

## After a While

After awhile you learn the subtle difference  
Between holding a hand and sharing life.  
And you learn that love does not mean possession  
And company doesn't mean security  
And loneliness is universal.

And you learn that kisses aren't contracts  
And presents aren't promises  
And you begin to accept your defeats  
With your head up and your eyes open  
With the grace of a woman  
Not the grief of a child.

And you learn to build your hope on today  
As the future has a way of falling apart in mid-flight  
Because tomorrow's ground can be too uncertain for plans  
Yet each step taken in a new direction creates a path  
Toward the promise of a brighter dawn.

And you learn that even sunshine burns  
If you get to much  
So you plant your own garden  
And nourish your own soul  
Instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers.

And you learn that love, true love,  
Always has its joys and sorrows  
Seems ever present, yet is never quite the same  
Becoming more than love and less than love  
So difficult to define.

And you learn that through it all  
You really can endure  
That you really are strong  
That you have value  
And you learn and grow  
With every goodbye  
You learn.

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