I COULD HAVE LOVED YOU

Often though you talked of your wonderful girl,
And I saw how your eyes grew soft
And wistful,
There where her picture gleams,
Still, I kept thinking of you as my own
Till the fact of your leaving hit home,
Like a blade
That cuts through my waking dreams.

I could have loved you seventy years,
I could have loved you watching your hair turn gray,
Like the snowfall
After the sun is gone;
I could have loved you your whole life long.

Often though I tell myself I'm insane
To keep piecing together again
All the fragments
Shattered beyond recall,
Still, I keep looking if something is left,
And the evening brings me your breath,
While my hunger
Dashes against the wall.

I could have loved you as time stumbled by,
I could have loved you watching your eyes grow dull,
Like a flower
Out in the sun too long;
I could have loved you on and on.

I could have loved you sickly and frail,
I could have loved you watching your failing head
As it wandered,
Dragging your feet along,
I could have loved you on and on.
And on and on and on,
On and on,
I could have loved you on and on.