

At Seventeen (17 歲)

I learned the truth at seventeen
That love was meant for beauty queens ^{選美皇后} 目的,用途...
And high school girls with clear-skinned smiles
Who married young and then retired

The valentines I never knew
The Friday night charades ^{猜字謎} of youth
Were spent on one more beauty
At seventeen I learned the truth

retirement n. 退休
a game in which one person uses actions and no words to show the meaning of a word or phrase, and other people have to guess what it is

a country ravaged by war
受戰爭蹂躪的國家

And those of us with ravaged faces
Lacking in the social graces
Desperately remained at home
Inventing lovers on the phone
Who called to say 'Come dance with me'
And murmured vague obscenities
It isn't all it seems at seventeen

made an obscene gesture.
做出了猥褻的手勢

I had no money left and was desperate.
我沒有錢,走投無路了。

vague adj. (形狀等)模糊不清的,朦朧的

(=second-hand clothes)
A brown eyed girl in hand-me-downs
Whose name I never could pronounce
Said, 'Pity, please, the ones who serve
They only get what they deserve.'
The rich related hometown queen
Marries into what she needs

You deserve it.
(1) 你應得的(讚美) (2) 你活該!

haven 避風港

A guarantee of company
And haven for the elderly'
Remember those who win the game
Lose the love they sought to gain
In debentures of quality
And dubious integrity

guarantee n.v.
保證;商品保證;保證書+that

(dubious = doubtful)

The smalltown eyes will gape at you
In dull surprise when payment due
Exceeds accounts received at seventeen

integrity n. 正直;誠實
integral adj. 構成整體所必需的,不可缺的
integrate v. 整合
integrated circuit 積體電路(IC)
integration n. 整合

exceed v. 超過
excess n. 過量
excessive adj. 過度的
exceedingly adv. 非常地;極度地

The center of the sun is exceedingly hot.
太陽的中心極其熱。

To those of us who knew the pain
Of valentines that never came
And those whose names were never called
When choosing sides for basketball
It was long ago and far away
The world was younger than today
And dreams were all they gave for free
(To ugly ducking girls like me

repent v. 悔悟,悔改 +Ving
repentance n. 悔悟;悔改;後悔;懺悔

We all play the game and when we dare
To cheat ourselves at solitaire
Inventing lovers on the phone
Repenting other lives unknown
That call and say, 'Come dance with me'
And murmur vague obscenities
At ugly girls like me at seventeen

solitary adj. 單獨的,獨自的
solitude n. 孤獨;寂寞

obscenities
猥褻的話