

and farewell

was once the boy I loved to be
with
much older now
than he was then —

— a boy who loved a girl
now a woman who loves this man
this man who lies beside me now —

It is warm in our bed.
I move and you open your eyes and smile at me.
Suddenly it's as if last night never happened and
I love you.
I leave you sleep.
...already I start to feel the cold.

I take care of the kids.
So beautiful
So innocent,
my 'sunshine' and
my 'lollypops'
He takes her hand and together they go out
to play.

...he tamariki iti, e tupu
he kanapa te mura....

I sit in the messy kitchen and contemplate smoking a cigarette. I decide not to.
The smells of your bath linger in the house. Soap, shaving cream and you've put
some of my perfume on. I never ask where you're going to, I used to, but I don't
anymore. I ask you to stay a while, but you keep looking at the clock.
Soon you are gone.

Goose bumps appear on my bare arms. I go to close the window. The kids are
outside playing. They are laughing, they're happy. Perhaps that is enough.

— this feeling I have
deep down inside
that not even a smiling
face can hide —

— I know you are leaving
but I don't know when
I know you are leaving
me again —

— And I don't know why
or for how long
and again I wonder
what went wrong —

I begin cleaning the house and three hours later
I finish.
Lunchtime.
I feed the kids and put them to sleep.
I sit in the sun and play the guitar.

...e anake au,
e moke moke au....

Night.
Eight o'clock.
I write another poem that no-one will ever read.

— Sun don't shine on me no more
Sunshine gone away
Birds don't sing to me no more
Music's gone away —

