have made,  
nothing to do with the  
hurt he feels inside.*

*He sits there  
and watches all and everything  
that has past him  
along the way.*

*He has search  
long and hard for the answers,  
he has search long and hard  
for the meaning to why  
he left her.*

*There is nothing left  
but the pictures that have  
carried him to today,  
nothing more left than a love  
that slipped away.*

*The colors have faded  
and the pictures have  
become out of reach  
and the blue eyes  
have reached so deep.  
There is nothing more  
that he can do,  
to bring back, eyes so blue.*

## ***I WOULD***

*I would just as soon  
name all the stars  
in the nights sky,  
then I would ask for you  
to see me one more time.*

*I would just as soon  
stand at the edge of a cliff  
on the brightest day  
for fear that I might fall,  
than lose your love this way.*

*I would just as soon  
let go of the rope that  
holds me from falling,  
then let you push me  
into doing the things  
I know will keep me  
further from you.*

*I would just as soon take away  
the rights of the dream  
that keeps my heart beating,  
then let anyone taste  
the essence that flows  
from the love we share.*

*I would just as soon  
give all that I have to give,  
then to let someone else  
hold and make you feel  
the love the way I want to.*

## ***A DIAMOND STILL***

*One time,  
he reached for a piece of a heart  
of someone so gentle,  
it was cleverly hidden  
amongst the truths  
that surrounds it.*

*One time,  
there was a moment shared,  
by two friends  
who so cleverly disguised  
the events  
that surrounded it.*

*One time,  
not to long ago  
their paths had crossed,  
there was a rush of feelings  
they were afraid to explore.*

*One time,  
they reached into the past,  
and was reminded  
of the need for the truth,  
while looking for answers.*

*One time,  
not so long ago,  
there was a gift given.  
its strength was as hard  
as a diamond.*

*One time,  
the beauty of the gift  
was taken away  
and the heart became unforgiving  
and lost its ability to love again.*

## **A WALK IN THE CLOUDS**

*The edge appears more fragile  
than the center,  
its bottom appears flat  
while the top reaches upward.*

*The edges flow like a wave  
while the center creates slopes,  
well rounded piles, soft textures  
smooth to the touch.*

*The edge appears to be  
the first step upward  
and looks as if I were to fall in,  
it would catch me.*

*Trees, life looks for their arrival,  
bringing on the shade, moisture,  
the protection they give  
to keep us alive and not wilting away.*

## ***A BUTTERFLY DREAM***

*There lying on the cold concrete walkway,  
lies the death of change,  
death of color and imagination,  
death and a re-birth.*

*There, no longer moving  
is a life who once  
had the chance to change  
from one being to another,  
a change that would eventually  
bring it to its end.*

*There was once a time  
when flying from flower to flower,  
was the activity of the day  
and the flicker of a wing  
could send this being  
that was lighter than air  
into the sky.*

*There was a time  
when I could remember fields all around me,  
no concrete to cover the paths I walked  
and so many black and yellow winged creators  
flying about in my front yard.*

*There was once a time,  
when I could stop and look around,  
looking for that one life,  
that one innocent moment of the past,  
that I could steal away.*

*But today ,  
when I stopped and looked,  
at the one butterfly lying lifeless  
on the concrete sidewalk.  
I began to wonder just how things have changed  
and how I have changed  
and why I no longer seem to see  
the beauty of a living butterfly.*



## **WHITE NIGHT FALLING**

*Speckles of white, falling like slush  
on my dark blue jacket.*

*A cold winters air, blowing,  
me as I walk in my summer shorts.*

*Six hours driving into the early morning,  
stars falling into the darkness of the road ahead.*

*Glimmering dreams of the past,  
snapshot images of hope.*

*A long drive down a lane bordered by trees,  
leaves falling, blowing about.*

*The loss of a friend  
and a bright new beginning for their soul.*

*Battles of will, the struggle for power,  
the beating drums that signal a new day.*

*Another box of chocolates,  
tempting the way,  
what love does, when it is lost.*

*Speckles of white, falling into my hand  
melting as quickly, as if falling  
onto a warm summers sand.*

*The hours traveled across a cold desert night,  
the hypnotic trance of the road,  
flashes of things from the passing lights.*

*Whispers, silent dreams remembered,  
peoples faces lying about what they do not want,  
kidding themselves again.*

*Reaching forever ahead,  
far more valuable is the dream,  
far more real is life, far reaching is the hope  
and the answer to the dream.*

## **WHO RULES WHO**

*If I were to ask  
why you disagree  
with all that I have to say.  
Then who rules who.*

*If I were to show  
you an opportunity  
to move ahead and you don'.  
Then who rules you.*

*If I were to point  
you to the answer  
even though you say  
you already know it.  
Then who rules you.*

*If I were to place  
you in front of your future  
only to have you refuse  
to believe it.  
Then who rules you.*

***I'LL***

*I'll be around for you  
when you need someone to talk to.*

*I'll be around for you  
whenever you need someone  
to perform to.*

*I'll be there for you  
even if now you  
don't think you need me.*

*I'll be there for you  
when the day comes  
and you need to cry.*

## ***I AM MORE***

*I am up,  
then down  
five places in my heart  
have left there own scares.*

*At times I am  
running in place,  
Then there are signs  
that bring me in to  
this place.*

*One moment I am five,  
and the next sixteen,  
Then I have to be seven,  
twelve and fourteen  
all over again.*

*Flying high above  
I am looking for the way  
seeing more than the road,  
seeing things in a different way.*

*I am more,  
more than this,  
more than all I miss  
and all the love you bring to this.*

**JULIA**

*Your hair is so bright  
it keeps  
the sky lit  
at night.*

*Your smile is so loving  
and I love  
the way  
you keep hugging.*

**WE DON'T KISS NO MORE**

*We don't kiss no more,  
lightning strikes the chord.*

*We walk forward to the light,  
Fighting for our life.*

*We don't kiss no more,  
we don't close the door.*

*We take what we can  
we borrow from the land.*

*We don't kiss no more,  
we don't see the light behind the door.*

*But we take a piece of life,  
we move to the night.*

*We don't kiss no more,  
what are doing this for.*

*Is this all there is,  
beyond the door.*

*We don't kiss no more.*

## **JOSH**

*I want to tell you  
what is in my heart.  
I want to help you  
find what is in yours.*

*I feel myself letting go  
beyond all reason.  
I want to hold you  
like so many times before.*

*I don't understand you  
much more than I do.  
I don't understand me  
when I scream so loud.*

*I want for you to know  
that you are so much more.  
I know that you have in you  
love for everyone in the world.*

*I am sorry that  
I cannot reach your heart.  
I am sorry that you  
cannot find mine.*

*I just want you  
to find your dream.  
I just want for you  
all that I did not find for myself.*



*I wish that you could find  
what's important to you.  
I know that someday you  
will be what you want to be.*

*Dad*

**DAY**

*The day,  
means so much,  
so little.*

*Sometimes,  
I see the day  
and it means nothing.*

*Sometimes,  
I see the day  
and it means everything.*

*The last time  
when I wrote  
that day,  
I realized where I was.*

*One day later  
than yesterday,  
three hundred sixty five days  
farther, than I was today.*

*The day  
means so much,  
so little,  
that I missed  
the day I lost you.*

**DOES ONE DAY MATTER**

*One day,  
there you were.  
Walking through the room  
leaving chaos behind  
scattered pieces lying on the floor.*

*One day,  
there seemed to be more.  
So little patience  
with the things  
you have done,  
the way you did them.*

*One day,  
when you came again.  
I could not control  
the discomfort I felt.  
I lost control  
of myself,  
of who I am.*

***SINCE I'VE CRIED***

*Twelve years have past  
and the seasons of Fall  
has changed the trees  
from the color green  
to the brightest orange, red, yellows  
I have ever seen.*

*Twelve years have gone  
and a key lost so many  
Winters ago  
has been found  
in a dark corner of a room  
no longer used.*

*Twelve years have left  
every bright colored flower  
is lost in comparison  
to the beauty that  
once sat in this chair.*

*Twelve year have come and gone  
warm winds blow darkened clouds  
and the skies cried  
for the first time  
as I did twelve years before.*

## ***SITTING***

*Sitting,  
Watching through the window  
small drops of rain  
fall past me.*

*Sitting,  
wondering through the day  
what you are thinking  
about yourself  
and where you are.*

*Sitting,  
watching bits of sunlight  
breaking through  
and lighting little rainbows  
in the rain.*

*Sitting,  
wondering where the day  
has led me  
wondering where I could be know.*

*Sitting,  
watching through the window  
larger drops of rain  
pouring past me.*

*Sitting,  
Wondering why, when  
I will see you  
on the next rainy day.*

## ***HOLE IN MY HEART***

*All the love you bring  
in this place,  
has brightened  
my expectation.*

*All the time you give  
in this place,  
has risen to  
my expectation.*

*All the time you spent  
in this place,  
has given to  
my expectation.*

*All the time you lived  
in this place,  
still there is a  
hole in my heart.*

## ***I TOOK ONE***

*I took one moment,  
out of my life  
and made a decision.*

*There has to be a point  
when to make a decision  
is every part of our life.*

*We can go on  
believing that one moment  
in time will be the critical one.*

*Do we make a decision  
or must we  
choose not to.*

*I took one moment,  
out of my life  
and made a decision.  
will be the critical point.*

## **THE WALL**

*I walked for a distance  
to see if I knew you.  
Or if I knew anyone  
like you.*

*I searched for a familiar name,  
one like my own,  
one that may have lost  
their way home.*

*There was not one,  
but two who seemed familiar,  
five years separated them,  
their journey to a place unknown to me.*

*Each of their journey's  
began somewhere elsewhere,  
at least in this generation,  
not that of their ancestors.*

*I walk a distance,  
farther to a place  
where many souls rest  
who traveled as they did.*

*I looked again,  
for a trace of them  
they are a part of me  
and a part of the past.*



*There I found one,  
amongst the hundreds of thousands,  
of others who lost their time,  
but left with honor.*

*There I said a grateful pray,  
a farewell to one I never knew,  
but one I shared a connection,  
by name and heritage.*

## ***HOW ONE FORGETS***

*I forgot how easy it is  
to miss all those I love,  
when traveling farther  
than the corner store.*

*I search for familiar faces  
when those that I love  
are not reachable,  
in the days I am gone.*

*I listen for familiar sounds,  
those like children playing  
and asking questions  
about their world and why  
it is the way it is.*

*I miss the banter  
or call it a test of wills,  
my oldest son poses to me,  
my other sons and daughters  
test me each day as well.*

*I am looking forward  
to my trip home  
to be with the children I love.*

## **UNDERSTANDING**

*In the airport, in a taxi,  
on a bus or trolley,  
even in the subway  
I look for safety in faces unknown.*

*In all these places  
I hear languages unknown to me,  
I feel uncomfortable  
in a way that I do not like.*

*What a world it would be,  
if we could all understand  
every language or know one.*

*That uneasy feeling  
of not knowing who is talking  
about who,  
would go away.*

## **ONE OR TWO MEN**

*I was walking down  
a road I barely knew  
and from behind me  
I hear someone talking,  
someone laughing.*

*I walked on farther down the road  
I have not traveled before  
and still I could hear  
the conversation and the laughter.*

*I could sense from  
how loud it was  
that it was coming  
closer behind me.*

*As I turned around to see  
I realized that there  
was not two people,  
but one.*

## ***FLYING***

*Flying is not my strongest  
method of transportation.  
Yet I am willing to do  
it this way,  
then to waste hours and days  
crossing the country by car.  
Just so I can be home quicker  
to be with you.*

## ***A LONG JOURNEY***

*There have been journeys,  
travels that men have taken.  
Journey's that begin  
with an idea to express passion.*

*There can be struggles  
that men have faced.  
Struggles that someone else  
would never dare to do.*

*There has been this hope  
from the men that decided.  
Decisions for them, that for many  
are risks they cannot take.*

*There will be more journeys,  
more struggles,  
more decisions,  
where only a strong heart can go.*

**A FINAL STEP**

*There is almost a certain  
taste to finding the end,  
a certain feel  
that it may be over.*

*There is almost a struggle  
that must take place,  
a certain look  
that defines the end.*

*There is almost a place  
that is reached,  
a certain smell  
that is unmistakable.*

*There is almost a final step  
that is taken,  
a certain taste  
of lasting victory.*