

## ***Regulars and Refugees***

**Carrie Newcomer**

### **Angels Unaware**

**V:** He said, "My name is Gabrielle Thomas  
I just blew in from out of town  
My work keeps me on the road  
But it's the best job that I've found  
I don't mind the silence  
Or the Super 8 Motel  
And I've never met a person yet  
Without a tale to tell"

He said, "I know you I heard you say  
'Jen, true love has no pride'  
You gave Angela and Joe a lift  
That night they didn't have a ride  
Across the room Elaine has  
Drawn your face a hundred times  
I don't believe blood alone  
The only tie that binds"

**Ch:** Sit right here rest your bones  
No one's ever so alone  
Take the world down off your shoulders  
I don't know why and how  
All I know is here and now  
You can take the world down off your shoulders

He said, "I'm moved to tenderness  
By what we cannot bare  
Humbled by what we can and do  
And learn to share  
Seems I traveled years and years  
And yet I'm still sitting here  
Nothing ever seems to change  
Just the dates and just names"

**Ch:**

**V:** He said thank you for the coffee  
And for the extra cream  
You seem to know instinctively  
That things are never what they seem.  
You never know what might blow  
In the door from anywhere  
And how many of us entertain  
Angels unaware

**Ch:**

## **Be True**

**V:** Love will ask you to stand, take you  
Where you don't think you can  
Love calls and waits for an answer  
Yes yes and be true

**V:** Love is best when it listens  
Beware there is no compromise  
Love calls and calls  
And waits for an answer  
Yes yes and be true

**Ch:** For a promise made is a promise given  
A love like this cannot be hidden  
Show me now where it's written  
Yes yes be true

**V:** Love will ask you to open your heart  
And mind and not turn away  
We're all waiting to say  
Yes yes be true

**Ch:** For a promise made is a promise given  
A light as like this cannot be hidden  
Show me now where it's written  
Yes yes be true

**V:** Love shines out like a beacon  
I am just what I am I believe  
Love is a land without borders  
Yes yes be true

**Ch:** For a promise made is a promise given  
I might be down but I'm not quittin'  
Show me now where it's written  
Yes yes be true

**Ch:** For a promise made is a promise given  
A light as like this cannot be hidden  
Show me now where it's written  
Yes yes be true

## **Nothing is Ever Wasted**

**V:** So I lost the car, I lost the house,  
I lost the job, and I lost the keys  
I lost a good friend, and who I was then,  
And being sure of anything

**Ch:** Nothing is ever wasted  
Not the sweet or bitter fruit I've tasted  
Nothing is ever wasted

**V:** blew a kiss, to Icarus,  
On brilliant wax wings  
We fell to the ground  
So I climbed a hill  
I'm standing there still,  
Arms open wide not looking down

**Ch:** Nothing is ever wasted  
Not the sweet or bitter fruit I've tasted  
Nothing is ever wasted

**V:** I've lost pre conceptions, sense of direction,  
I lost a child and I lost my doubt  
I lost my mother and at one time or another  
We strip it all down and toss it all out

**Ch:** Nothing is ever wasted  
Not the sweet or bitter fruit I've tasted  
Nothing is ever wasted

**V:** All things will change, there's no one to blame  
Doesn't it feel like it is somehow sacred,  
And I am aware, of what a person can bear  
When there is a reason for them to face it.

**Ch:** Nothing is ever wasted  
Not the sweet or bitter fruit I've tasted  
Nothing is ever wasted

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## **I Fly**

**V:** The women from the PTA whisper  
They sideways glance when I walk by  
They say look how far she's fallen,  
and anit it just appallin'  
While they gossip grocery line

**V:** But a woman's gotta do  
What a woman's gotta do  
Cause there's always rent to pay  
But when your kids need new shoes,  
There's nothin' left to do  
But to put my pride away.

**Ch** But :I, I fly over this town  
When the sky bleeds  
And the bars all close down  
But I still hope and I pray  
For something, someday

**V:** I tried cleanin' houses  
And worked at the dollar mart  
But to see my baby boys go hungry  
It very nearly broke my heart

**V:** I'm not cheap and I'm not easy  
I'm just paradin' my groceries  
And I can handle calls and stares  
For just a few more years  
'Til no one wants to look at me

### **Ch**

**V:** I like to stop in after workin  
For little kindness and a cup of joe  
And the waitress is always nice to me  
Even though I think she knows.

**V:** She always asks me how I doin  
If my kids caught that awful flu  
Once she put her hand on my hand  
And said  
"Honey, you just do whatcha gotta do."

### **Ch**

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## **Alice and Roy**

*Carrie Newcomer 2004*

Roy squeezed her hand Alice smiled at him  
The senior club special is a lot food for them  
They act like teenagers or the best of friends  
With one hundred-eighty years between the two of them

Back during the war at a wild country-dance  
He thought she'd ignore him but he took the chance  
Fifteen songs later he still held her close  
And a million dances since then hasn't been enough

**Chorus** They wear love like lighting,  
It's something to see  
And the years of their true love  
Sits up on their sleeves.

Alice nudged Roy and points with her spoon  
There sits two young lovers across the crowded room  
You can tell by their look she say's kind of giddy and flushed  
Roy grinned wry and wicked and Alice smiled and blushed

### **Chorus**

Roy gets a little misty Alice pats his hand  
He's thinking bout the boy they lost in Vietnam  
And the girl he'd brought home, and then left behind  
And 40 years later she still sends cards at Christmastime

### *Chorus*

Roy said, "Remember Alice you almost burned your diary  
All those poems and love letters I sent from overseas  
Alice says" I couldn't, even though I tried  
And I suppose the children will really be surprised."

### *Chorus*

Roy touched her face, Alice smiles at him  
Bowed her heads a moment and whispered "Amen"  
If you look a little sideways, I'm not sure what it means  
II swear it was an angel, that passed her the cream

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## **Arthur B and Bob**

**V:** I'm a little bit retrievers and a little bit hound  
A little bit cocker spaniel and  
Something that was brown.  
It don't make no difference, I got no pedigree  
'Cause there's never been two friends like  
Arthur B and me

**CH:** Arthur B and me  
Arthur B and me  
There's never been two friends like  
Arthur B and me

**V:** Some nights he takes me walking  
To the cafe round the corner  
He ties me up outside  
So I can guard the parking meter  
One night she let me in  
To rest my head upon his knee  
Cause there's never been two friends like  
Arthur B and me

**CH:** Arthur B and me  
Arthur B and me  
There's never been two friends like  
Arthur B and me

**B:** Now it's just the two of us  
Since Libby had to leave  
There were nights we sat and howled  
Arthur B and me

**V:** One night when I was sleeping  
Heaven opened wide  
I heard a voice calling me  
From the other side  
Saying way up over yonder  
Libby sits beneath a tree  
Where some day you can wait with her  
To welcome Arthur B

**CH:** Arthur B and me  
Arthur B and me  
There's never been two friends like  
Arthur B and me

I'm a little bit retriever  
I'm a little bit hound  
A little bit cocker spaniel and  
*Something that was brown*

## **Five Years On**

**V:** Here I sit smack dab in the middle  
Tomorrow is a crazy riddle  
I wish I had a crystal ball  
I wish I could see 5 years on

**V:** Like candle rockets you and I  
Oos and ahs and shouts and sighs  
Is this the storm before the calm?  
I wish I could see five years on

**Ch:** but I can't and you don't  
And you try and I won't  
Broken trust can be repaired  
But it'll take some time  
To get us there  
But I will and you won't  
You try and I don't  
We lose a little higher ground  
Every time we go around

**V:** We always seem to look behind  
And say if we'd known at the time  
But there's no one here to read my palm  
I wish I could see five years on

**V:** If we fail or if we fly  
No one can say that we didn't try  
Has the final card been drawn?  
I wish I could see five years on

**Ch:**

**Bridge:** Round and round  
We're lost, then we're found  
We can't change words  
The ones I wish we hadn't heard

**V:** There's no map or 12-step guide  
We do what we can't justify  
And it's always dark before the dawn  
How I wish I could see five years on

**V:** I promise you promise me  
And still there are no guarantees  
Is this the last verse of the song?  
I wish I could see five years on

**Ch:**

## **La Paloma**

**V:** Sit down here in the alley  
Where no one can see you cry  
Trouble dogs us like a shadow  
Though I cannot tell you why  
Life is a fine and fleeting moment  
Bittersweet and hard as stone  
I can't change what fate has dealt you  
But no one should walk alone

**Ch:** Fly Away La Paloma  
Take my love when you go  
Where no one can harm you  
And there's nothing you need  
It's not as far as we believe

**V:** Somewhere a door is opening  
While another door is closed  
Sunset wraps its shawl of color  
From here to Mexico  
There's the sound of wings around you  
Like the rustle of a skirt  
Gone before you know it  
All those tender little birds

**Ch:** Fly Away La Paloma  
Take my love when you go  
Where no one can harm you  
And there's nothing you need  
It's not as far as we believe

**Br:** I dreamt I was walking  
In an old familiar country  
I thought I heard you singing  
But I think I was just hungry  
It's so many years behind me  
Yet there's really no escape  
No matter where we go  
We still take our own landscapes

**V:** The full moon bows her head  
And the she's putting on her veil  
a whippoorwill is calling  
And mourning dove exhale  
Smell the night jasmine blooming  
Someone's turning down the sheets  
Forever opens up her arms  
As the rain washes the streets

**Ch:**

**Ch:** Fly Away La Paloma  
La Paloma  
Fly Away  
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**All Saint's Day**

**V:** All around us and within us  
And yet it's only at times we notice  
As real as rain, and soft as stardust  
We know deep down, what nobody told us.

**Ch:** Can't you feel it ever closer  
We breathe it in and we then we exhale  
We touch both sides and now eternal  
Standing closer to the veil

**V:** Now is just a, moving image  
Not a ribbon, a start and end  
There is a bird, a hidden singer  
That calls and listens, and calls again

**Ch:** Can't you feel it ever closer  
We breathe it in and we then we exhale  
We touch both sides and now eternal  
Standing closer to the veil

**V:** Centered down and moving outward  
Sometimes almost, to sweet to bare  
There are endless ways to reach home  
Just keep walking and I'll meet you there

**Ch:** Can't you feel it ever closer  
We breathe it in and we then we exhale  
We touch both sides and now eternal  
Standing closer to the veil

**V:** There's a blurring of the borders  
And I swear that I heard Verse: voices  
But every act of, simple kindness  
Calls the kingdom down and all around us

**Ch:** Can't you feel it ever closer  
We breathe it in and we then we exhale  
We touch both sides and now eternal  
Standing closer to the veil

Standing closer to the veil

Standing closer to the veil

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## **Just below the waves**

**V:** Sometimes I just give up trying  
It seems like a lifetime  
That I've been fighting  
It was hard enough  
Just getting out of bed today  
I'd call someone but what on earth  
Would I even say

**V:** Here in this airless space  
No one to plead your pitiful case  
Some call this thing the soul of sadness  
Self-indulgence or a brilliant madness  
All I know is I dying for air

**Ch:** Swimming just below the waves  
I can see the sky  
Looking darkly through the haze  
The moon is drifting by  
Then someone cuts the anchor  
And slowly up I rise

**V:** An unwelcome guest in your home  
That comes to stay and never wants goes  
Not some much shadow but visitation  
A haunting foreign movie with no translation

**V:** There's buzzing white noise in my head  
Then sometimes so silent I'm almost dead  
One true thing I hold to dear and fast  
Is a voice that whispers  
"Darlin' this too will pass"  
Even when I'm dying for air

**Ch:** Swimming just below the waves  
I can see the sky  
Looking darkly through the haze  
The moon is drifting by  
Then someone cuts the anchor  
And slowly up I rise

**V:** This is just a picture not complaint  
Making full sentences  
Has never been my strength  
Some call this thing the soul of sadness  
Self-indulgence or a brilliant madness  
All I know is I'm dying for air  
All I know is I'm dying for air

## **There is a spirit**

**V:** There is a spirit moving cross the water  
There is a spirit rolling 'cross this town  
There is a voiced above the madness  
There is a spirit movin' now

**Ch:** Some day we'll run and we will not stumble  
Someday we'll fly and we won't look down  
And all will see and most believe it  
There is a spirit moving now

**V:** Be not afraid though the river rises  
Be not afraid when the cold winds howl  
We are not called to live in terror  
There is a spirit moving now

**Ch:** Some day we'll run and we will not stumble  
Someday we'll fly and we won't look down  
And all will see and most believe it  
There is a spirit moving now

**V:** The walls are thick and the walls are sturdy  
But walls still fall at a trumpet sound  
Hand in hand we'll walk together  
There is a spirit movin' now

**Ch:** Some day we'll run and we will not stumble  
Someday we'll fly and we won't look down  
And all will see and most believe it  
There is a spirit moving now

There is a spirit and it's moving now  
There is a spirit and it's moving now  
There is a spirit and it's moving now

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## **A Coal Red Sky**

*Carrie Newcomer 2004*

It's a more than a need more than desire  
More like an slow heartbreaking fire  
Gone up in smoke, in a coal red sky

Doesn't it strike you a little odd  
Something so wrong could feel like God  
Gone up in smoke, in a coal red sky

**Chorus** Fires burn and now I know  
I've faced the devil toe to toe  
How many nights did I waste  
How many years for just a taste

V: It's like a cancer round your spine  
Then it can seem you're the best lifeline  
Gone up in smoke, in an coal red sky

**Bridge** Here I sit with open hands  
Here I wait without a plan  
No one tells you when you start  
Kid this stuff will break your heart

And so the fire crackles on  
It's never done it's never gone  
Calling my name, in a coal red sky

**Chorus**

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## **Before the Fall**

**V:** Where did the time go I swear  
It was last week or at most last year  
The face I see in the mirror  
Really can't be me

**V:** This town can talk, and just because  
But stupid is as stupid does  
We have but one or two great loves  
So why would I regret

**Ch:** I was the girl you almost married  
When hopes were high and eyes were starry  
You lay me down in the tallest grass  
When the sun was goin down  
In the shadow of the thunder storm  
My hair tangled in your sunburned arms  
You crazy for my wildest charms  
The summer before the fall

**V:** So willingly lead astray  
The world spun slower than today  
Most women know  
But they never say

**Ch:** I was the girl you almost married  
When hopes were high and eyes were starry  
You lay me down in the tallest grass  
When the sun was going down  
In the shadow of the thunder storm  
My hair tangled in your sunburned arms  
You crazy for my wildest charms  
The summer before the fall

**Br:** On steamy nights in mid July  
Through dusty windows and stormy skies  
I lean on the counter and I close my eyes

**V:** Who knows how far a good deed flies  
Or the speed of light to reach our eyes  
Or when we shouldn't question why

**Ch:**

## **Betty's Diner**

Miranda works the late night counter  
In a joint called Betty's Diner  
Chrome and checkered tablecloths  
One steamy windowpane  
She got the job that shaky fall  
And after hours she'll write till dawn  
With a nod and smile she serves them all

**Ch:** Here we are all in one place  
The wants and wounds of the human race  
Despair and hope sit face to face  
When you come in from the cold  
Let her fill your cup with something kind  
Eggs and toast like bread and wine  
She's heard it all so she don't mind

Arthur lets his earl grey steep  
Since April it's been hard to sleep  
You know they tried most everything  
Yet it took her in the end  
Kevin tests new saxophones  
But swears he's leaving quality control  
For the Chicago scene, or New Orleans  
Where they still play righteous horns

**Ch:** Here we are all in one place  
The wants and wounds of the human race  
Despair and hope sit face to face  
When you come in from the cold  
Let her fill your cup with something kind  
Eggs and toast like bread and wine  
She's heard it all so she don't mind

Jack studies here after work  
To get past high school he's the first  
And his large hands seem just as comfortable  
With a hammer or a pen  
Emma leaned and kissed his cheek  
And when she did his knees got weak  
Miranda smiles at Em and winks

**Ch:** Here we are all in one place  
The wants and wounds of the human race  
Despair and hope sit face to face  
When you come in from the cold  
Let her fill your cup with something kind  
Eggs and toast like bread and wine  
She's heard it all so she don't mind

**B:** You never know who'll be your witness  
You never know who grants forgiveness  
Look to heaven or sit with us

Diedra bites her lip and frowns  
She works the Stop and Go downtown  
She's pretty good at the crossword page  
She paints her eyes blue black  
Tristan comes along sometimes  
Small for his age and barely five  
But she loves him like a mamma lion

Veda used to drink a lot  
Almost lost it all before she stopped  
Comes in at night with her friend Mike  
Who runs the crisis line  
Michael toured Saigon and back  
Hair the color of smoke and ash  
Heads are bowed and hands are clasped  
One more storm has passed

**Ch:** Here we are all in one place  
The wants and wounds of the human race  
Despair and hope sit face to face  
When you come in from the cold  
Let her fill your cup with something kind  
Eggs and toast like bread and wine  
She's heard it all so she don't mind

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