

## Her Ardent Heart

Oh hush, my love. Come lay your weary  
heart and spirit down,  
and let me lean my cheek upon  
your bright, unruly crown.  
Don't shake your head -- or walk away --  
deny me yet again --  
or fall to raging, after, like  
a lion in his den.  
(I see your blue eyes widen now;  
you didn't think I knew.  
But love, our bond is one that cuts  
both ways. Of course I do!)

I understand your hesitation  
and uncertainty;  
that fear and courage drive you,  
even now, to set me free.  
I see the terrible dilemma  
you believe we face;  
the desperate restraint in your  
most welcoming embrace...  
And in my ardent heart, my love,  
I'm certain too of this;  
you've come to see this loving  
threshold as a precipice.

I see it in your eyes, my love,  
and in the way you stand,  
a man about to fall -- about to drown --  
but take my hand,  
and come and lie beside me now.  
I know the way from here;  
for only love can free us both  
from loneliness, and fear.  
Oh, don't -- don't look away from me  
again, or bow your head,  
but lay it on this patchwork pillow,  
next to mine, instead.

You think that love prevents my seeing  
you for what you are.  
I see more clearly than you know,  
in loving from afar  
and in my dreams, and so in yours --  
oh yes, I know it's true;  
that through this bond we share  
you couldn't help but feel it too...  
But dream in truth, and I will lay  
my body close to thine,  
and pour my love into your spirit  
like a warm, sweet wine.