

— always raining on me now  
raining all the time  
Dark clouds all around me now  
They won't go away —

— Once I had the sunshine  
and all the birds to hear  
Now I just got rain and clouds  
and lots and lots of time. —

...e tino makariri i tenei po....

I sleep.

— Don't want you to cry for me  
when I'm gone,  
Just want you to realise  
what went wrong —

— Don't want you to miss me  
when I'm far away  
Just want you to realise  
why I couldn't stay —

— Don't want you to be sad  
lonely or blue,  
Just want you to realise  
why I'm leaving you —

— Don't want you to reach for me  
when I'm not here  
Just want you to realise  
I'm no longer near —

— And when you're lonely  
and you're feeling down  
and when you need me  
I won't be around —

— well... it's getting late now  
I'll put down the pen  
and maybe tomorrow  
I'll leave you again —

I am shivering  
It is very cold.  
I sleep with the children  
They make me warm.

...taku taimaiti tane  
taku kotiro  
taku aroha, taku oranga —

Whack!  
I fall.  
I taste blood.  
Grasping my knees, I roll up into a ball.  
I feel the pain in my side.  
I try to protect my head.  
I don't want to cry out in case the  
neighbours hear.  
I pray — stop it please make him stop it.  
I'm dizzy, I hurt.  
A final shove. I lie crumpled on the floor.  
I remain there. Too afraid to move.

...Ka tangi au...

I check in the mirror for bruises  
Bit swollen, right cheek. I'll say — cupboard door.  
Not too bad this time.  
Already you are snoring.  
What did I say?  
I start writing.

Sun Rose  
Dawn Broke  
Morning came  
I wake.

Sunlight streaming through the opened curtains.  
Promises of a beautiful day.  
But for who?  
They are still asleep.  
Bits of me and bits of him put together another time  
a better time?  
I look to see if the swelling has gone down.  
It has, but my eyes are red and puffy from crying.  
He is still asleep.  
The kids need changing and feeding, the beds need making.  
I do these things.  
I smell cigarette smoke.  
He calls.

— I'm leaving.  
— When?  
— today.

I walk out of the room.  
I try to feel, I can't or I won't. It starts to rain.  
...he roimata ua, he roimata wahine.\*

one reminds me of the other  
teardrops and rain  
little drops of water  
running down the window pane  
little drops of water expressing  
sorrow — pain  
one reminds me of the other  
teardrops and rain.

The house is quiet.  
The kids are sitting still.  
You touch them.  
You kiss them.  
You say goodbye to them.  
Tears come now as I watch you leave.  
Have I lost?  
I am sure I lost a long time ago.

\* Aileen E. Brougham and A.W. Reed in 'Maori Proverbs'  
p115, 'Tears'.