



a little peace.

I'm trying to bake for you ...go on take it all.  
kiss me  
not here..it's not the right time

Words never cost this much for friends.  
We speak in flesh and write in blood...  
never enough to go around...  
wounded by each sentence  
After...such exhaustion.

I cold stare in your eyes forever  
but you would turn my regard  
into my undoing.

Your celebration  
I did all this  
for you.

At midnight, you are nowhere to be found.

Everything depends on a vase  
cracked in a mirror.

And then  
    the accident  
And then  
    the dinner was burnt  
And then  
    time got turned around  
    you guessed what would happen  
    before it was over.

Never took anyone this far along.  
Still, you will not turn back.

That depends...on the mirror.

Too long...too strong.

We learn to touch again,  
as well as count.

Soon, it will all be one act.

-I meant it all the time.  
-Why didn't you let me know.  
-I couldn't. You weren't ready.

Lost and now I am found. When I say the word,  
I imagine you before  
me. Are you this word-your alias.  
I touch your hair.  
My power of imagination fades.

All day repeating your name; still nothing

Then you rolled yourself in a little ball...  
no longer human...you took on another form, more spread out,  
able to fly.  
Having reached your peak,  
you came abruptly down.

I've been waiting. Take my hand.  
Let's go.

I see you.

And I see  
you disappear  
in the valley  
where we have walked.  
The rocks are sharp in the valley.  
You cut me with your thoughts.

My hand is your hand.  
And you burn me.

Why did you do that?

I kiss your eyelids shut. You are ready for the dream.

You really took me round once.  
Scraped up my knees.  
I learned to act like a spider. I  
traveled on walls and moved in dust.  
If I crawled onto your arm...  
only a bother.

turned my words against me...crushed me like a spider...  
What did I have left?

My curse:  
The trick is to get you inside.  
Once you know, you'll be too big to get out.

I know where to begin,  
But I don't know where to start  
what I can't finish.  
The endgame only messes you up.

I will build you a mansion,  
and I will build you...  
While I build, you will...  
Please wait, I will be back.

Back to watch the building collapse.  
There were people inside.  
There were  
people inside. But I warned them.

Don't feel like myself anymore.

This is how it got started.

A Cinderella at the ball  
all eyes on you.

But you became distracted from the merriment...  
enthralled by the stories of a prince...  
some rogue suitor.

Now you have to go.  
No time to remove the masks...no rescue.

As you run from the palace,  
An alley cat halts your flight.  
You love cats. You stoop to pet it.

-Hello, Alice, it's me.

**B. A SUN SHARE**

sometimes you know me  
and sometimes

cat licks  
and salt tricks

too congested to smell anything.  
sometimes my senses play  
cruel tricks on me.

knowledge burns in the wounds.

make it go away. you go away.

we're doing it again  
                  it, tricks with numbers  
you guess my date  
                  and I read your mind  
I didn't mean anything  
                  anything to be mean...  
caught me, my pants down, crawling along  
the ceiling.

never knew a touch to give  
this much pain  
a smile to cut so deep.  
But without the cut, faces  
                  without gestures  
No mouth for words.  
We're coming around again, we are  
merry-go-round chatter.  
I try to work my way on...  
there is a crowd.  
Many children also want to ride.  
your choice  
give me a hand...  
Revision follows revision;  
I meant what I said.  
But not the way that I said it...  
My words are your words,  
swollen fingers  
that bruise on the corner of your shoulder  
from thinking too much.

Somehow  
got out of your body.

I claimed your hand  
kept it in a case kept it moving  
watched it point  
guide me

Remember how I told you about him.  
really messed up,  
gave him a second chance--  
still wasn't ready to play.

We came this far, I've lost my compass, and my sense of  
your  
direction.

never enough...  
we feel our way our  
groping in space where the ground meets the air.

Blind as a mole, just as persistent.

We're in a restaurant.  
Breakfast.  
You order juice.  
I watch you take five hours to drink the glass.

Each drop ...a sentence

I try to catch you again  
thinking about me.  
But I only interrupt you.

A running start  
an old suit  
release money  
a smile worth  
a few buck more  
rather forgetful.

I'm sorry  
got a little inflated  
floating above it all  
damn it all.

my snout in the dirt slurping up the mash.  
you called...didn't leave a mess  
But I knew...just a feeling,  
nothing more.

The library is closing  
in fifteen minutes...

got a book...

has to get back...  
I wanted to ask you,  
needed to ask you  
to take it back for me  
before they close.

**C. ALLIES**

all lies  
 the letter..did you see it?  
 my test  
 ran out of paper  
 how can you sleep with this noise...  
 You ran out the door  
 ran out of questions...  
 You chased me with your answers.

How this got put together, put in my place  
 wedged in among the crowd.  
 I lost your place. Which side were you on?  
 -I'm not sure. I can't keep track. Where were you?

I spend all day getting dinner ready. Then you sit at the table,  
 eat, and don't say anything to me. Did you like the orange sauce  
 and will you have some more wine.  
 I have nothing to do with the rest.

We shared a dinner of  
 rice pudding and raisins,

Don't be shocked  
 fell asleep with the news on  
 woke up to a natural  
 disaster.

Here, have a cookie almond  
 I made them  
 myself.

Only yesterday we were together on a  
 Saturday.  
 Already, it is  
 Sunday  
 one week later.

You dropped ashes in a coke can,  
 smiles on an orange peel.  
 Your room looks like a museum.  
 Why did you get in his car...you didn't even know him.  
 You weren't at work this morning..who cast this  
 nightmare  
 looking for someone  
                   who was that  
 well I'm that someone  
                   I don't know  
 are you, now  
                   they hung up.



shed tears...effortlessly altered the sound track.  
I try to play along.

What else can we shed...

blood

no motions

work

a billion hours of sweat

of sand

of death

forever of space

done year in and year out.

talked about you.

and now suddenly we are submerged in water

up to our waists.

We have tails,

that trail along like plants.

We talk like trees,

a leaf to fall.

I'll buy you a drink

some night.

I'll catch you at work

What used to take days...

now takes hours

Don't be cross with me...a little too much passion...

When I first talked to you on the phone,

I got this image

But you look nothing...

pretty

alone in an amusement park

heated up.

this time it's the ferris wheel.

What have you got to say if you've got no money on you.

Taking longer, but we can't keep track of time.

The ride playing some Russian roulette and you fall

bouncing from car to car

flat on the ground

I tried to leave you up there, at the tip of the wheel.

But your heart tracked a pleasant collapse.

Leave a light on

to remind me

a watch...of the shadows  
you know  
they know all about it.

Are you ready for this one...the treat  
all sorts  
melting  
to leave a bloody mess.

What is this place? The shadows are unfamiliar,  
and the light is unfriendly.  
the Fun House  
to stay on until the next curve see you only through a mirror  
and have a breakdown after this.

recast  
who...friends trying to learn and unlearn this tunnel vision.

Am I getting warmer?  
You're getting hot...feverish.

I talk out of place, can't even control the swing...  
I'm not afraid.

We switch places

carry on, how will we carry on...  
candies  
When he give you one  
can you feel the effects

It seems so correct, can't go back

smearred licorice on your lips  
so far out  
I said I did crazy things for you.  
The taste. I so like the taste.

What I'm suggesting...  
you feel you want it

I feel the conversation shift. No more questions. The conference  
is over.

Missed the details, but we'll watch it together on tape  
watch it over again

You let go  
I feel a little closer  
but again  
crawling upside down...  
like drawing a picture

sort of like almost  
damn

hold me  
to it  
so I can count on you  
for another piece of licorice.  
I cheated  
jumped in front of a car.  
How we figured it. tapped the phone lines  
how you knew  
still let me lead, but you gave me wire  
to pull me in

Drive me forward, enfold around me.  
How do you do it all at once without losing place  
no  
halfway  
measure.  
No wonder I get confused...oops  
we were together  
allies.  
You were teaching me discipline  
all the while still having fun.

went too far  
how close can you get  
to the dynamite  
before you blow up  
not close enough  
to FIND  
out.  
a little longer.

Our bodies become a shelter for our hatred.  
Cough it out of your system.  
She got a candy caught in her throat.  
Too sugary...need water

I'm coming back in a little while.  
clear me a path  
a runway to land the jet.

All lies thrown in my face  
bruised lip for tears  
words too tender to touch.  
This was supposed to be the beginning.  
dilapidated warriors  
swords dragging the ground  
fell deep

in a well  
 no water  
 hurry up stop  
 don't think that I would have enough imagination to spend  
 all that money

imagination  
 a little extra

not on the phone long enough to leave a trace  
 if I could keep you talking  
 not enough time to do it all  
 can't be in that business  
 and expect to live forever.

Tired to the point of death.  
 From my window  
 watched two men try to set fire to my car  
 fell asleep to the flames.

First thing that I thought of when I awoke from a dream...  
 give and take...run run run  
 caught you down at the park  
 turning flips on the wire each burst  
 leaving you that much higher, lighter  
 Come by yourself and don't say anything to anybody  
 if you do

almost hit you  
 driving my car erratically

I could feel it  
 hadn't happened over night.  
 not easy being in love with someone one minute and the next  
 finding out  
 they're a murderer

Are you  
 can you see that attractive girl  
 down at the end of the pool.

You're asking me to lie  
 I'm not asking you for anything.

You have to leave now. This is adult business. There's no place  
 for you here.

I know what's going on;

I'm not blind.  
I like the way it sounds.

All at once

until then, words are only shells  
They cannot shock.  
They are brought to life, when we are brought to life.  
Trying to play along...to swim where there is no water  
But each motion is so strained.

Look at myself in a mirror  
too much to keep track of  
    feel like this  
    you like this  
you know ..... I used to like you.

**D. SAVAGES**

From the corner of my eye,  
my glance pushes against you.

I value my time.

Oh dear  
what can the matter be.  
I am such a horrid creature.  
Got out of my past  
to buy you presents...  
got carried away with the future.

If you want magic  
why do you turn your head  
before the trick is over.

A heartless judge  
no accident,  
you burned the food.  
I came back  
to play hide-and-go-seek.  
What took you so long.

There is only one path  
and it is very narrow.

Kiss the evil one  
so he may shrivel in his own guilt.  
Resting in the light,  
you shield your face against  
his evil eye.

A carnival  
of death artists and impostors.

Languishing  
with burnt lips  
from trying to taste too soon...  
but never touching the tongue.

The gentle feel of time,  
with its pointed scratching  
at a speckled eye.

What follows.

A dinner of robin's egg  
and crushed grasses  
cookie crumbles

and toffee licks.

got so into you  
that the tip of my tongue  
scraped the summit of your  
aspirations.

my tongue caught  
                                  the butter  
bruising the side of  
your lip.

greasing a thousand expeditions.

You get closer.  
The sailors muttering  
horrific imprecations  
each gesture effecting these damned benedictions.

You still huddled  
                                  at confusion's length putting words in their mouths  
and betrayal in your imagination.

Witches  
twisted in passion...  
you blow away the suggestion of the smoke.

I will draw you a picture, your picture...  
hold still.  
You cannot see the end  
until you touch the end.

In your hand you grasp a pebble.  
Between your touch and my touch  
I touch again.  
You lay pebbles end to end  
a running tally.  
To learn to count  
by feeling  
a flower in the salad  
you bit it.

came here to find a California poppy...  
Is it going to get warmer.  
It's much hotter than Los Angeles  
here. We're deep in the desert.  
You can feel it already.

I know what you were telling me.  
 But what were you talking about with those girls...  
 politics.

To you  
 I love to talk  
 butter dripping from my lips  
 grappling in garlic  
 with pieces of shrimp  
 chunks of fish  
 gripping grated parmesan  
 mushrooms wrestling  
 to dominate the table.

Down here burns from heat. You don't sweat:  
 You go up in smoke. Clean and indiscernible.

Why didn't you ask me about the  
 weather. I would have told you how  
 hot it gets...instead of hearing you  
 complain all the time.

Learn to live with this heat  
 Soaks in your nostrils.

Dislocated.

You touched my shoulder  
 what's the matter  
 with time  
 We're losing warmth.

left out to dry  
     cut up for bait

he's my poet  
 plastic candy  
 hard to swallow  
 talking  
 and drinking water  
 the old ventriloquist's trick.  
 putting words in my mouth  
 blood  
 a tear in eye

There's no longer Room for mistakes.

Got locked out of my own party.  
 Then I don't know how to have  
 fun.



Put my hands  
to your throat  
in order to feel your words.

I bite away  
but you still remain whole.

My teeth are dull...  
too many skirmishes.

trying to find your pulse  
the transmission too faint.  
times when life is too rare.

interest rate  
a pebble in itself held  
for itself  
to know it's there  
by itself.

The heat of coming together  
so much fear  
in this nuclear embrace.  
The chain  
the hottest in existence  
cooking the universe with gas.  
have to break apart  
to fall out before

The surfaces are so  
smooth  
no breaks to grasp.

not paying attention.  
This is your passport  
yours  
burn with my words  
your sentence protects me from the fire.

bit it off from the start  
then you lost aspect  
without perspective, figure running into each.  
No separation.

Sent me on a mission  
the pilgrims  
to extend to the farthest point on the globe  
and find the coldest substance.

Right here; look, I'm pointing to it.  
Here,



We feel it  
                   too closely.  
 We are savages  
                   my teeth are sharp  
                                   and  
                   your lips are eyes  
 There were times  
 and there's going to be times  
 and then there's time...bitter, the chocolate.

So bitter, how can you taste anything else.

Can't get out  
 out is a word and a place...  
 And I wanted to get out of words and places.  
 You speak my name. I can't get over calling you names. Staring at  
 walls all day.  
 Make the shadows move.  
 Get caught again...sidetracked  
 a picture worth a thousand  
                                   more than a thousand things to say.  
 and there is one word worth a million.

happy  
 fallen time  
 it happens without us

hurt you  
 and enjoyed it.

get closer  
 a word to a day  
 heads  
 or tails

never forget a name  
 or a face

I left my jacket at your place...  
 have to stop by to pick it up..

I ate before writing  
 now too pre-occupied  
 to make the time

both together fishing  
 forget the bait.