

A SAVIOR ON BORROWED TIME

I realized
that you are never
going to catch up

like the time
when he tried to make fun of my poetry
he couldn't tell the difference between nonsense
and sense put together in a nonsensical way
that is his weakness
and it is gradually becoming yours
nothing can be done about it
not anymore
once we were worried
why
Johnny can't read
now why bother
if Johnny can just make a buck
it's not as if I am going to do something about it
I am not
it took me a long time to get to this place
and you the same
and you let it all
SLIP away
like a stream
gliding down a hill

I am just getting prepared for next time
I AM READY
I'm a miracle worker
I can speak while drinking water
I can touch heaven

drink up

come quickly
you are the only one who can save me

my pickle is not sharp enough to
complement my sandwich
with all your instructions
do you really think that anyone can help me
you got what you wanted
so how can you expect anything more

let's get a drink
just a soda
a coffee

I used to run this place
now this place
just runs me

you don't give me
give yourself
enough word freedom

I planned my whole day
around you
like plastic
on plastic
can you remember this

someone turned me over
and just emptied me out
would you even know the difference
you don't even know anymore
how bad it has become

do you know
I am not coming down

and then I wake up in the middle of my night
it is afternoon
and these things have happened to me
I don't even feel like myself
this is crazy

I need details
your details
like
chapter
and verse
how did things get on so badly

are you going to try and explain things to me
if not to me
for me
then for yourself

you really messed yourself up
to the point of no return
this is a movie
if you haven't been following
it could be a movie of you
a movie of two
it isn't
you have no movie yet
so follow this one
follow it closely
and you may avoid
the movie that you are heading for
if you only could

all these things that make no difference for your life
so that you can think so little about all these things that do make a difference

I thought that you were dead
I am reborn
in myself
I took my own advice
found my own cure
and now I am alive

I AM ALIVE

if there were cures
that you could take
swallow them whole
or chew them up
what am I

that wasn't funny

I love you

I don't want to hear that
you asked for it
I needed to tell you how I feel
and now
I've told you
everything that I know about
myself
and you
and you would just say

NOW

but you said
it is too late
and I know
it is too late

that wasn't funny
to act that way
before me

someone will love you back
pray to him
I just have so much resentment
I am all tied up
you are turning into a really wonderful person

can I pray to you
for you
that is so sweet

when you really understand poetry
you get stopped dead in your tracks

once I set my mind on something
nothing is going to get in my way
I am going straight to my destination

the moon

it's not your fault
you really didn't mean what you said
I was a little crazy

this is better than sleep at quelling
what troubles the soul

I am going on

VACATION

whatever the stars do
you can't do anything about me
everything is too perfect
in the thousand year
night
where you can't see what ails you so it don't ail you no more

can you read the writing on the wall
all good poets ask
can you
read
the writing on the wall
but now
I don't have to
I am the writing on the skin
and it will live as long as I live
the touch
I have felt the touch
and there is nothing more absorbing than that
you can balance your words
say the words that I need to hear
let the public know

what are you so afraid of
really afraid
as you cling to the wall for support
the more that you hold on
the more that I can see you falling
holding on
to a secret that everyone knows

why I am so bitter
bitterness that dried up a river
make it flow
bubble up and
FLOW
bubble up
and BLOW
are you waiting
I am waiting for the bubble to
BLOW
you can act all afraid
as afraid as you want
but this is how it is going to end
THE SKY IS GOING TO FALL

you haven't come to realize that
doesn't work anymore

do you have a scorecard
"Do you have a scorecard
because if you're keeping track

you are losing badly.
If you want, I can take over poetry from you.
I can write about what people care about.
Those who really love them
and love them back
those who build where there is building to be done
those who shut their mouths
can you shut your mouth.”
I hate to burst your bubble
PROPHECY
you can't stop an idea
whose time has come
it is taking over
coming at you
force on

you know that you are losing your voice
you're not that good at making anything go
and you're going to shake the earth
make miracles
you have run out

I need a savior

you can make your veiled reference
hide behind veils
let freedom reign
run behind the freedom truck
get a new umbrella
do your own thing
let freedom rain

you can't stop a train
let alone
catch a train
ADMIT IT
all you have is your words
and sometimes
it is damned near impossible
break the wings
off angels

what tricks do you have
up your sleeve
I am going to need something good if I am going to turn this one around

maybe that's all there is to love affair
is that all there is
don't let it
get you down
that is all that it took
whisper in your ear
I can't hear
and you aren't allowed to turn up the volume
are you going to do what it takes to break the stranglehold

there is no mystery
none anymore
you only ask for what you see
and you only see what you ask for
it's that simple

there's really no way to
walk out of here
get out of here alive

you're going to have to make yourself a lot smaller

first we will set traps for the pests
than we will gut the whole place and
start over
you're going to have to explain how to
do it
every step along the way
I am well pleased
but am I
well known
this is today's challenge
I am in the house
literally
in the bricks
and the wood
and volume
the floors
the memories
I am
all that I am
and when it goes
I go
AWAY
have you thought about that

not I go away
but the you
connected to the I
goes away
too
that might not mean much now
but it will
there are so many things that I can't remember now
that I am having difficulty just being me
I am staying with yesterday's news
how the sun plays on the skin
how the sun plays
does it really make any difference at all
who you are in the dark
it's not as if you remembered enough of this to make a difference
they steal it
they make it new
and it's all done for good
there is a time
coming soon
where they will just
SHUT IT ALL DOWN

this time I need to get it
RIGHT
I can't make the same mistake three times
I don't have
that many times
DON'T BE BITTER
bitterness will only destroy you
you
gave it your best shot
and that was shot good enough
so be happy
you will be asked to verify
your identity
I no longer have all the numbers that I need
sorry
you can no longer be yourself

you better get out of here before I make you cry
I am losing
losing
losing
everything that I have

and in its place
what do I have

here's a script
memorize
and come back on Monday and
be it

I am sorry that I made you cry
I need a new dress
a new dress to go along with a new script

you can't stay like this forever
load it up
you can't
stay
but others can

I'm not going to be around for a long time
but after me
a real classy cat is coming
and he
WILL
show you the way

your job's moving away
going up the wall
you're learning how to
go up the wall

yes, you do
no, I don't
what are you going to do
when you really get what you want
will you then be able to touch the sky

I AM THE SKY
we've been through that already
only the other way around

there is an image in my head that I am trying to send your way
send it
like an injection
poetry is my injection
rub the skin with alcohol

I need different poetry
poetry that does not hurt so much
going slowly
easing in
finding its place

you look great
but you don't look like you can really care
I can put on the caring face for you
are you going to doubt me
are you going to insult me
let me out of my house
this is my gift
I am a giver
I give
but I don't take back

she is cold
but ice melts
and then you have a living breathing
human being

I'm not a sucker for you
what does that really mean
you promised me more
salvation
a long life
happiness
more than a long life
a glorious experience
just go with it
I know that you feel as if you are in heaven
you have no grasp
of how you've done yourself wrong
no grasp at all

you're never going to get it
how to make tenderness

watching it burn to the ground
end the dynasty
with one fell swoop

you're all talk
talk talk talk

can you turn water into wine

not the fair trade that I was looking for right now
what are you into
miracles by the numbers
anything that I can do with my fingers
anything
practice makes perfect
perfect makes porridge
three bears
and Goldilocks
you know how the story goes
then the bears again
then the wolf
then grand mama
then a grand or two

this should take longer because of the extended time to work a miracle
split into installments
pay a little at a time
when you have it all paid down
then you can pick out one that you like
it doesn't work like that
you have to get it down now
all at once

where did they find you
that's another story