

# Poetry

## The Garden Patch

"I'm packing up everything  
This time I'm gonna leave  
It's something that I need  
Seems that everything around here got too heavy for me  
I'm getting out of here tomorrow  
I'm going to go away  
I won't be gone for very long  
It's just that right now I can't stay"

So said my friend Benn in the garden patch one day

"I don't want my shoulders to break  
Under the weight of the weekday trials  
They all just lead to  
The weight of the weekend denials  
My mind and heart are being torn apart  
By the cats and by the dogs  
I love them with confusion  
And I can't see through the fog

I'm going to the higher ground so that I can clear my mind"

He got an early start the next day  
He was up before the sun  
He hit the highway with just his guitar  
Sleeping bag and thumb  
Driving past him on the way to work  
The cardboard sign read "parts west"  
I hit the horn wishing safe return  
And also to give him my best

He smiled, waved his hand, and in the rearview mirror he was gone

He reached the mountain  
In just a little over a week  
He climbed it to the top  
And there he could think  
About the things that he left back home  
And how they should be  
He breathed in the fresh air  
And the beauty and the scenery

He found comfort in the leaves he found on the trees

The river went by quietly  
Past the boy with the fishing line  
Casting off of a nearby rock  
He had no worries about time  
A howl came from behind him  
It was a train going by  
It looked so beautiful  
As it entered the mountain side

Meanwhile I was having a dream about going to Arizona

He met Jack soon after  
He got into town  
Jack had been there for a year or two  
Found him a job and showed him around  
They lived together in Jack's car  
Benn was there for a month  
Jack sat in the front seat  
And Benn held the back bunk

He had a job, he found a room and my friend Benn was doing fine

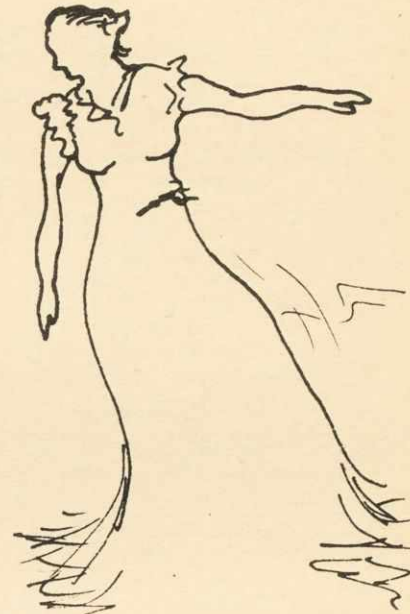
A letter came one day  
I opened it up straight away  
It started out asking "how are you  
Things are fine here, I'm ok  
I can't wait until I get back  
So I can tell about my mountains and my trees  
The Bow River, my friend Jack  
And what they all mean to me

I don't know what it was I found but it is bringing me back home"

We all went out when Benn got back  
He told us all about these things  
He said he could think now  
Without drowning in his dreams  
I told him about my dream  
Said I would live it one day  
"Don't wait for very long  
Get on that train and go away"

So said my friend Benn in the garden patch that day

Bob Keeler



## The Waltz

Beautiful olive-skinned boy  
With green seductive eyes  
Grew into one who  
Hid himself deep inside.  
When I found him  
Smiling  
He asked me to dance  
In his arms  
He kissed my hand  
And all was good.

In memory of Shannon  
L. Scallion

Le téléphone  
sonne  
Je l'écoute  
Je n'y réponds pas  
Il sonne encore  
Il mange le silence  
Il le dévore  
Il sonne encore

Je ne veux pas y répondre  
Je ne veux pas le toucher  
Toucher le serpent  
Le serpent qui mord  
Entendre la voix  
La voix qui mord  
La voix qui entre dans mon coeur  
Et me tue  
Le venin qui entre dans mon corps  
Et me tue  
Je ne t'aime plus  
Je ne t'aime plus

Alaine



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