

Poetry Series

Linda Ori
- poems -

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Linda Ori(08/13/1945)

Born and raised in the midwest until 1975 when I moved to Utah. I began writing poetry as a student in the 60's and again in the 90's. In between, I pursued a career in nursing, but am now retired and loving it! My poetry has been published in over a dozen poetry anthologies, by the National Library of Poetry, International Society of Poets, Mile High Poetry Society, Amherst Society. Inducted into the International Poetry Hall of Fame in 1998. Invited to read at several conventions over the past ten years, in Washington, D.C. and Disneyland. My poetry has been acknowledged by authors Neal Donald Walsch, and Gary Zukav. I write locally for friends and family, for weddings and funerals and other special occasions. I also enjoy painting and sketching. I am currently enjoying retirement, and my grandkids. I have 3 children,4 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

' Dreamscape

I shall in dreaming
Contemplate

The Universe.....

Pulsating clouds
Of stardust

Suspended

Within the breath of
Eternity.

1/15/2010

Linda Ori

' Understand

There are consequences to everything
Intentions have their purpose -
So don't deny
Or justify -
Just accept what is;

Momentary flights of fantasy
Highlight the mundane world
Of real life,
Of real strife -
Without dreams, we die;

Every little now and then
This life bestows a gift,
A brilliant light
To set things right -
Fresh life to a dying heart;

Be grateful for the blessings bright
Accept them as they are,
They're sent to you
To see you through -
They are not yours to hold.....

Understand.

3/07/2009

Linda Ori

' A Fine Line

My heart I place upon the line,
Not knowing is the worst -
Have I the right to want for more,
Or if I do, be cursed?

To be content as in the past
Is safe in many ways -
Yet, I don't wish to settle now
And simply count my days;

Instead I long to understand
This newness that you bring,
I feel myself awakening
Like blossoms in the spring;

So many things I've yet to learn,
Perhaps that's why you're here -
I dare not interrupt your life
And yet I want you near;

I have no right to make demands,
For I am just your friend,
But now that I'm aware of you,
I cannot comprehend

My life without you in it -
Already I have changed,
I never want to lose you now
That you have rearranged

My thoughts, and yes, my feelings
They will never be the same -
My peaceful world's turned upside down
And baby, you're to blame.

My heart I place upon that line,
While I am contemplating
What's right for you - what should I do?
Impatiently.....I'm waiting.

3/18/2009

Linda Ori

' A Moment Of Splendor

While lying in a summer field
The sunlight warms my skin,
Bright clouds play hide and seek around
Their hidden shapes within;

Somewhere a bee is buzzing 'round,
A meadow lark sings sweet -
The breeze blows distant tinkling
Of a wind chime down the street;

Soft on a bed of daisies
Interspersed with Queen Ann's lace,
I breathe their herbal essence
As they brush across my face;

I slowly sip pink lemonade
Its tartness quells my thirst,
My mind is writing poetry -
With words precisely versed;

So grand to be a country girl,
I'm mother nature's child -
Within this splendid moment
So deliciously beguiled.

3/19/2009

Linda Ori

' And Never The Twain Shall Meet

I can't believe you're wearing that!
Your favorite holey shirt,
Your kneeless jeans and sandals
And you've got the guts to flirt!

So much for first impressions,
You'd scare them all away....
No normal gal in her right mind
Would give the time of day

To someone so despicable -
You haven't got a clue,
I guess it's just that Mars mystique
That draws the girls to you!

It's a good thing we were programmed
To look beneath the skin,
Or humanity would not survive
The predicament we're in;

If women came from Venus
And all men came from Mars.....
No wonder we bear children
While men race 'round in cars!

Perhaps the great 'all knowing'
Had no idea then
How different the wiring
'Tween females and the men;

And so we do the best we can
With the gender that we've got.....
Venus stays cool and misty
While Mars flames red and hot!

And still we learn to co-exist,
Appreciate each other.....
But who taught you to dress like that? ? ? ?
Certainly not your mother!

8/21/2009

*(Any similarities to certain individuals is purely coincidental - LOL!)

Linda Ori

' Infinite Depths Of Heaven

From infinite depths of heaven,
warrior clouds
ignite the universe
to flame.....
Descending
upon the unsuspecting
Tranquility
of a sleeping earth.....
about to be
awakened by

a kiss.

6/07/2009

*written as a response to 'Gently Upon The Still'.

Linda Ori

' One Fine Day

We'll be together one fine day
Though life has turned our hair to gray
And we've missed the tender touch of youth
But not the warm embrace of truth;

The course was set before we knew
That you were me, and I was you,
And though our paths took different turns
The passion deep within us burns;

Like fleeting memories yet unknown,
A beacon shines that draws us home
To all that's real when there is doubt,
To remind us what life's all about;

Though passion blossoms when we're young,
The sweetest songs remain unsung
Until we find that perfect sound -
When the missing note is finally found;

Shall we complete this symphony,
This timeless tale of you and me,
Don't let the music fade away -
We'll be together one fine day.

7/27/2009

(revised from original version written 1/2002)

Linda Ori

' Anticipation

I hold within my trembling hand
This gift
So rare, so contraband -
I dare not take it lightly, 'though
I smile
To think it came from you;

How should I take the wrapping off
This gift?
With slow and careful hand,
Or quickly rip the wrap to shreds -
Oh, dear!
I simply cannot wait

To peel the layers one by one.....
Oh, my!
The colors please my eye,
And I just simply can't believe
My luck -
You gave this gift to me!

So precious and so wonderful,
My stars!
I am a lucky girl
To think that you would trust me with
This key -
This key that might unlock

The mystery of all you are -
The heart,
The soul you so protect,
You humble, and you honor me
My friend.....
Can't wait to turn the key!

1/1/2010

Linda Ori

' Awakening

Alone in the velvet darkness,
a soul dwells
in ignorance

until

Awareness descends
on the wings
of enlightenment -

A soul
no longer

Alone.

6/12/2009

Linda Ori

' Change Of Seasons

Blustering loudly early this morning
Long before daylight's arrival,
Swishing and hissing through parted blinds
As I languished lazily behind closed eyes,
Fall made her presence known;
Like an unruly child in the woods
Snapping twigs and singing loudly,
Announcing her onslaught powerfully
So as not to go unnoticed,
Not to be unheard;
Dragging behind her a nagging chill
Also begging for attention -
Alas! Burrowing deep beneath the comforter
Failed to drown out her incessant prodding,
Stomping her foot loudly inside my head
Eventually, the message sank in.....
Summer is dead and soon to be buried
Beneath dry leaves left in the wake.
The queen of color has arrived!

Linda Ori

' Dark Surrender

The night wind moans uneasy
As dying embers leap,
Somnolence enveloping
The chambers of the keep;

My soul in transit restless,
Sleep eludes me now -
A silent voice seducing me,
Cold breath upon my brow;

Danger creeps around me
On velvet paws of lust,
Longing to possess my soul,
Transform my flesh to dust;

Icey fingers stroke my flesh,
Ignite my wanton skin -
Frozen lips upon my neck
Now brand me from within;

Drink deep, sweet prince of darkness,
Alleviate my fear -
Sate your hunger
My salvation drawing near;

Sup my mortal essence,
Justify the toll -
Ferry me on velvet wings
To the dark side of your soul;

Grant me immortality,
Extinguish now my light -
Shelter me in darkness.....
Commend me to your night.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN! ! ! ! !

10/28/2009

Linda Ori

' How Do I Reach You?

If I could put it into words -
All that my heart is feeling,
Would they help to warm your heart
Or would they send you reeling?

There are so many emotions
So many words to say,
But which ones would you savor
And which ones throw away?

I live in indecision -
Which formula is best?
Overwhelm you with my thoughts
Or give your heart a rest;

It's difficult to hold inside
This flood of raw emotion
That threatens now to drown me
Like a shipwreck on the ocean;

I would die a thousand deaths
To think you never knew
Just how much you mean to me.....
But how do I reach you?

6/05/2009

Linda Ori

' Is It Ever Too Late?

What is it about society
That resents authority?
There needs to be structure
Or chaos would rule;
Certain factions defy the law -
They live without rules,
They do as they please,
Wreak havoc in the world;
Conscience does not guide them,
Right or wrong the same -
Without regret, they stand alone
And answer to no man;
Destruction is their motive -
Death, mutilation, pain
Their playing cards,
The joker is wild;
Spawn of the devil?
What turns one child to darkness
And another to the light?
Products of environment -
Reflections of love or neglect?
And could you ever love enough
To change the tide
From bad to good,
To save a soul.....
Is it ever too late?

3/31/2009

Linda Ori

' Last Farewell

Don't grieve for me, now I am gone
You knew I could not stay -
The road was rough, I was too weak
To last another day;

I knew my days were numbered,
Although to leave was sad -
So many lovely memories
Of everything I had;

My life, my loves, my family
That meant so much to me -
I carry them within my heart
To where I need to be;

And where I go is not so far,
I'm just a thought away -
You call to me and I'll be there
Beside you as you pray;

My heavenly family's waiting,
I see them gather 'round -
Find peace, and know I'm not alone,
For I am heaven bound.

LJO
12/28/2009

Linda Ori

' Last Night

I dreamed of you again last night
As I lay upon my bed,
A passionate, exotic dream
Unraveled in my head;

No doubt 'twas something that I ate
Just prior to retiring
That set the stage for such a dream
With all synapses firing;

I don't recall the details now
Although the warmth remains,
It must have been delicious
As this fire in my veins;

I do recall on wakening
That sleep induced caress
That suddenly released me
As I tumbled from my nest,

And much as I attempted
To resume that precious dream,
'Twas fleeting and I lost it,
Pure frustration made me scream!

I dreamed of you again last night,
It must have been exquisite -
My dream life beats reality.....
That isn't fair now, is it?

10/21/2009

Linda Ori

' Lean On Me

Sure, you're tough and resilient -
able to keep your feelings
under control,
when everyone around you
is losing ground,
sliding into the abyss.....

They know you will be there
to throw them a lifeline,
your strength,
your ability to protect them
will save the day,
you are their hero;

But, to what are you anchored?
What holds you fast,
makes you
impervious to self destruction
when everything else
is being destroyed?

When do you reach the limit
of your own strength,
begin to
slide into your own abyss?
And who will come
to rescue you then?

Reach out and take my hand,
my grasp is ever firm,
ever loyal -
lay your burdens on me,
I am strong for you.....
lean on me.

6/10/2009

' Mending Fences

What is life but a bumpy ride,
A journey from here to the other side,
Trying our best to maintain our pride
While knowing we don't know it all;

Sometimes we step on the other guy's toes,
Because we know better whatever he knows,
That may not be true, and our ignorance shows
It's not easy admitting we're wrong;

I've said some things that I shouldn't have said,
And now I am sleeping alone in my bed,
Playing them over inside of my head,
Wondering what did I gain?

Life has moved on and I'm getting older,
Friendships I've lost make the world a bit colder,
Now when I cry no one lends me a shoulder.....
Victory's hollow rewards?

It's time to mend fences and swallow my pride,
Admit that I'm sorry and hurting inside,
It may not be easy, but I'll know I tried
To put things to rest after all;

For carrying grudges brings nothing but pain,
Wasting good time standing out in the rain,
While old friends move on, and what did I gain?
Time spent alone with myself.

Linda Ori

' Missing You

Why is the emptiness so cold?
Is it because I'm growing old?
The fire glows in the distance,
Too far away to comfort these old bones;
Always in need of something more -
Another kiss, another tender caress,
Dependent and needy,
Weak and unfulfilled am I,
Unable to find me within myself.....
You are gone and I am lost.

10/22/2009

Linda Ori

' On The Lighter Side

Sprinkle smiles where frowns should be
Yes, life is tough, but so are we -
Dwell too long in misery
And happiness can never be;

Attitude turns things around,
Negative can't hold its ground
When laughter makes a sweeter sound
A positive can then be found;

Why hide out 'neath skies of gray,
Who needs another rainy day?
Gather gladness while you may
Let the sunshine light your way;

Soon whatever made you mad
Doesn't seem to be so bad,
Nothing gained from being sad,
Count your blessings and be glad!

8/22/2009

Linda Ori

' One Bright Star

One bright star in the vast unknown
A blazing ember in the night sky shone
Reminding me that I'm not alone.....
One bright star;

One bright star in the evening sky
Holds its own where the angels fly
Anchors the bond between you and I.....
One bright star;

One bright star that I wish upon
The first to rise when the sun is gone
Lights my way 'til the early dawn.....
One bright star;

One bright star In the midnight blue
Holds the dreams that I dream of you
Take my hand and I'll lead you to
One bright star.

10/18/2009

Linda Ori

' Regrets - Haiku Series

I regret today
Dreams I've yet to realize
Running out of time

I regret the gifts
Never fully understood
Those that went unwrapped

I regret the love
Pure and unconditional
That I never shared

I regret the friends
Fate placed right in front of me
That I never met

I regret that time
Once gone by returns no more.....
Wasted carlessly.

8/26/2009

Linda Ori

' Revelation

You alone reveal my soul,
The intimacy of my deepest thoughts
Wrapped around each emotion,
Each beat of my heart;

From infinite depths you see within,
Beneath the veil where truth lies,
This person that I am
Beneath your gaze - exposed;

No longer am I invisible -
The complexities of my inner mind
Unraveled, as the thread once coiled
Loosens beneath your touch;

A soul within a soul are we
Unfolding, as a blooming rose
That seeks the warmth of the sun.....
Aroused from ancient slumber.

4/3/2009

Linda Ori

' Second Thoughts

As I sit here deep in thought,
Retracing the path of yesterdays
When first this journey began,
Still in its infancy....

Eager to explore each others' mind
From every possible perspective,
Every wonderful, unknown mystery
Unfolding breathlessly,

I couldn't get enough of you -
Wanting to taste your every thought,
Devour each beat of your heart
Savoring your newness;

Transformed by the strength of your power
To lift me in spirit, in soul,
Enriched by the grace of your knowing -
All of my senses so alive;

And in my greed, I smothered you -
Ingested your very identity
And made it a part of myself,
Oblivious to your needs,

And now the excitement has vanished,
Along with your passion, your wonder,
Leaving me empty and starving
For the very essence of you;

And with excitement's demise
Spontaneity moves into obligation -
The albatross of regret, of indifference
Eclipsing our fragile sun.

11/12/2009

' Senseless

Senseless.....

Brothers lost -

Cut down in their prime;

Senseless.....

Lives terminated -

Families mourning their loss;

Senseless.....

Protectors of innocence -

Sacrificed in cold blood;

Now in peace released -

Beating hearts now ceased.....

Senseless.

3/22/2009

(In reference to murdered Oakland, CA police officers)

Linda Ori

' Silly Girl

Silly girl with your head in the clouds,
When will your feet touch the ground?
You're childish and living in fantasyland,
You may not be mentally sound;

Your world as you like to express it
Is anything but the mundane,
You'd think at your age you'd be worried
That others might think you're insane!

Since way back when you were a toddler,
Your outlook has been quite unique -
You thought you had magical powers
And sometimes you felt like a freak;

You always wore rose colored glasses
And everything seemed like a dream,
But as you grew older you realized
That everything's not as it seems;

The world isn't wrapped up in ribbons,
And love is not easy to find,
But that doesn't mean you can't fix it
Somewhere in the depths of you mind;

For still there's some magic within you,
With wonders as precious as pearl,
And sometimes it's sweet to get lost in
Your fantasyland, silly girl.

9/5/2009

Linda Ori

' Solace

I know you are fearful.....

Questioning your mortality -
How much longer?
When will I draw my last breath?
What is the purpose in all of this
Death, destruction, and in the name of what?

I know you are uncertain.....

Am I doing the right thing?
Do I have the right to take another life?
What is my objective -
Power, greed, recognition,
Or a better life - but for who?

I know you are tormented.....

Why am I here?
Who will care for my family if I don't return?
Will they remember me, the man,
Or just a picture on a stone monument,
Or a name on the wall of heroes?

Rest easy, my son.....

Release your burdens -
Know that I watch over you
And will lift you when you fall,
Feel my presence surrounding you
And guiding you

You are never alone.

3/25/2009

(For all soldiers everywhere)

Linda Ori

' Taken For Granted

So many years I've been there for you
Always at your beck and call
Never asking for much in return
Just a little recognition would be nice,
A little hug now and then;

You've been generous almost to a fault
With your money, but not yourself -
Sometimes I wonder
If you even realize that I am there
And that I do have feelings;

We're like an old married couple
Past the stage of romantic notions
Knowing each other well,
Yet not knowing each other at all -
Perhaps afraid to know.....

That would require too much effort
Maybe even commitment,
And how awful that would be -
Not being able to change your mind
If the perfect person came along;

I'm just as much to blame as you -
I should have run a long time ago
Before I let you get to me
With your enigmatic nature...
Always hoping for a miracle;

And suddenly you've found yours
And just like that, I become invisible -
Oh, and by the way, you said.....
I won't be available for Sunday breakfast -
I have other plans.....

Well, I hope your plans are worth it -
I won't be sitting here waiting
For you to come crawling back,

Expecting me to understand
When things fall apart;

And I hope they do.

2/04/11

Linda Ori

' The Calling

She wanders among the ruins,
A ghostly figure from the past
Trapped withint the ancient walls
Of her once opulent existence;

A distant musical refrain
Echoes through crumbling passageways -
A vision of swirling dancers
Spinning around ornate pillars
Seeps through the veil of her dreams;

A glimpse into another lifetime
When riches dripped from her fingers,
Aristocracy and priviledge,
Wealth in abundance prevailed;

Now life among the ruins
Comes to haunt her dreams,
And bleeds into her waking thoughts
As ancient castles beckon through time's mist
Calling her back - calling her home.

11/07/2009

Linda Ori

' The Glowing

So fragile in its radiance,
And yet you saw my light,
The shining all but vanquished
Like shadows in the night;

Unwilling to admit defeat
A heart just barely beating,
Hoping for that miracle
Rare and ever fleeting;

Somewhere in the darkness
You heard my silent tears,
Threatening to drown me
In the sorrow of my years;

A consequential prisoner
Within my solitude,
Awaiting with impatience
That perfect interlude;

Alit with fire and brilliance,
A rare and precious stone,
Through eons of eternity
On wings of angels flown;

Fanning recognition's flame
Love within me knowing,
Set my dying soul afire
And saved me by your glowing.

8/29/2009

Linda Ori

' The Pasta Pot

Once there was a man who thought
Adept at cooking he was not,
Upon a dish of Bolognese
He ladled sauce that won him praise
Straight from the pasta pot;

Although he really did not cook
The sauce that from the pot he took,
His talent lied in how he stirred -
That wooden ladle fairly purred,
The man could write a book

On how to ladle pasta sauce,
Upon the pasta stirred and tossed
Upon a platter with great care,
This steaming pile of angel hair.....
Straight from the pasta pot.

9/11/09

Linda Ori

' The Velvet Strand

Along this cosmic filament
Flows wisdom, subconscious awareness -
From one corner of the world to another,
Differences dissolve into realization
That souls within are remarkably similar;

Not just the soul, but inner physical matter
Also similar in content, color, and function -
Redness of lifeblood coursing along networks
Sustaining similar organs, similar mechanisms
Necessary for human life survival;

An ethereal velvet strand
Connects all minds - all thoughts ever thought,
Being thought, ever to be thought,
We are but receptors on the pathways
Of infinity along which they flow;

Is it any wonder that thoughts eventually coincide,
However fleeting, however distant or near,
Crossing infinite highways of mind space -
One soul reaching out and intersecting another
Along this eternal journey of life?

Consider that all exists in this one moment,
Which has already been, is now being, and has yet to be -
Then I must have known you before,
Just as I know you now
And I have yet to know you somewhere along the velvet strand.

8/21/2009

Linda Ori

' Winter Chill

There is a heaviness in the silence.....
Crystal flakes descend
Like a million tiny diamonds
Spilling from the heavens;
I can almost hear them falling.....
Whispering through the chilly air
Landing softly all around me,
Covering signs of autumn's demise;

There is a heaviness in the silence.....
Creeping across meadow and woods,
Creating a winter wonderland
Of broken branches, dead trees
Now snuggling beneath a snowy blanket
Preparing for a long winter's nap;
Drowsiness descends upon me
As I, too, anticipate sleep;

And I become one with the snow,
With the trees, the frozen earth
And the heaviness of the frosty air
As it enters my lungs and stings my nose;
Mesmerized by the pure majesty
Of winter's pristine beauty,
Of new fallen snow glistening
In the fading light of a smoldering sunset;

There is a heaviness in the silence.....
And a heaviness in my soul.

12/02/10

Linda Ori

' Wondering

As I sit here wondering
The purpose of it all,
Memories envelope me,
Whispers faintly call;

Youth had brought me challenges,
Equal to the task,
Inspiration guided me,
Subconsciously I'd ask

For what my heart was longing for,
Though I was not aware
The next profound experience
Would surely bring me there;

And now I find that destiny
Is knocking on my door,
But where is inspiration -
Have I time for nothing more?

Caught up in my memories,
Is that where I'll remain?
If that is all there is to life,
I'd rather be insane!

10/12/2009

Linda Ori

' A Rose Is A Rose

Sir, can you answer
This question I pose.....
What on this earth is
As sweet as a rose?

As fragile as lace
With a fragrance divine,
As smooth as warm velvet,
As mellow as wine;

What is more lovely
Than petals of red,
Enhanced by the dewdrops
That cover her head,

Kissed by the sunshine,
Embraced by the breeze,
Beckoning birds to fly
Down from their trees;

Is there a flower
More lovely than this?
Sir, if you find one.....
I'll give you a kiss!

7/14/2012

Linda Ori

' Come To Me Now

Come to my calling,
Come to me now -
Sprinkle soft kisses
Here on my brow;

Whisper your longing
Into my heart,
Memories falter
When we're apart;

Open my soul with your
Passionate eyes,
Lift me to heaven
On wings of a sigh;

Sweetly embrace me,
Sing me your song,
Drench me with kisses
Breathless and long;

Oh, how I miss you
And long for your taste,
Come to me now with your love
And make haste!

6/11/2009

Linda Ori

' Every Little Thing

Every little thing
No matter how small
Is here for a reason,
A part of the All;

Not insignificant,
Not just a whim,
All are created
Expressions of Him;

Nothing is simple,
Nothing is rare,
All of it matters,
To someone, somewhere;

None of it random,
None of it small,
All is important
For one and for all;

You are my brother,
We are the same,
Equally chosen
As part of the game;

One day we'll see it,
One day we'll know -
Out of that wisdom
Wonders will flow;

And in that moment
All hearts will sing,
There is a reason
For
Every little thing.

6/11/200

' Parents' Lament

Precious life
bled out on the battlefield -
naked, bleeding souls revealed
and in the name of peace;

Children lost,
never to be found again,
matters not, for none will win
the ravages of war;

Neither side
will find the solace in their loss,
they say their prayers and kiss the cross,
but nothing can be saved;

Brave the child
who sacrificed his life for peace,
who willingly did sign the lease
oblivious to fear;

Yet, all that's left
to fill the void within our hearts,
a flag to prove they played their parts
heroically and well;

Life goes on,
and still the grief flows raw and deep,
the nights drag on devoid of sleep,
for nothing cures the pain;

Precious life,
imagine how it could have been,
if death was not an option when
the world lay in their hands;

Parents cry,
for senseless wars will e'er be fought,
freedom's peace cannot be bought.....
Our children soldier on.

Linda Ori

! Ode To A Rock

Stoically you lay there intermingled with the sand,
Impervious to all that comes your way -
The rain and snow don't bother you, annoyances at best
Your skin is strong - it toughens every day;

The sun may warm you for awhile, but then it must depart,
The rain may come to kiss you now and then -
Although you lay surrounded by the other rocks, it seems
You keep your distance, no one closes in;

The seasons come, the seasons go, and yet you stand your ground
Although your edges show a little wear -
You stay within your strong veneer, no need to venture out,
If someone wants to touch you, you'll be there;

Although your outer surface may be colorless and dull
It offers you protection from the storm,
But if you choose to interact for just a little while,
You'll find the summer sun is sweet and warm,

The breeze may want to comfort you, and lightly touch your skin,
You may enjoy a gentle summer rain -
And even though you are a rock, impervious to all,
A butterfly may kiss away your pain;

Perhaps a little sad to be a rock here on the beach,
You might have been a flower or a bird -
Though deep inside you sparkle like a diamond in the sun -
Outwardly, you never speak a word.

2/28/2009

Linda Ori

! Trapped !

Deep within a cell of my own making,
The door remains unlocked -
I have but to open it;

Refuge from the world outside my door,
From the trappings of my mind -
The choice is mine;

Self-preservation holds me prisoner,
No shackles bind me here -
Yet here I stay;

Outside the world is scary beautiful,
Safely predictable within -
What could it hurt?

Let me push that boundary just a little,
Fresh and sweet the air -
Through that open door.

5/19/2009

Linda Ori

! Memorial

How perfectly they stand aligned
In geometric form designed
To please the eye, but not the mind -
So many side by side;

White crosses standing in a row
Some are strangers, some we know
And every year the numbers grow -
A sad memorial;

Each with a story of its own
A life, a death, a soul unknown
Struck down before the boy was grown -
A life cut short, unlived;

'Protect your country' was the call
And in the end each gave his all
But did this nation watch them fall?
On foreign soil they lay;

Surrounded by their friends and foes
The grisly details no one knows
On family faces sorrow shows -
And still the scene replays;

Shall peace forever be a dream?
These tortured souls forever scream
And does God hear their cries, it seems
They fall upon deaf ears;

And so the annual ritual plays
While 'neath the ground each body lays
In every town's Memorial Day
We honor those we've lost;

And though we give them due respect
The seeds of war shall yet infect
Unless we choose to interject
A prayer for all mankind;

That war and killing now must end
Our thoughts of love must now transcend
Let each man call each man his friend.....
On this Memorial Day.

5/24/2008

Linda Ori

! Blue Eyes

What lurks behind those eyes of blue?
What mysteries do they hold?
Those smokey, dreamy bedroom eyes
So sensual and bold;

Just like a cat they stare at me,
I wonder what they're thinking -
Clear and bright, reflecting light,
They process without blinking;

Deep and dark mosaic sparks
Of azure mischief twinkle -
Like a million brilliant stars
The gods on you did sprinkle;

Beneath the depths of seablue mist,
What wonders would I find?
What secret thoughts would come to me
If I could read your mind?

If eyes be windows to the soul,
As often poets write,
No doubt your soul is beautiful -
Your eyes reflect its light.

5/3/2009

Linda Ori

! Do You Ever Wonder.....

Do you ever wonder.....
Why lives intersect,
React to one another -
What makes our hearts connect?

Within a sea of others
Why do we recognize
That one specific person
Seen only through our eyes;

Some may call it destiny,
Or mere coincidence,
But I believe in miracles
And that makes perfect sense;

When two souls are searching
For their other half,
Destiny aligns them
On their universal path,

And when the time is optimum
The stage of life is set,
Two lives will find each other
That before had never met;

Perhaps a random moment,
A bolt out of the blue?
Whatever caused our paths to cross,
I'm glad mine crossed with you!

4/19/2009

Linda Ori

! Moments

How many moments stand out in your mind
As heart-stopping moments truly defined
By all that you wish for, your hopes and your dreams
Those moments created by magic, it seems
They give your life meaning, true passion and zest
Those ones you remember above all the rest;

Acknowledge those moments - remember them well
For they hold the stories experience tells
Your life is a tapestry woven each day
By each precious moment that life brings your way
Whenever you're weary and put to the test
Remember those moments and know you've been blessed.

For Max - Happy Birthday!

10/05/2008

Linda Ori

! Night Dragons

They creep into your consciousness
And rearrange your dreams,
They banish your self confidence
And blight your thoughts, it seems;
Give birth to insecurities,
They undermine your goals,
They show up in the dead of night
Intent to steal your soul;

These fiends are non selective,
Their targets all fair game -
It doesn't matter who you are
They'll find you just the same;
There is no self protection,
Nowhere to run and hide,
They burrow deep within your mind -
Disintegrate your pride;

These masters of disaster,
We all know who they are -
They live inside the looking glass
And stare back from afar;
Stand strong in your convictions,
Speak out for what is right -
Prepare to slay the dragons
That stalk you in the night.

2/27/2009

Linda Ori

! Sophisticated Debutante

Her face was lovely, in her hair she wore
A sparkling crown - a gem of ancient lore,
Her gown of flowing satin, white and gold
Was truly such a beauty to behold;

Slowly she descended winding stairs,
The gentlemen all rose up from their chairs,
She held her head up high and courtsied low
But failed to notice that her dainty toe
Had caught within her petticoat of lace,
And when she rose, she tripped with perfect grace;

Then with a sheepish grin she turned her head
To hide her face, she wished that she were dead!
Into the diningroom she made her way
Where all the guests were dressed in bright array,
Then at the guest of honor's left she sat
And everyone was seated - that was that;

The waiters brought the dinner and they ate,
The debutante was starved, she couldn't wait,
She hastily took a fork piled high with peas
And dumped them in her lap with greatest ease;

The smothered laughter died a little when
The speaker broke the silence once again, -
He stood beside his chair and gave his speech,
And as the point he was about to reach,
A gurgling burp emerged from by his side -
The debutante sat stiff, her eyes went wide!

The speaker asked, somewhat to his dismay.....
Is there anything else, my dear, you'd care to say?

*This is an old piece I had written in the 60's. Debutante balls were a big deal way back then.

Linda Ori

! The Physician

Who takes the time to understand
Depression and its woes,
The fears and insecurities
A dying patient knows;

Who's there to lend a gentle touch
And give a word of cheer,
To smile and comfort those in pain
With words they need to hear;

Who shares the tears of happiness
With parents at the birth
Of babies they have dreamed about
With mystery and mirth;

Who patches up the wounded,
The dying and the lame,
And sometimes works a miracle
As though it were a game;

Who makes the time, no matter what
When time just won't allow,
To take an extra minute
And turn later into now;

Who misses meals and family
In order to appear
When nature needs a healer
Or the end is drawing near;

Who consoles the living
The dying leave behind,
When words won't come so easily
To bring them peace of mind;

Who sacrifices everything
The 'normal' man enjoys -
An evening with the family
Or a night out with the boys;

A man who chose to dedicate
His life to serving others,
A man who seeks to understand
The suffering of his brothers -
Through courage and devotion
To life, to death and birth.....
God gave us the physician
To protect his souls on earth.

6/02/2009

*This was written in the 70's as a tribute to a wonderful physician (and my boss for many years) . For those female physicians, it also applies to you!

Linda Ori

! When All Is Said And Done !

Is this what life is all about?
All there is to know...
I can't believe I've come this far
And still so far to go;
I haven't scratched the surface
Barely scribbled on the page,
And here I am about to end -
It puts me in a rage!

We need an expiration date
To keep us to the task
Of reaching goals significant
To answer what we ask;
It's all so very puzzling
This living that we do,
I need my own identity
But also, I need you!

So what's the actual purpose
Of my life experience?
To keep my thoughts in motion
While I'm sitting on this fence?
I wish I had the energy
To finish up with flair,
When all is said and done I guess.....
You wager what you dare.

10/24/2008

Linda Ori

! A Blind Eye

I should have seen the signs -
Your need to control all things
Your ego running rampant
You're such an important figure
At least in your own mind;

I thought that I could change you -
Silly me!
Patterns ingrained from long ago
Can only be changed if you desire
What I want is not an option;

You say it's not important
We can rise above these things
The words come easily from your lips
Yet still your body betrays you
And I am under your spell;

No more! Time erases tenderness
Given with a willing heart
Accepted by a greedy lover
Then discarded without a care -
Passion wasted;

Another conquest on your list
How easily they come to you
Brave hearts about to be broken
Still they take the chance
And suffer their demise;

And you remain unscathed
Your ego takes it all in stride
Such petty complications
Yet one day they will take you down
And maybe I will smile;

I should have seen the signs.

7/11/2008

Linda Ori

! A Flower Is A Flower !

I did not bring you roses
When you searched for something rare,
Instead I brought you daisies
And I hoped you wouldn't care;

And now I look behind me
With a wistful little smile -
You would have taken dandelions
And loved me all the while.

10/25/2008

Linda Ori

! A Light In The Darkness

In the darkness of your thoughts
Created by circumstances
Both complex and overwhelming,
When no amount of spirits
Or conversation within yourself
Can erase the images imprinted
On your mind.....

Let me lift you out of suffering
On angel wings to lofty heights
Where nothing can hurt you
Where nothing is relevant
But the blessings of the moment
And the air that we breathe.....

Let me wrap you in my warm embrace
And hold you close to my heart
With love and understanding
Beyond the need for mortal words
Your darkness will be lifted
And your spirit shall fly free.....

The light in your darkness.....let me be.

2/07/2009

Linda Ori

! Alone

I wake up every morning
To the sound of my alarm,
Walk out into the kitchen
Where the coffee's getting warm,
Take my morning vitamins
Then open up the drapes,
Grab a quick banana
Or perhaps a bunch of grapes;

I wash my face and comb my hair
Then put my makeup on,
There's music on the radio -
Sometimes I sing along;
There's no one here to talk to
As I make the rumpled bed,
There's only me to think about
And talk to in my head;

I've gotten pretty good at it
This talking to myself,
So long as I don't answer-
No, that's not good for my health;
I grab my cup of coffee,
Purse and keys and lock the door,
I'm off to earn my living
Like I've done each day before;

And when the day is over
I'll come home and watch TV,
I'll cook a frozen dinner
Since there's no one here but me;
I only cook on holidays
When family comes to visit,
Sometimes I can't remember how
That's not a good thing, is it?

Mostly I enjoy my life
Within my private space,
I come and go the way I choose

With no one on my case;
But there are times I'd love to see
Someone walk through that door,
And say it's time my life has changed -
I'll be alone no more.

10/24/2008

Linda Ori

! Apocalypse?

Upon the highest peak she stands
Angel or the devil's spawn?
Windswept tresses red as flame
No one knows from whence she came;

From her lips the sounds of death
Rolling thunder rocks the earth,
Future held within her hands
Pours from her fingers, blood-soaked sands;

Black clouds rumble in the distance
Lightning flashes sear the sky,
All the peace doves leave their nesting
From this day there'll be no resting;

Might this vision be a warning
Sent to man to mend his ways?
Still I wonder if he'll listen
From our eyes more tears will glisten;

Welcome the apocalyspe!
Behold - the firey end is nigh,
If man does not amend his ways
He will have but to count the days.

10/26/2008

Linda Ori

! Baby Haiku

A human blossom
Blooming with the breath of life -
Totally awesome

Mother sleeps in peace
Weary from the long ordeal -
All her worries cease

Father holds his son
Tears of pride now overflow -
All his fears undone

Life begins anew
Things will never be the same -
No more sleep for you!

7/18/2008

Linda Ori

! Because I Care

I would be your sunshine on a cold and cloudy day,
I would be your voice when you find no words to say,
I would be your comfort and your shelter from the storm,
I would be the fire in your heart that keeps you warm;

I would be the arms that would catch you when you fall,
I would be the first one to the rescue when you call,
I would be the angel that protects you as you sleep,
I would be your breath if you were drowning in the deep;

I would be whatever you would want for me to be.....

Because I care.

3/3/2009

Linda Ori

! Black Magic !

Black was always your favorite color.....

Like the inkwell that beckons the pen
Like the night spangled with a million stars
Like the sleek machine your ego rides
Like the naked thoughts you dare not speak

Black was the color you always chose.....

To draw attention in a crowd
To cover the splinters of your personality
To pave the way for wayward spirits
To separate you from the sheep

I was always attracted to the blackness.....

Of the color of your hair
Of those eyes that enticed me
Of the secrets deep within you
Of the magic that enthralled me

But that was when I followed blindly
Down the path to my demise,
When I drowned a thousand times
Within the depths of those black eyes.

10/25/2008

Linda Ori

! Country Scene

The busy spider spins his web
Behind the outhouse door
While lazy shadows lengthen
On the dusty wooden floor;

In the barn the hay lies warm
Beneath the sloping roof,
While horses swish the flies away
With tails and stomping hoof;

The hens are clucking busily
While chicks run all around,
And roly polly piglets
Snort their noses on the ground;

A gong heard in the distance
Calls workers home to dine,
While mother with her basket
Takes the laundry from the line;

Soon the porch will come to life
With tea and lemonaid,
And rockers gently rocking
'Neath the overhanging shade;

The golden wheat is waving
In the field behind the house,
The apple trees are buzzing
And the cat has caught a mouse;

Life in its simplicity
Lies peaceful in this place,
There's time to smell the roses
Blooming grandly in their vase.

10/15/2008

Linda Ori

! Did You See The Moon?

Did you see the moon last night?
In full bloom majesty -
A glowing medallion resting
On the onyx breast of midnight;

Did you feel her energy
Bathing the earth with magic,
Gilding leaf and bower
With mystical moonlight aura;

Caught up in her beauty,
Words remain unspoken -
Surely none are adequate,
They must be felt

Deep within the soul
That contemplates such wonders
Far beyond description
Yet, intimately familiar;

Did you see the moon last night?
Feel her with your soul?
Some things must be savored
To appreciate their worth.

5/10/2009

Linda Ori

! Enlighten Me, Please

How exactly did this happen?

You come to me after all this time
Ripe with emotion and passion -
The universe explodes with wonder
We are infused with its magic;

No need for words any longer
There are no words, only sensation
Caught up in the splendor of the moment -
Primal need, hunger, lust.....love?

You read my mind with your body
We need only to act and react
Souls connecting with every breath
You breathe me in;

No longer two separate entities
Together we flow into one
Pleasure and passion now double
Energies fused in the fire.

Can you explain this phenomenon?
This thing that you do to my soul
I'm wondering how did this happen.....
Enlighten me, please.

7/3/2008

Linda Ori

! Entering The Forbidden Zone

What mysteries reside within the tangled net
Of electromagnetic impulses triggered by
The mechanism of thought and emotion?

Darkness intertwines the sparking synapses
Of visual, auditory, sensory stimulus,
Creating a multitude of mixed sensations -

A thought, a vision, a sound, a touch
Defines itself from the tangled mass
Exploding from within the fractured mind;

The depths of uncharted territory,
The source of dreams and reality,
Residence of the subconscious -

The forbidden zone of the soul.

2/14/2009

Linda Ori

! From Heart To Heart - A Valentine Wish

There is a bond between us
That speaks without a word,
It says how much you mean to me
Is felt, but never heard;

Some thoughts defy description
So powerful and deep,
They flow between our very souls
And from our hearts they seep;

Surrounding us with passion
With love they overflow -
And even though we speak no words,
Inside our hearts we know;

And on this sweet occasion
Though we may be apart -
I'm sending you in spirit
My love - from heart to heart.

2/08/2008

Linda Ori

! Halloween Tale

Remember old Ichabod, last name of Crane
The gangly schoolmaster - some thought him insane
He went to a party on All Hallows' Eve
What happened that night is still hard to believe;
A tale had been told of a specter of dread
A black suited horseman devoid of a head
A legend, they say, of a devilish spirit
Old Ichabod cringed - he did not want to hear it!
The night had grown late, it was time to go home
No one would be safe with the ghouls on the roam,
The schoolmaster jumped on his trusty old steed
Toward home they set out on the trail that did lead
Through the dark spooky forest and over the bridge -
The moon scattered shadows up high on the ridge;
The wind began moaning, an owl hooted near
Old Ichabod cowered and tried not to hear,
Then suddenly hoofbeats - no rider he saw
Grew louder and closer - his nerves now were raw,
He kicked at his horse to make him run faster
This night was becoming a total disaster!
He raised up his head and was turning around
When a shriek tore the air - what a horrible sound!
And there right behind him a bone-chilling sight
The same headless horseman he'd heard of that night!
He spurred his horse onward, the bridge up ahead
And safety, it beckoned - his home and his bed
Now clattering hoofbeats on covered bridge rang
As over the river they flew - and he sang,
'Oh freedom, sweet freedom - I'm safe from the night! '

Then just as he stopped and was catching his breath
There appeared on the bridge the horseman of death!
And there in his hand held up high o'er his (missing) head
Was a firey pumpkin with eyes flashing red;
He hurled it swiftly toward rider and horse
The flaming inferno flew by with such force
Poor Ichabod ducked just in time as it crashed
Straight into the ground - it lay mangled and smashed;
And there on the bridge was the specter he feared

Holding his sword in the air - his horse reared
Then turned in an instant and took off in flight
Back over the bridge and rode into the night;
Old Ichabod stared off in stunned disbelief,
Took a deep shakey breath and then sighed with relief -
He'd survived an ordeal he shall never forget
For each year in October it's happening yet!

Linda Ori

! If Life Were A Garden

If life were a garden.....
Mine would be lush and green,
Filled with roses of remembrance,
Snapdragons for my children,
Lillies of the valley for my teardrops
Tulips for my friends, each a different hue;

If life were a garden.....
Mine would be warm and sunny,
Rich with love and friendship
Ripe with fragrant blossoms
A rainbow colored tapestry
Of intricate design;

If life were a garden.....
Mine would be constantly changing,
Young buds beginning their journey,
Climbers extending their reach,
Mature flowers basking in sunshine
Older ones dipping their heads;

If life were a garden.....
Mine would be short on regrets,
A few scattered weeds to remind me
That nothing is perfect by far,
And raindrops are part of the growing -
My flowers bloom best where they are.

5/16/2008

Linda Ori

! I'LI Carry You With Me !

I'll carry you with me here in my heart
From now 'til forever, we never will part,
Though all that we hoped for is now in the past,
Your memory lingers -the mold has been cast;

I'll carry you with me each day from now on
Though miles lie between us and you may be gone,
You inhabit my dreams as you always have done,
Your memory lingers as bright as the sun;

I'll carry you with me in each precious thought
Remembering your smile and the joy that you brought,
My life has been touched by each gift that you gave
Your memory lingers from here to the grave;

I'll carry you with me wherever I go
Your love still surrounds me and grounds me I know,
And I can be happy just knowing you care -
Your memory lives in my soul everywhere.

10/25/2008

Linda Ori

! Impatiently

Much as I try to hide the need,
Your words upon the page I read
Have the power to mesmerize
Like precious gems before my eyes;

Each time intoxicates me more,
To read those words that I adore
Straight from your heart unedited -
Your inspiration credited;

How shall I live without your words?
Their hold on me now quite absurd -
My drug of self-addicted choice,
If I could only hear your voice.....

Perhaps impatience would subside?
Yet still behind your words you hide.
Thoughts of you have me entranced,
My curiosity enhanced,

Each passing moment heightens still
My growing sense of need to fill
This void I find within my soul -
I wait for you to make me whole.....

Impatiently.

5/06/2009

Linda Ori

! In Pursuit Of The Dream

If I could just reach out and grab
That elusive dream of all I seek
Yet with each grasp I cannot hold
It long enough to truly know
The secrets held within

For dreams are like the air we breathe
Unseen but yet they do exist
Somewhere within our inner selves
Reflections of unfinished thoughts
Beyond the lucid mind

I wonder when I dream of you
If you are dreaming of me, too
Existing in this other realm
Too fragile for our daily lives
This life beneath the veil

Where passions rule and we are free
To be ourselves, just you and me
Exploring hidden fantasies
Too rich to share in waking time
We'll live within our dreams

How sweet to know that you'll be there
Each night when I lay down to sleep
I'll close my eyes and there you'll be
To take my hand and walk with me
Until the morning light.

Linda Ori

! In Your World

You say you need me in your life
You pledge undying love -
But there are places in your world
That you can't rise above;

You say I mean the world to you
You'd sell your soul to spend
Just one more precious moment
If that moment wouldn't end;

Yet every time we try to fit
The pieces all together,
There's always one that's missing
You can never tell me whether

You'll ever find a place for me
Inside your busy life -
One day you think it's all for naught,
Then want me for your wife;

I'm walking on a tightrope
Trying hard to stand my ground,
I think I'm making headway then
I have to turn around;

Nothing ever changes
There's no hope that I can see -
I think I'm finding in your world
There's no place there for me.

Linda Ori

! Most Difficult Decision

How do I decide
Something undecidable -
Tears me up inside;

How am I to choose?
Can't I have the best of both -
Either way, I lose;

Please don't pressure me
For an answer I can't give -
Love - just let it be.

5/16/2008

Linda Ori

! Now That You'Re Gone

Now that you're gone -
There is an emptiness that surrounds
My space, my thoughts
The usual sights and sounds
No longer offer comfort;

Now that you're gone -
I'm like a leaf blown loose and falling
Insecure, untethered
My silent voice still calling
Though you no longer hear;

Now that you're gone -
I realize the depth of my devotion
Each thought, each breath
Reaction to the potion
Of your nearness to me;

Now that you're gone -
I'm small and unprotected
Vulnerable, naked
My worthiness rejected
By your casual 'good-bye';

Now that you're gone -
I'm left with all the pieces
Misplaced, lost
Once the mourning ceases
I'll put them back together.....

One by one.

9/01/08

Linda Ori

! Oh, Please !

Oh, please!
Should writing poetry be a painful experience?
To rhyme, or not to rhyme.....
That is the question, it seems;
Does it really matter?
If I choose to use one style
And you choose to use another,
What difference does it make?
Is there a book of rules
That dictates what is and isn't correct?
If we cannot find pleasure in the writing
Or the reading of our and others' work,
Then we should be pursuing
Other interests
To occupy our time.
There is little enough joy in this world -
Let us be grateful
For those who create beauty and pleasure
In whatever form it appears.

5/22/2009

Linda Ori

! Once Again

What is that incessant noise?
Irritatingly interrupting my sleep,
Unravelling the edges of a dream.
Slowly I swim to the surface of reality -
There it is again!
Stabbing like a knife into my foggy brain.
6 a.m. - 6 a.m. - 6 a.m.! !
Lethargically I reach across my pillow
To the source of my irritation
With unsteady deliberation.....
Where is that little button, anyway? ?
Yes! Finally - blessed silence!
It can't be time to get up already -
Where did the night go?
And what about that wonderful dream?
If I try really hard, can I fall back to sleep
And pick up where I left off....hmmm.....?
Just get your butt out of bed and get moving!
Is that coffee I smell?
Half awake, I follow the aroma to the kitchen -
Ahhhhh.....that first wake-up sip.....
YOUCH! Burned my tongue -
Geeze! That smarts!
Deep breath.....OK... move it, move it, move it!
God, I hate mornings!
Time to do the morning routine.....
Once again.

5/08/2009

Linda Ori

! Political Haiku

If you want drama
Cockiness and arrogance
Vote for Obama

Out of the picture
Estrogen and politics
Not a good mixture

And then there's McCain
Transparent as a shadow
In the pouring rain

Home, home on the range
USA the laughing stock
Some things never change

(IMO) 6/07/2008

Linda Ori

! Silence

Words that once came easily -
Spilling from the heart,
Expressions of the soul.....
Now silenced;

Flames of inspiration now
Shadows on the page -
Empty, void of meaning.....
Now extinguished;

Passion's raw emotions gone,
Feelings unexpressed,
Thoughts unshared.....
Now blighted;

The light of understanding
Flickers in the darkness,
A candle unattended.....
Now snuffed out;

The silence is deafening.

3/07/2009

Linda Ori

! So Many Times

So many times I wanted to ask,
Will you wait for me?
Are you strong enough to hold on
Until I can break loose?
I am a prisoner in my own mind,
Unable to visualize
This adventure that you offer me
Without reservation;
So many times I tried to let go,
To grab the dream and run,
There's just so much I don't know -
Can I trust my heart?
So many times life's passed me by
And I've failed to get involved -
What is this fear that holds me still
And threatens my existence?
So many times I came so close
To severing my bonds,
They continue to suffocate me -
Am I strong enough to break free?

4/19/2008

Linda Ori

! The Big Picture

How often I refuse to see
The picture as it needs to be,
Caught up in all my needy stuff -
It seems I never have enough

Of what it is I think I need
So in my life I may succeed,
When in all truth I have no clue
Just what it is I'm here to do;

I run in circles 'round and 'round
And spin my wheels into the ground,
And never quite accomplish much
For in my mind I'm out of touch;

How is it that I fail to see
The path that winds in front of me,
Instead I stumble through the wood
And never learn the things I should;

Perhaps one day I'll see the light
And for a change, I'll get it right,
I'll understand the scheme of things
But only if I cut the strings.

5/31/2008

Linda Ori

! The Fringe

The edge of reality,
The breath of a dream,
Not quite on the inside -
Removed from the scheme;

Unable to grasp it,
The image is blurred -
A beautiful song
That will never be heard;

Always from distance
The object adored,
All tangible feelings
Remain unexplored;

Forever in limbo,
A step out of place -
I gaze through a window
And picture your face;

Can't reach out and touch you,
Or be where you are -
Forever in spirit.....
So near, yet so far.

2/25/2008

Linda Ori

! Tomorrow Is Another Day

I turn around and walk away -
Tomorrow is another day,
The past is done, I've closed the book,
I'll never take another look;
You've had your fun, you played your part,
You stole my love then broke my heart
So easily without a care,
How could you leave me standing there?
I thought 'twas sadness in your eyes,
I couldn't see through your disguise,
I should have known you were untrue -
I was in love, why weren't you?
Perhaps I've learned the sorry truth
I should have listened in my youth,
A broken heart will surely mend -
Some loves will last, and some will end,
And I will play the game again
Because I know one day I'll win,
But now I turn and walk away.....
Tomorrow is another day.

7/5/2008

Linda Ori

! Unfinished Business

If I should stay another day
I'd lose myself in you -
Not that that would be a crime
But I've got things to do;

Perhaps one day my life will change
My little tasks be done -
And then with freedom's blessing
I'll ride off to meet the sun;

And will you come to meet me there?
Or join me on my way -
Experience the journey
Hand in hand we'll run and play;

The future beckons brightly
Every day begins anew -
He went and saved the best for last.....
My life begins with you.

Linda Ori

! Walk Along With Me

Walk along this path with me
Through fields of thought,
Though I have not
The answers that you seek,

I reach my hand to you, my friend
Please come along,
I'm not the song
Or melody you sing,

But there are sights along the way
You have not seen
They lie between
All you have seen before,

Their beauty takes your breath away
They leave their mark
Upon your heart
And melt into your soul;

I offer you my hand to hold,
I'll light the way
If you should stray,
You'll not be lost for long

For I shall wait and never leave,
My heart I give
That you may live
The grandest life you've known;

Please walk along this path with me -
Just one step now,
I'll show you how.....
Come and take my hand.

2/22/2009

! Walking On Eggshells

Must I walk on eggshells
Be carefull what I say
Just be sweet
Avoid the heat
And hold the hounds at bay;

Keep my thoughts within me
Avoid a nasty scene
Zip my lip
Or let it rip
But try not to be mean;

You're asking quite a favor
Not sure I can comply
I won't be shushed
My buttons pushed
I cannot tell a lie;

I will not walk on eggshells
I have a perfect right
To spill my guts
I may be nuts
But I don't want to fight;

So let's just call a truce here
Agree to disagree
I love you still
I always will
But please, let me be me.

Linda Ori

! Who Will Be There For Me?

At the end of the day when all is still
I've earned my pay, like I always will
My job is done, no more wells to fill.....
But who will be there for me?

I have chosen a path that is long and hard
My mind is spent, and my soul is scarred
I've learned that I never let down my guard.....
But there's nobody there for me;

It's a difficult task but I do my best
To comfort those who are weak and stressed
The nightmares come and I find no rest.....
Is there nobody there for me?

Perhaps there's a place where the soul finds peace
At the end of this road when the trials all cease
And the spirit soars high with a sweet release.....
I'll be free if you're there for me.

2/26/2008

Linda Ori

! Why Don'T You Try?

If there was a chance in hell
That you could save us -
Why don't you try?

If your words could ease the pain
That hangs between us -
Why don't you try?

If you love me as you say
Beyond tomorrow -
Why don't you try?

In my silence lies the truth
It's up to you now -
Why don't you try?

I guess I have my answer then.

4/19/2008

Linda Ori

! A Clever Poem

What a clever poem I wrote!
Don't you think it's great?

Let me serve you garbage
Brightly garnished on a plate;
Pile it high with rotten eggs,
Tuna fish and slime,
Top it off with whipping cream
This tasty dish of mine;
Now, some of you will love the taste
And some of you will not -
I guess your education
Will determine what is rot
And what is pure perfection,
It's a simple thing to judge -
Some will choose vanilla
And the others choose the fudge;

It's a matter of perspective,
What you like and what you don't -
Some of you'll appreciate
My taste, while others won't;
But still I'll dish the menue,
Serve it up with great aplomb -
Though I think it's a clever poem
You may think it's a bomb!

8/09/2008

Linda Ori

! Beautiful Differences

There is a beauty in creation.....

Infinite variety
Neither black nor white
All the colors of the rainbow
Various levels of understanding
Opposite extremes
Everything in between
No two alike

All of us individuals
All of us unique

Beautiful differences.....
Yet
All of the One

Linda Ori

! Blame It On The Moon

Mesmerized by moonlight
Such a lovely thought
Spinning webs of pure delight
With pen in hand I jot

Words of liquid silver
Pouring from my mind
Spilling out across the page
Their twisted tales unwind

Into a lovely tapestry
Of moonbeams bright as day
Brilliantly cascading
O'er each other as they play

Then suddenly in rhythm
The words begin to spin
And tumble from my fingers
Where no words before had been

A simple bit of magic sent
This poem from me to you
Mesmerized by moonlight
(And a little witches brew!)

3/22/08

Linda Ori

! Fleeting Memories

While talking on the phone today
I realize just how far away
You are from me in time and space
Any yet the memory of your face
When I was just a little girl
Sets my thoughts of you awhirl;

How young and lovely I recall
You used to be when I was small
I always thought that you'd be there
To comfort me and always care
So many years have come and gone
I've been away, and life moved on;

Then all at once it came to me
That time had passed and so had we
So much remains still left undone
Where once we lagged, we now must run
To finish all we meant to do
While you have me and I have you;

For soon you will be gone away
Your time is short, you cannot stay
Forever on this earthly plane
Your body frail and wracked with pain
Then memories of us will be
All that's left of you and me.

3/16/08

Linda Ori

! Loyal Fan

You can take your golf and the rolling greens
You tennis with manicured courts neat and clean
Your soccer, your swimming, your basketball scene -
None measure up to.....FOOTBALL!

You can reel in that trout on the end of your line
Spit out your chew while you're ridin' the pine
Pick up that spare with a strike, not a nine
But none spell excitement like.....FOOTBALL!

The screaming, the cheering, the noise of the crowd
The crashing and bashing of helmets so loud
That winning touchdown that makes us all proud
Nothing's as awesome as.....FOOTBALL!

And there's not another thing I'd rather do
Than cheer for that team in the maize and the blue
My heart's in the 'BIG HOUSE' - I wish I were, too
There's nothing I love more than.....FOOTBALL!

~~~~~GO BLUE~~~~~

9/06/2008

Linda Ori

# ! The Frog Prince

As I was walking through the wood  
One warm and sunny summer day,  
I chanced upon a lovely sight  
A swirl of butterflies in flight;

Urged on by curiosity,  
I followed down the path they flew  
And tumbled through a hidden door  
Beneath the leafy woodland floor;

A wondrous sight did then appear  
As if by magic to my eyes,  
And there within a hollow log  
I spied a very princely frog;

Nestled deep within that place  
Of musty darkness shone a light,  
And there I saw as I did look  
A princely frog with poem book;

Lounging in his comfy space  
With spectacles perched on his nose,  
The frog prince reading unaware  
Of being watched as I stood there;

So engrossed within his book,  
He did not notice as I sneaked  
Behind his chair on velvet feet -  
Then all at once our eyes did meet

He dropped the book into his lap,  
Complete surprise upon his face -  
I turned to run and he did follow  
Leaping from his hidden hollow

Swift I ran around the tree  
And hiding, waited patiently  
And soon he leapt upon a rock  
And then this frog began to talk;

'My dear, within your book I've read,  
Your songs of love and gratitude,  
Your tales of woe, of joy and such  
I must admit, I like it much! '

But there is one thing I would ask  
If I may only be so bold,  
Now would you please consider this,  
And place upon my lips a kiss?

Well, I believe in fairytales  
For heaven knows I've read a few,  
And if my memory serves me well,  
A little kiss might break the spell;

So, pucker up you ugly frog  
Let's get this done while in the mood,  
I closed my eyes and then did place  
A kiss upon his slimey face;

It wasn't bad, he tasted sweet!  
I can't believe I kissed a frog!  
My eyes did open then and see  
A handsome prince smile back at me!

The prince of poets had been freed,  
No longer bound beneath the spell -  
And in his freedom I did find  
A gentle prince, sincere and kind;

He offered then to mentor me  
As poet prince, no longer frog -  
And I of course said 'yes' and more.....  
That day beneath the woodland floor.

Linda Ori

# ! Thinking Outloud

Not so young and vibrant anymore  
Wonder what the future holds in store  
What contract did I sign on coming in?  
When does the living end and death begin?

I watch as others teeter on the brink  
What designates the change in how we think?  
An inkling from subconscious level mind  
That tells us we're beginning to unwind?

It seems that once the process has begun  
The body knows there is no place to run  
And so the battle wages, short or long  
And in the end the living sing our song:

They praise us for the good deeds we have done  
And raise us up as rainbows in the sun,  
Funny how you never hear a word  
About the juicy stories they all heard:

They say nobody's perfect, that's for sure  
So who are they to say you were not pure?  
The slate is clean again and all is well.....  
Will heaven take you in or give you hell?

2/29/2008

Linda Ori

# ! Tribute To 'Hozen'

Fathers come and fathers go  
But this I have to say -  
My father may be dead and gone  
But I love him to this day;

He used to really rule the roost  
We never crossed that line -  
Or if we did we'd get the boot  
Somewhere on our behind!

Yet still, he was a gentle man  
He loved to read and play -  
He taught us all about the stars,  
And heaven's wondrous ways;

Each year on our vacation  
There were many sights to see -  
He planned the best route on the map  
Excitement was the key;

He helped us with our homework  
Though he did it his own way -  
He always found a short cut  
But the answers were OK;

He loved to go exploring  
The mountains were his thing -  
And any type of scenery  
Could make his spirit sing;

His friends nicknamed him 'Hozen'  
He was German by descent -  
(There was a word that followed it,  
They all knew what it meant):

My father died in '84  
From a tumor in his brain -  
They said it came on suddenly  
It had a scarey name;

Though many years have come and gone  
The memories still abound -  
Alive in his uniqueness  
I can feel he's still around.

Father's Day  
6/15/2008

Linda Ori

## \* Elusive \*

Elusive.....  
As the butterfly  
You kiss my brow  
Then softly fly  
Away;

Elusive.....  
As the summer breeze  
You touch my face  
And gently tease  
A smile;

Elusive.....  
As a fleeting dream  
You fill my thoughts  
Then quickly seem  
To fade;

Elusive.....  
As the love I crave  
To warm my heart  
For all I gave  
To you;

Elusive.....  
Partly given soul  
Though beautiful  
Ne'er quite whole  
Or true;

Elusive.....  
Was our time to be  
You could not pledge  
Your love to me -

Goodbye.

4/1/2008



Linda Ori

## \* Rude Awakening

I look in the mirror,  
Today it's not kind -  
The reflection I see  
Wears the change in my mind;

Who is this person  
Adorned with my face?  
I don't recognize her.....  
There's barely a trace

Of the image of kindness,  
The bright sparkling eyes -  
The face of compassion  
Now tarnished by lies;

But who is the liar?  
Not easy to say  
That maybe my real self  
Is ugly and gray;

One look in the mirror  
Now boldly reveals  
An intimate stranger  
Who no longer feels

Compassion for others,  
Who no longer cares -  
It just doesn't matter  
What image it wears;

How could this have happened?  
How could I have failed?  
I was the 'peacemaker'  
With traits that were veiled;

No better than nothing,  
My pedestal crashed -  
My image in pieces  
Lies broken and smashed;

This must be a lesson,  
I've something to learn -  
You've got my attention.....  
Just don't let me burn

Beyond recognition,  
Be gentle, I pray -  
Restore me to favor  
With each passing day

Until I am worthy.....  
This test I must pass,  
To see MY reflection  
Again in the glass.

Linda Ori

## \* The Man Within \*

I lay my hand upon your chest  
And feel the man within -  
The trembling of a heavy heart  
Beats just beneath the skin;  
A heart that yearns to understand  
The burden that it bears,  
Sometimes the pain is so intense  
You think nobody cares;

And yet this heart is ever full  
Of endless love to give -  
No matter how uncertain  
It still has the right to live,  
And even though you worry  
Let the healing now begin,  
That I may lay my hand upon  
The man that dwells within.

1/30/2008

Linda Ori

## \* **Waiting**

Tell me not of forgotten dreams  
For dreams are fleeting -  
Life's reality holds steadfast,  
No room for dreams now  
Only today's stark coldness  
Shivers the magical song  
That once embraced my heart;

Tell me not of forgotten hopes  
For hopes are fading -  
This is all there is now,  
Nothing more than shadow -  
Muted watery images  
Void of color and sound  
No longer breathing life;

Everything so far away now -  
Love scattered on the wind,  
Fragile petals blown and bruised  
Dashed and broken - bleeding  
Unrealized, unfulfilled,  
Never to feel your lifeblood  
Ignite my soul.....

I am a ghost waiting to be reborn.

Linda Ori

## \* Yesterday

Yesterday  
I felt the sun  
It warmed my face  
My life was fun

Yesterday  
My thoughts were free  
And all the world  
Belonged to me

Yesterday  
Your love was mine  
And everything  
Was so divine

Yesterday  
The words were true  
My heart belonged  
To only you

But.....  
That was yesterday.

2/16/08

Linda Ori

## \* A Meeting Of The Minds \*

Two minds in sync  
Have forged a link  
One single thought  
By two hearts caught;

You read my mind  
And then unwind  
My tangled thoughts  
Connect my dots;

How clever this  
Your honest bliss  
Has touched my heart  
Right from the start;

Reflecting me  
You helped me see  
A kindred soul  
You made me whole.

Linda Ori

## \* An Unfair Affair

How quickly death surrounded her  
One minute warm and alive  
The next minute cold and still

Two months ago she was herself  
Shovelling snow in the driveway  
Bitching about the cold

Cancer reared its ugly head  
Invaded her and took up residence  
This body shall be mine

The battle was short-lived  
Definitely a one sided affair  
Nothing fair about dying

She prayed for death to take her home  
Life no longer mattered  
Nothing left to experience now

But death.

2/29/2008

Linda Ori



## \* Forgive Her

Yes, I know she hurt you,  
Made you question who you are -  
Now you wonder if it may have been your fault,  
Just remember that you're human  
And you're bound to make mistakes -  
What's done is done and now it's in the past;

You may have had your reasons,  
And I'm sure she had her own -  
And to look back now and try to make some sense  
Is the toughest part of dealing  
With a ghost not put to rest -  
You're not perfect and the world's a bitter place;

Just remember that I love you,  
That I understand your pain -  
That I'm here to lend a shoulder if I can,  
I really have no answers,  
I can only give advice -  
It's up to you to heal this gaping wound;

For even though it's over,  
Still you're bleeding deep inside  
And the memories still occupy your mind -  
Even when you don't address it  
It comes creeping up your spine  
To snag you at some unsuspecting time;

Perhaps it is forgiveness  
For her faults and for your own  
That may help to put this demon to its rest -  
Or else this thing will test you  
Every minute of each day  
And consume you even though you're not aware;

So let go of the memory  
Of how she broke your heart,  
Forgive her now and send her on her way -  
Your heart will grow much stronger

Once the hole in it has healed.....  
And you'll be free to love another day.

Linda Ori

## \* Holiday Madness \*

They seemed to spring up overnight  
The Christmas trimmings to delight  
Every woman, man and child -  
This yuletide rushing drives me wild!

I just turned on my radio  
I think I heard a HO-HO- HO!  
Their playing Christmas music sweet  
And I'm still eating trick - or - treats!

Come late October days fly by  
Be careful not to blink an eye  
As holidays all run together  
Pumpkins, elves and turkey feathers!

Give us time to recognize  
The holiday before our eyes  
And let us give it precedence  
Before the day becomes past tense!

So much to do, so little time  
As I sit here creating rhyme  
You'd think I've better things to do  
Like Christmas shopping at the 'zoo'!

Where shoppers ram you with their carts  
While songs of Christmas fill their hearts  
With tales of peace, of hope and joy  
It's 'Blue Light Special' - buy this toy!

While in the fridge the turkey thaws  
Yes, I am cooking 'just because'  
Nobody else would do the task  
Just once it would be nice to ask!

This time next month we'll all be crazy  
Especially anyone who's lazy  
And didn't get his shopping done  
Just one week left - get out and run

From store to store for one last look  
Perhaps some perfume, or a book?  
Something special, something funny -  
I think this year I'll just give money!

We'll break our backs and bank accounts  
Use credit cards and checks that bounce  
Oh, aren't the holidays such fun?  
Bah! Humbug..... Bless us everyone!

Linda Ori

## \* Time Out

I never thought the day would come  
That I would find me hiding from  
The one I love above the rest  
The one who always loved me best;

But time has brought me to this place  
I want no one within my space  
At least for just a little while  
Although I dearly miss your smile,

I find I've lost the energy  
To spend the nights with you and me  
Consumed within our lengthy chats  
'Bout Aries rams and Leo cats;

Too many tasks upon my plate  
Leave little time to appreciate  
All the things you mean to me  
My soul is screaming 'set me free'!

I hope this is a fleeting thing  
I really miss my cell phone ring  
And email doesn't do the job  
Just as deficient as my 'bob'

So please be patient while I breathe  
Don't let my absence make you seethe  
For absence makes the heartstrings grow  
And I'll be back before you know.

Linda Ori

## \* Today

Today  
I'm in another place  
My thoughts no longer  
Can embrace  
The memory of  
Your smiling face

Today  
I am a woman lost  
And all my dreams  
On storms are tossed  
I could not pay  
For what it cost

Today  
I know I don't need you  
To fill my life  
I must be true  
To what I know  
And always knew

Today  
My life belongs to me  
Although alone  
My soul is free  
And I must feel  
Content to be

Me.

2/16/08

Linda Ori

## \* Year's End \*

It's time to take a closer look  
This past year's written in my book  
Some things I wrote in great despair  
And others written without a care  
I've had my ups and downs that's true  
And must admit I have no clue  
What things will change in this new year  
I only ask for vision clear  
So I don't make the same mistakes  
Let me distinguish truth from fakes  
It certainly would make life grande  
If I remember a helping hand  
Is always better than one that takes  
For when I grab it only makes  
Me happy for a fleeting time  
There still remains that hill to climb

I think I'll climb it with my friends.....  
Great insight as this old year ends!

12/31/2007

Linda Ori

~ And Love Is Gone ~

Caught up in our fantasy  
Passionate, perfect, profound  
All things are possible  
INVINCIBLE

Unencumbered by rules  
Love knows no boundaries  
Respects no reason  
OBLIVIOUS

Love distorts our vision  
Makes us blind, ignorant, irresponsible  
Truth remains  
INVISIBLE

Reality held prisoner  
In some long forgotten room  
Quietly impatient  
INAUDIBLE

Once that lock is sprung  
Pandora's box exploding  
Bursting our  
ILLUSIONS

No more time for dreaming  
All our veils are stripped away  
Life becomes  
REALITY

And  
Love  
Is  
Gone

1/05/2008





## ~ A Mystery ~

What is this mystery that consumes me?  
I hardly know my own thoughts  
Everything I thought I knew  
I never knew at all

Blindsided by this other entity  
Who lives and breathes my very life  
I am no longer one person  
I am no one without this other

Once I thought I owned the world  
I was the author of my existence  
Now I want to own nothing  
But that space inside your soul

I cannot breathe without your breath  
I cannot think without your thoughts  
No longer do I occupy my own space  
Because you're ever in it!

I am filled with the magic of you  
I am humbled by the depth of your love  
A shooting star fallen to earth  
And into my heart.

Linda Ori

## ~ Daffodil ~

Across the rolling springtime hill  
In grande array the sunshine spill  
Of golden heads address the sky  
With floral perfume rising high;

I gaze across the fields in bloom  
How sweetly they erase the gloom  
Of winter frost now losing ground  
Their golden carpet all around;

And with each fragrant breath I take  
Sweet memories flow in the wake  
Of long lost love in younger days  
A haunting melody still plays

Reminding me of days gone by  
When love was bold and so was I  
When passion burned within my heart  
Although I knew one day we'd part;

Yet still each spring I rise anew  
From winter's sleep in time to view  
The rolling hills in golden bloom  
Sweet inspiration fills my plume

For I have much that's left unsaid  
And much to write before I'm dead  
Forever shall my thoughts still sing  
As lovely as the golden spring.

1/25/2008

Linda Ori

## ~ ~ ~ For Katie ~ ~ ~

Lord, measure my life by the good and the bad -  
The days that were joyful and those that were sad,  
The times that were trying and those that were glad,  
Yes, measure my life by the gifts that I had;

Lord, measure my life by the friends I held dear -  
The ones who were distant and those who were near,  
The ones that I touched every day of the year,  
Yes, measure my life by those moments of cheer;

Lord, measure my life by the help that I gave -  
To those who were fearful and those who were brave,  
To those that I lost and the ones I could save,  
Yes, measure my life from my birth to the grave;

Lord, treasure the Katie that everyone knew -  
She could always be found where the dandelions grew,  
And if you were lucky she'd pick you a few,  
Yes, measure her life by the things she would do.....

Leave tea for the mailman to help quench his thirst,  
Make friends with the tough kids - reach out to the worst,  
Take care of her family - they always came first,  
Grow beautiful plants from the seedlings she nursed;

Her polenta and ink fish could rival the best,  
She prayed for each soul as they laid them to rest,  
Each person who met her was truly impressed -  
She was a good woman, her life had been blessed.

LJO 2/27/2008

Linda Ori

# A Message To Myself

I wish I were more daring.....

Could climb outside my comfort zone  
Where things look so inviting  
Yet here I stay in limbo

Not knowing how to break this spell  
That holds me captive still  
With all things so familiar

This world holds wonders yet unseen  
But will I ever see them  
Or know their secret beauty?

If I don't make the effort now  
I may remain forever  
Within my little world

Hello, there - are you listening?  
Wake up and smell the coffee!  
Take a step outside.....

Linda Ori

# A Parent's Lament

Precious life  
bled out on the battlefield -  
naked, bleeding souls revealed  
and in the name of peace;

Children lost,  
never to be found again,  
matters not, for none will win  
the ravages of war;

Neither side  
will find the solace in their loss,  
they say their prayers and kiss the cross,  
But nothing can be saved;

Brave the child  
who sacrificed his life for peace,  
who willingly did sign the lease  
oblivious to fear;

Yet, all that's left  
to fill the void within our hearts,  
a flag to prove they played their parts  
heroically and well;

Life goes on,  
and still the grief flows raw and deep,  
the nights drag on devoid of sleep,  
for nothing cures the pain;

Precious life,  
imagine how it could have been,  
if death was not an option when  
the world lay in their hands;

Parents cry,  
for senseless wars will e'er be fought,  
freedom's peace cannot be bought -  
our children soldier on.

11/11/2013

Linda Ori

# A Prayer For Change

As children of the universe  
Our destination earth,  
We ride upon the solar winds  
Until the hour of birth  
When scattered, weary travelers  
Who've journeyed from afar  
Begin their incarnation  
On this cold and dying star;

What used to be so beautiful,  
So vibrant green and blue  
An oasis for the many  
Has been wasted by the few,  
What purpose in this torture  
Of the motherhood of man?  
What evil child will desecrate  
His home because he can?

We've overstayed our welcome  
It's time for us to leave  
And after our destruction  
Will no man be left to grieve?  
Sweet children of the universe  
With hearts so pure and free  
Release this star from bondage  
With love's celestial key!

Return these souls to heaven  
Wrap this earth in slumber deep,  
Awaken us with dreaming,  
Let your love inside us creep  
Then as buds upon the branches  
Of Life's tree on some spring morn'  
We shall blossom into beauty  
And this earth shall be reborn.

Linda Ori



# Above The Timberline

Oh, let my spirit wander  
Where the air is crisp and clear  
And the whispers of the wilderness  
Are the only sounds I hear;

Oh, let me venture yonder  
Where the earth is pure and clean  
Where mankind and pollution  
Are seldom ever seen;

Let me test my soul's endurance  
In this unforgiving place -  
Let man and beast in battle  
Meet each other face to face;

For passion is the hunter  
And wisdom is the prey  
And if I am victorious  
Let my legend ever stay

Away above the timberline  
In that stronghold of the gods,  
Where I dared to face the challenge  
And excelled against the odds!

Linda Ori

# Afterglow

Holidays are over,  
They've turned off all the lights -  
The songs were sung,  
The bells were rung,  
No more 'Silent Nights';

All the pretty trimmings  
Now packed up on the shelf -  
My angels flown,  
All kisses blown,  
I sit here by myself;

With great anticipation  
I welcomed Christmas time -  
A time of cheer,  
All friends held dear,  
Sweet memories sublime;

If only for the moment,  
We give our love for free -  
No questions asked,  
O'er wine unflasked,  
Before a dazzling tree;

Now where is the excitement  
Of joyous, loving hearts?  
I'm here alone,  
I'm on my own,  
And now the letdown starts;

Outside the world is quiet,  
As silent as the snow -  
My thoughts I hear,  
And shed a tear,  
Amidst the afterglow.

1/14/2012

Linda Ori

# Always The Best Friend

You come to me for comfort  
When your world comes crashing down  
You say you need someone that you can trust -  
And so I give you solace  
And I listen to your woes  
Seems you can't distinguish love from lust;  
You cry upon my shoulder  
Say I'm always there for you  
No matter what is making you so blue -  
I give you sweet attention,  
Loving strokes and warm advice  
I give you all I have - my love is true;  
And now your ego's satisfied  
You're back to your old self  
You've finally gone and got your second wind -  
And once again you're looking  
For some girl to win your heart  
And I'm again forgotten..... your best friend.

Linda Ori

# Ancient Dreaming

When the night is long and my sleep is fretful  
I go to a place where my mind flows free -  
A distant shore where the wind blows softly  
Sweet music of the ancients engulfs me;  
A lilting, sad refrain that touches my heart,  
Overwhelming feeling washes over me  
I am in a place of soul recognition -  
A long ago kingdom by the sea;  
Brilliant sunlight kissing azure waves  
As salt-sea sprays against the cliffs,  
I stand poised on the edge of the world  
With the wind blowing through my long blonde hair,  
Long flowing white gauze envelopes me,  
Bronzed skin warm in the shimmering sunlight,  
Arms outstretched, head tilted back  
Offering a prayer to the gods;  
Atlantis is calling to me in my dreams  
And I respond.

Linda Ori

# And He Said He Loved Me

Talking on the phone tonight,  
Two hours passed us by -  
So many thoughts to contemplate,  
So many questions why?  
There has to be an answer,  
Things just can't stay this way,  
The whole damn world's turned upside down!  
All we can do is pray  
That God will find a reason  
To justify our plight  
And grant to us clear vision  
To guide us through this night;  
I still believe in miracles,  
They happen every day -  
So if this is supposed to be  
Then let things go our way;  
I think we've waited long enough  
It's clear we've paid our dues,  
When life throws you a second chance  
What have you got to lose?  
'Let's grab the gift and run with it'  
Was all that I could say,  
And then he said he loved me.....  
And I knew that I would stay.

Linda Ori

# Angel Love

In the darkness of your sorrow  
In the emptiness of grief  
When the hope of understanding has gone dim,  
From a realm beyond the senses  
Comes a warmth beyond belief  
As silent wings enfold your troubled soul:

Let an angel work its wonder  
Let it circle you with light  
As you sacrifice the burdens of your heart,  
Soon the fearfulness is lifted  
With the darkness of the night  
Let the wonders of your spirit be restored;

For an angel has embraced you  
With a passion undefined,  
An endless love surpassing time and space -  
And once that love has touched you  
You will know beyond the mind  
That your soul has found a state of perfect grace.

Linda Ori

# Angels

Angels come on silent wing  
From somewhere up above,  
Angels cause our hearts to sing  
And teach us how to love;  
Invisible protectors  
Assigned to us at birth,  
Tho' sometimes we can see them  
In the friends we choose on earth.

Linda Ori



# Anger So Sweetly (Revised)

Why do I let you get to me?  
I don't understand what you say -  
One minute you're glad  
The next one you're mad  
I feel like I'm treading thin ice;

You constantly throw me off balance,  
I hold my affection in check -  
And then in a minute  
You smile, and you win it  
I feel like I'm losing my mind;

Why do you make me so angry?  
Why do I feel so uptight?  
I so want to please you  
Instead I just tease you  
And then we end up in a fight;

So why don't we just change the game plan,  
Agree to be lovers instead -  
And when there's an issue  
We'll just grab the tissue  
And make anger so sweetly in bed!

For my special friend - 'THANK YOU'

Linda Ori

# Avalon (Haiku)

Avalon once more  
Echoes through the mists of time -  
Ancient land of lore

Linda Ori

# Ballad Of The Canyon

The late afternoon was a scorching inferno  
The cowboy drooped lazily down in his seat,  
The high painted walls of the canyon rose steeply  
Baking the earth in the sweltering heat;

The cowboy gazed far up the walls that enclosed him,  
Whispering encouraging words to his horse,  
Deep in his heart was a pain that kept burning,  
Pushing him on with invisible force;

Meanwhile, the sun had been slowly descending  
Into the folds of the wide western sky,  
Darkness was veiling the trail through the canyon,  
The trail through the canyon with walls oh, so high;

On into darkness the two weary travelers  
Wandered o'er rocks and o'er crevasses deep,  
Cowboy and horse now were nearly exhausted  
Far off the trail on a ledge oh, so steep;

Soon the poor cowboy slumped down in his saddle  
Weary and worn from the stress and the strain,  
His faithful companion continued the journey  
Though his heart hammered and pounded with pain;

Upward and onward the brave horse did travel  
Bearing his master - a burden of love,  
Hours and hours had dwindled to nothing  
Still he trudged on toward the world far above;

Over the rough, jagged ledges he clambered,  
Nearer to death, yet to life with each stride,  
Higher and higher he staggered and stumbled  
All laws of nature and fate he defied;

The travelers emerged from the yawn of the canyon  
The yawn of the canyon with walls oh, so high,  
Over the rim to the wide open heavens  
Into the world 'neath the wide western sky;

The faltering horse led his master to safety  
Over the prairie and into the town,  
Now with his heartbreaking journey behind him  
The poor faithful horse to his death tumbled down;

Many a cowboy was lost in that canyon,  
Many a cowboy was left there to die,  
Fortunate he who returns from that canyon,  
That huge painted canyon with walls oh, so high.

To the tune of 'El Paso'

Linda Ori

# Beatles Memory

Listening to ' Beatles Sunday Morning'  
Reminds me of a foggy London memory.....  
Spent nine hours on a plane from JFK  
Some years ago back in the 60's  
Attempting to land in London  
Fog so thick no way to get down  
So up we go and circle, circle, circle 'round...  
Still no visibility, so back we go  
To Shannon, landing there to refuel;  
Wanting to throw up - so queezy!  
Sat on that plane for 2 hours eating Roloids  
But I do recall the beauty of the country  
As we soared high above and circled 'round.....  
I vowed to return one day  
When my stomach could handle the trip;  
So here we go again, onward to England  
This time the fog has lifted  
And there on top of the buildings  
Throngs of people are waving and shouting....  
Certainly not for this American plane,  
But for the Beatles - on a plane  
Coming down somewhere behind us!  
What a thrill! And here we are in London  
Just in time for dinner -' on the house'  
Thanks to the delay in reaching our destination.  
That's the closest I'll ever get to 'royalty'  
But still a memory I'll treasure forever.

Linda Ori

# Beauty Of Senility

Age is just a state of mind  
And this we know for sure -  
It isn't like some rare disease  
For which there is no cure;  
It creeps upon us silently  
To catch us unaware  
And while we worry about getting old  
We're already getting there;  
But there's a consolation  
To this thing called getting old -  
Our hair will turn to silver  
And our teeth will turn to gold;  
Age is just a state of mind  
A case of brain and brawn -  
Before we realize the body is shot  
The mind will already be gone!

Linda Ori

## Beauty Of Senility - Ii

As I hover in my hoveround  
My feet no longer tread the ground -  
So nice to have a moving seat  
My little world is now complete;

Each day I take a little pill  
To slow the urge of bladder fill,  
And when it works as it intends  
I have no need to wear depends;

You just don't know how good it feels  
To have someone bring in your meals -  
No longer do I stand and cook,  
I microwave and read a book;

My TV volume's locked on high,  
My new 'date' is the cable guy,  
I click the channels from my chair -  
My days pass by without a care;

The highlight of my life it seems  
Are senior trips and pastlife dreams,  
My doctor's visit makes my day,  
And later on there's cards to play;

It's not so bad, this growing old -  
Except my bones don't like the cold,  
But I can cuddle in a quilt,  
While youngsters work - I have no guilt;

When I was younger I worked hard  
But now I'm old and I'm so tired -  
And now I live my just reward -  
I sit and click, but I'm not bored;

I've even had my knees replaced,  
My teeth inside a jar encased,  
My wig I keep beside my bed.....

I may be old, but I'm not dead!

This one's for you, Greg!

Linda Ori



# Because Of You

You brought your light into my world  
When life was cold and gray,  
You taught me how to change my tune  
From sad to light and gay;

I never in my wildest dreams  
Expected such as you,  
Just goes to show you never know  
What little prayers can do!

If I had put my order in  
You couldn't have been better -  
Whatever I was looking for  
You gave me to the letter;

People come and people go  
They touch us in some way -  
And then the person that we were  
Starts changing day by day;

My life is not the same today  
No longer sad and blue -  
My sun is shining brightly now  
And all because of you!

Linda Ori

# Beyond The Glass

Your picture sits upon my desk  
Encased within a frame,  
I know those eyes, I know that smile  
And yes, I know your name;

You gaze at me intently,  
I wonder what you think -  
Although you're just an image  
I could swear I saw you wink;

I press your picture to my chest  
And I can almost feel  
The tender beating of your heart -  
If only you were real!

I touch my fingers to the glass,  
Caress your smiling face -  
If only I could reach within  
And occupy your space

What wonders I would realize,  
What joy would flood my heart -  
If I could wander through the glass  
We'd never be apart;

I'd kiss your lips a thousand times,  
Embrace you with my soul,  
Transform your paper image  
Into one that's warm and whole;

I'd then exist within your world,  
Enjoined with you at last -  
Content to share your life and love  
Somewhere beyond the glass.

Linda Ori

# Blessing Or A Curse?

I now reside within my soul,  
And every soul, it seems -  
How else to manifest this love  
For every living thing?

Though often times rejected  
And neglected - still it grows -  
It weeps for every broken heart  
And every tear that flows;

It forges deep connections  
To each lover and each friend -  
A bond that's rarely broken  
Even though the feelings end;

Love is not an easy thing  
And often it's one-sided -  
And though it's pure and honest  
There are times when it's misguided;

The object of affection's glow  
May not return the shining -  
Still the tapestry's been strung  
And love knows no declining;

Although given, never wasted,  
Once released it knows no end,  
Love's a powerful emotion -  
Curse or blessing?

It's a blend.

Linda Ori

# Blonde Moment

They call it a blonde moment -  
A glitch of intelligent thought  
I knew what I thought I was thinking  
But before I could think, I forgot;  
It has something to do with the wiring  
It's tangled, and tends to short out,  
Somewhere in the process of thinking  
I forget what I'm thinking about;  
Tomorrow I may go out shopping  
And buy a new color to try  
So when I don't get what you're saying  
You'll think that I do, but I lie;  
I'll make a big change on the outside  
So people will give me a nod  
I'll still be a blonde on the inside  
But no one will know it - thank God!

Linda Ori

# Carry Me Home

The journey is over, my work is done,  
Gone are the days when I used to run  
Searching for everything under the sun.....  
I'm ready, please carry me home;

I've come to the end of all that I know,  
The long road has ended, there's no place to go,  
My garden no longer has seeds to sow.....  
I'm ready, please carry me home;

Family and friends I leave behind,  
Along the roads my life did wind,  
New horizons I'm off to find.....  
I'm ready, please carry me home;

I'm ready to leave this mortal life,  
Close the door on pain and strife,  
Sever this cord with your golden knife.....  
I'm ready, please carry me home;

Carry me home on angel wings  
Over the rainbow where bluebirds sing,  
Beyond this realm of material things.....  
I'm ready, please carry me home.

\*written for my dear friend's husband who passed away yesterday morning after a long battle with Parkinson's disease and prostate cancer.

Linda Ori

# Christmas Blues

The tree stands in the corner  
Adorned with sparkling lights,  
Beneath the tree are presents  
Wrapped on many sleepless nights;  
The cards have all be written  
And mailed to one and all,  
The cookies baked and frosted  
And the cheese rolled in a ball;  
I sit here and I ponder  
What's the meaning of this scene?  
I'm harried and I'm tired  
And my wallet's out of green;  
I love the Christmas music  
And the parties with my friends,  
The lengthy conversation  
On the phone that never ends;  
I took the time to try to find  
That special gift so right,  
The one that says 'I love you'  
In hopes that it just might  
Let you know how much I care -  
I hope I get one, too,  
Somehow it seems one sided,  
'Cause the gift I get from you  
Is usually something meaningless,  
You never seem to know  
Just what it is I really want,  
Your gift is just for show;  
Oh, well, it's just another year,  
Another small disaster -  
I bust my butt to do it all,  
Each year I do it faster;  
So for now I'll just relax,  
Enjoy this lovely tree -  
Drink some wine and rest my mind  
And take the time to be  
Totally in the moment,  
Now all the work is done -  
Christmas comes but once a year.....

Thank God! Let's have some fun!

Linda Ori

# Closing The Door

You're asking me to give up everything  
To take a leap of faith -  
Sail into uncharted waters  
Where there may be dragons.....  
Because you love me;  
You're offering nothing material  
You're promising nothing at all  
Just a safe place  
A warm embrace  
And everything that you are;  
The closeness of pure connection  
In body, mind and soul  
Intimate conversation,  
Your smiling face across the table  
And a comfortable place to fall;  
You're not asking for the world  
You're not asking for my life  
Just honest affection  
And a loving connection  
To get us through this journey;  
I know your intentions are honorable  
I know I can trust you to care  
Although it's not perfect  
It's as good as it gets. -  
Be patient, I'm closing the door.

Linda Ori



# Compassion

Oh, God! Cannot you hear their cries?  
These creatures lost and in despair  
They weep for all their wretched lives  
And wonder - does He even care?  
Oh, God! Cannot you feel their pain?  
Their souls ripped out and oozing life  
They wander through the wind and rain  
And wonder - does He wield this knife?  
How awful is this holocaust  
How dreadful is their fate  
What suffering must they undergo  
When will it be too late?  
Bring now your great compassion  
Embrace these creatures tight,  
Protect them from the horrors  
Of this dark and endless night;  
Shine down on them with caring,  
With warmth, with peace and love,  
Don't leave them to destruction -  
Bring them guidance from above.

Linda Ori

# Conjugating The Write

I write

You write

He, she, it writes -

We write

You write

They Write;

I wrote

You wrote

He, she, it wrote -

We wrote

You wrote

They wrote;

I have written

You have written

He, she, it has written -

We have written

You have written

They have written;

I shall write

You shall write

He, she, it shall write -

And keep on writing -

That's an order !

Linda Ori

# Connections

Across the span of time and space,  
I think I've always known your face,  
No matter what the year of place,  
You've always been my friend;  
Whatever we may say or do  
You are like me, I am like you  
We seem to share a point of view,  
You've always been my friend;  
If I could choose my family  
I have a sense that you would be  
Always somewhere near to me,  
You've always been my friend;  
Whatever we may think about  
Whatever joy, whatever doubt,  
I know your thoughts inside and out,  
You've always been my friend;  
I know that I can turn to you  
Whenever I am feeling blue  
For guidance that will see me through,  
You've always been my friend;  
We understand each other's fears,  
We've been together through the years,  
We've shared so many joys and tears,  
You've always been my friend;  
And I don't think I'll ever find  
A closer mesh of heart and mind  
Along this path our spirits wind -  
You'll always be my friend.

For my best friend in the whole world

Linda Ori

# Crystal Ball

Gazing into the depths of clarity -  
Waiting for the answer.....  
Do I want to know the truth?  
Would I rather exist in ignorance?  
What are you thinking?  
Do you really care or are you  
Just filling a need?  
Is this personal, or am I  
Just a player in your game?  
Will I be content, or will I  
Wish I had never made this choice?  
Is it fear?  
Is it wisdom?  
Am I being overly cautious, or  
Am I being protected by a higher power?  
Do I move forward in this life  
Or do I stay in my comfort zone?  
Will I regret not taking a chance  
And always wonder.....  
My quest for clear vision  
Is clouded by doubt.....  
I wish I had a crystal ball!

Linda Ori

# Cybercouch

Where do you go when your world falls apart,  
When words that were said burn a hole in your heart,  
Inside you're bleeding, you can't stop the pain  
It simply engulfs you like cold winter rain;

What do you do when you don't understand  
How your heart can be broken by one careless man,  
You thought he would love you 'til your dying day,  
Instead he walked out leaving nothing to say;

Where do you run when frustration sets in,  
You simply can't stand one more day in your skin,  
You're tearing your hair out and can't sleep a wink,  
Your nerves are all frayed and you're pushed to the brink;

You run to your PC and pour out your heart,  
While being distracted by a button called 'FART'  
Get instant advice with a cumulative score,  
Hey - that's quality shrinkage, who could ask for more!

Linda Ori

# Daddy

Daddy, won't you brush my hair  
And tie it up in bows,  
Help me put my clothes on straight  
And wipe my runny nose;  
Daddy, won't you play with me  
Or help me ride my bike,  
Teach me how to count to ten  
Or take me on a hike;  
Daddy, I'm your favorite girl  
Your precious little child,  
An angel when I'm sleeping  
And a devil when I'm wild;  
Daddy, buy me pizza, please  
And take me to the park -  
Push me on the swings so high  
And let me play 'til dark;  
Daddy, there is nowhere else  
That I would rather be  
Than walking here beside you  
Or sitting on your knee;  
I hope you know I love you,  
'Cause I'm your favorite squeeze -  
Today I'll ask for bubble gum.....  
Tomorrow it's your keys!

(Dedicated to all those special dads out there from their daughters.)

Linda Ori

# Decisions, Decisions

Just when you think you've figured it out  
The universe throws you a curve,  
Yesterday your world was all in its place  
Today it's all up in the air!

You thought you knew where you were headed,  
The map had been carefully drawn,  
But somehow that road doesn't look very clear  
And a detour now stands in your way;

With one destination it's easy to see  
How to get from point A to point B,  
But with two destinations the rules don't apply  
Better rethink the roads that you take;

I guess the real question comes down to the crux  
Of the matter you need to address -  
Which road leads the way to goals you have set  
And which road leads to destiny's plan?

Oh, can't life be easy for one blessed day -  
Must it always demand that we choose?  
Just when you think you can have it your way.....  
They shuffle the deck, and you lose!

Linda Ori

# Depletion (Haiku)

Caring for others  
Energy flows out each day -  
Need to fill the well.

Linda Ori



# Destiny's Child

Look into my eyes, love, and tell me can you see  
This flame of pure compassion living deep inside of me?  
That burns with such conviction beyond my very soul,  
It scares me nearly half to death, yet somehow makes me whole;  
My life no longer governs me, my thoughts are not my own -  
They flow from somewhere deep inside - these truths I've always known  
That speak of love's reality, so sweet and crystal clear  
My heart is filled with longing and it brings me close to tears;  
Why comes this understanding now to complicate my life?  
Such pure intoxication blooms then cuts me like a knife;  
I have such need to comfort you, to soothe your troubled heart,  
Yet knowing all the while that I may never be a part  
Of everything I long for, the reason I exist -  
I've searched for you a lifetime, half existing in the midst,  
Until the day I found you and it all became so clear -  
I always thought you far away, and yet you were so near;  
Now look into my eyes, love, and you will surely see  
A million hopeful yesterdays that brought you home to me.

Linda Ori

# Dilemma

As I sit here in the night  
I am now compelled to write  
Something brilliant, something bright  
But I want to get it right  
So I'm sitting here tonight  
In my room, the only light  
From the screen before my sight  
As I try with all my might  
To compose a verse that's tight  
Shall I write about a sprite?  
Or a bold and gallant knight?  
Or a rocketship in flight?

Caught my image in the light -  
Geeze - my hair is such a fright!  
Think I'll just call it a night.....  
(But first I'll grab a bite) .

Linda Ori

# Don'T

Don't tell me that you love me anymore  
Don't whisper sweet devotions in my ear  
Don't kiss me when you're tasting someone else  
Don't promise me the world then take it back  
Don't tell me that I'm lovely when I'm not

I know that you're in love with someone else  
I know you say the words I want to hear  
I know your kiss means nothing anymore  
I know the world is not your gift to give  
I know my face is not the one you crave

So let's not play this silly little game  
The things that mattered once are not the same  
Don't keep me for your back-up when you're bored  
Just let me be someone that you adored.

Linda Ori

## Don'T You Just Hate It?

Don't you just hate it when you lose control?  
You try so hard to keep your mouth shut  
Then some idiot pushes you over the edge -  
And your mouth runs away with you?  
Don't you just hate it when you do your best  
To be open and nonjudgemental  
Then something snaps and the bitch comes out  
And you end up looking like a fool?  
I guess it's just human nature at fault  
Am I really that shallow and crass?  
But I tell you some days it's all I can do  
Not to kick some dumb jerk in the ass!

Oh.....that felt good! ! ! !

Linda Ori

# Dream Ku

Somnolent screenplay  
rehearsal for waking life -  
Pre-reality

Thoughts in utero  
waiting for delivery  
to the outside world

Subconscious scanning  
vivid life inside the mind -  
Creative planning

Linda Ori

# Dream Lover

Meet me in our dreams  
Hold me till the morning light -  
Show me what love means.

Linda Ori

# Dream Rush

Speeding with incredible force  
Through a mirrored tube  
Toward a sapphire crystal source,  
It takes my breath away;

Supine body gliding slick  
By silver bands encased,  
On a journey lightning quick  
Impossible to move;

Gasping for a breath or air  
My face is taugt and drawn,  
The wind goes ripping through my hair  
My mouth is frozen stiff;

Wondering if this is a dream  
My God! It seems so real,  
Will someone hear me if I scream?  
Please get me off this ride!

Instantly my mind awakes  
Familiar things I see,  
Every muscle in me aches  
My heart is racing still;

Question - Am I still alive?  
My body's stiff and sore,  
Was 'someone' whisking my away?  
I'm terrified inside;

Years ago this dream occurred  
And still it haunts me so,  
Yes, I know it sounds absurd  
But real? I'll never know.

Linda Ori

# Dreamland

You wandered through my dreams last night,  
just thought I'd let you know,  
it seems that when I fall asleep  
my mind knows where to go;  
Something that I eat, perhaps,  
before I go to bed  
sets the stage for dreamland  
and these visions in my head;  
'A bit of undigested food'  
or so the story goes.....  
may conjure up that river  
where imagination flows,  
along the twisted pathways  
that meander through my brain,  
plucking hidden memories  
like brilliant drops of rain  
to splash upon my eyelids,  
they sparkle and delight  
until the breath of morning sun  
removes them from my sight;  
And will you entertain me now  
when next I close my eyes?  
If you should dream of me, perhaps  
we'll meet 'neath sleeping skies.

7/18/2005

Linda Ori



# Ecstasy

Behold the depth of unknown bliss  
Awakened by a lover's kiss -  
Sweet ecstasy unbound!  
So tender, yet so passionate  
Never shall the heart forget  
Contentment once it's found;  
Complete surrender - let it flow  
Beyond the mind and all you know  
Let heaven touch the ground,  
And all the mysteries in between  
That until now remained unseen  
Shall bring the circle 'round,  
For love must touch another heart  
In order for the dream to start -  
Entrust your soul to me.

Linda Ori

# Endearments Of A Nine Year Old

He's bubble gum in a baseball hat,  
A dirty face with a mangy cat,  
And if you can imagine that -  
Then I guess you know my boy;

He's a freckled nose with spiked-up hair,  
A jitterbug squirming in his chair,  
Bouncing through life without a care -  
My bubbly little boy;

He's a sloppy shirt and baggy pants,  
Cruising the sidewalk smashing ants,  
Pulling the petals off my plants -  
My charming little boy;

He's flashing eyes in a dimpled face,  
The loud mouthed terror of second base,  
In a muddy sneaker without a lace -  
My scrappy little boy;

But he's an angel in his sleep,  
A peaceful creature in a blanket heap,  
And I'm so glad he's mine to keep -  
My dear, sweet little boy.

Linda Ori

# Endings

I remember long ago  
When I thought you loved me so,  
But today I just don't know  
What your feelings are;  
Time has passed and so have we -  
You and I no longer see  
Much upon which we agree -  
We've gone our separate ways;  
You don't look into my eyes,  
I don't care to sympathize,  
All we do is criticize -  
What have we become?  
Two shells cracking under stress,  
Neither wanting to confess  
The depth of our unhappiness -  
Indifference settles in  
When we fail to love or hate,  
Or take time to appreciate,  
Then I guess it's just too late -  
We go our separate ways.

Linda Ori

# Enlightenment

What is this strange vibration  
That permeates the air?  
It crept upon us silently  
And settled everywhere;  
Beneath the shades of darkness  
On velvet paws it came  
And spread itself all over  
This sense without a name;  
Like magic, out of nowhere  
In beautiful array  
The fields had blossomed purple  
With the wakening of day;  
Such regal, vibrant flowers  
Appeared as if on cue  
And flowed across the meadows  
With the early morning dew:

What is this strange vibration  
That sets the clouds aflame  
With flashing bolts of lightning -  
This force without a name?  
That makes the heavens rumble  
And crash electric blue  
Then like a mighty cauldron  
Spill the contents of its brew  
Raging down the mountains  
Over forests and the plains,  
Flooding out the lowlands  
With unchecked, torrential rains;  
Then like a whirling dervish  
Spinning wildly o'er the seas  
The wind blows howling inland  
Ripping branches off the trees;

What is this strange vibration  
That crawls beneath the skin  
And causes man to wonder  
Does it come from out or in?  
You can't escape the feeling

That just beyond your reach  
There is an understanding  
With an urgency to teach -  
The earth is now evolving  
Full of energy and love,  
In her right hand flashes lightning,  
In her left hand sleeps the dove,  
The decision lies before us,  
The reckoning is here -  
We'll survive by our awakening  
Or perish by our fear.

Linda Ori

# Enough Ku

You offer me naught  
but everything that you are -  
Can that be enough?

Am I the answer  
to all that you are asking -  
Can I be enough?

There are no answers  
We must find them together -  
One step at a time.

Linda Ori

# Enraptured

You wander through my dreams -  
A ghost of a thought drifting in and out  
Coloring my sleep with sunshine and shadow,  
You fill my unconscious mind -  
Every waking hour, every word I speak,  
Every step I take is guided by your hand;  
You're never far from me -  
A memory creeps in and silently slips away  
Taking my spirit along to a place in my dreams;  
Why do you torture me?  
My thoughts run circles around your face -  
It's drowning me.....Get out of my mind!

Linda Ori

# Epitaph

The day will come when I'll be gone  
No more this earth to walk -  
They'll put me in the cold, dark ground  
And give their little talk;  
Remember what a friend she was?  
An angel from above,  
She used to write such pretty poems  
Of gratitude and love;  
She had a sparkle in her eye  
That none could overlook -  
Could make you wish that someday  
She would write you in her book;  
She had a way of loving  
That was tender, warm and free -  
She made you feel so many things  
Such beauty she could see;  
To every person that she met  
She always gave her best,  
And even if you disagreed  
She overlooked the rest  
To come to some conclusion  
That would benefit you both,  
For neither one was right or wrong -  
Her truth was not an oath;  
Some day they'll write my epitaph  
I hope they make it fitting --

'She left her mark at midnight -  
At her keyboard she's still sitting'.

Linda Ori



# Every Now And Then

A random thought while daydreaming,  
A whisper on the breeze -  
Still sometimes the smallest thing  
Will bring me to my knees;  
A song reminds me of your face,  
A poem's familiar ring,  
The sweet perfection of your words  
Brought life to everything;  
And even though you're nowhere near  
You're closer than you know -  
That doorway that you wandered through  
Still beckons me to go  
Where often I imagine you  
Still fresh within my mind -  
Heart to heart, hand in hand  
Our fingers intertwined;  
A part of me will never rest,  
There's so much left unsaid -  
The poem remains unfinished  
With the words inside my head;  
My life goes on from day to day  
Yet still your memory lingers -  
And softly every now and then  
I feel you touch my fingers.

Linda Ori

# Eyes Of The Children

Behold in the eyes of the children  
Mysteries of the universe -  
Pure and innocent  
Untainted wisdom -  
Knowledge of past, present, future  
Of mankind;  
Gatekeepers of the future -  
Lightbringers of awareness,  
Love and compassion,  
A new generation -  
Leaders of the next frontier  
Of evolution -  
Be open to their wisdom;  
Behold in the eyes of the children  
Answers that we search for,  
Liquid flow of knowledge  
Unbound by limitation,  
Infinite possibility  
Existing in the gap -  
Portal to dimension  
Of mind and immortality;  
Behold in the eyes of the children  
Vision unblinded.

Linda Ori

# Face That Launched A Thousand Hearts

When I was just a young lass  
Sweet and in my prime  
I had a way with the opposite sex  
Intense and so sublime;  
It seemed I always got my way  
In matters of the heart  
I never had to work too hard  
To make those feelings start;  
A face that launched a thousand hearts  
That's what my friends would say  
That was many years ago  
And things have changed today;  
But still I have a way with men  
Must still be some attraction  
Maybe it's not the face at all  
But my mind that gets the action!

The old gal's still got it!

Linda Ori

# Farewell To Michael

The end of an era,  
The end of a dream,  
An oreo cookie  
Without any cream,  
The deafening silence  
That follows a scream -

Goodbye, M J

The end of the running  
Of championship Bulls,  
No more defying  
Of gravity's rules,  
Royalty's crown  
Without any jewels -

Goodbye, M J

No more to drown  
In intensity's eyes,  
No more to ponder  
The 'great one' who flies,  
The sunlight has gone  
From the 'friendly skies' -

Goodbye Michael Jordan

(In honor of the best of all time in the world of basketball)

Linda Ori

# Femme Fatale

She always had a way with men,  
Could win them to her side,  
She had them eating from her hand  
Although she never tried;

She wasn't such a beauty,  
No special spell she cast,  
Yet still they sought her company  
Each falling hard and fast;

She was just the girl next door -  
Petite and cute and bright,  
No flaming pageant beauty  
Yet around her shown a light

That held a strange attraction -  
No one could ever blame  
Those unsuspecting victims  
Like moths drawn to her flame;

But that was many years ago  
When youth was in its prime,  
No one has made the effort since  
To occupy her time,

Yet fervent hope still burns there  
Down deep within her soul,  
Although the heart that blazed with fire  
Now smolders black as coal;

The flame has lost its radiance,  
The light has lost its glow,  
The femme fatale has disappeared  
Where passions never flow;

She sits alone and daydreams  
Lost somewhere in her past,  
Caught up in wistful memories  
Of loves she thought would last;

So sad she still remembers  
Those loves of long ago,  
But ask her who she is today.....  
In truth, she doesn't know.

Linda Ori

# First Communion In Uniform

'Twas back in the '80's, yet still plain as day  
First Holy Communion - the month it was May,  
The day before Sunday and time to give prayers  
The priest in his study, the boys in their chairs,  
One came up missing - nowhere to be found,  
Then out in the hallway a clatter of sound -  
One little boy running as cleats hit the ground  
In Little League uniform, late for his game,  
Tossing his glove through the doorway he came -  
Slid to his chair like he'd slid to home base  
The priest had to wipe off the grin on his face;  
All the boys seated in slacks, shirts and ties  
Followed his entrance with wide startled eyes -  
'I'm sorry I'm late, sir, ' he started to say,  
'You know that it's Little League's opening day  
And I have to be there as soon as I'm done -  
Church before baseball - I need a homerun! '  
My son is now grown to a happy young man -  
But he still causes drama whenever he can.  
He'll never fit into the usual flow -  
And people just love him wherever he goes!

Linda Ori

# Football! ! !

Football is my favorite game  
I love to watch them play -  
Those tightly muscled butts and legs  
On an awesome autumn day;  
How fluidly and gracefully  
They dance across the green -  
Such elegant contenders play  
The best I've ever seen;  
Some people think I'm crazy  
The way I love the game -  
But I'd rather be watching football  
Than anything I can name;  
Of course I may be prejudiced  
I love my maize and blue -  
That BIG 10 team that rules the league.....  
You rock the Big House - BLUE! ! !

Linda Ori



# For All Seasons

Shall we be lovers.....

While the grass grows sweet and green  
Beneath the flowering plums of Spring?

Shall we be lovers.....

While the sun spills liquid gold  
Through the lazy leaves of Summer?

Shall we be lovers.....

While the wind stirs scarlet whispers  
From the falling leaves of Autumn?

Shall we be lovers.....

While the crystal snow falls silent  
From the silver skies of Winter?

I think we shall be lovers

Through all the seasons yet to come.....  
Until the end of time.

Linda Ori

## For Evelyn

The eyes are windows to the soul,  
Or so the poets say,  
And I believe the eyes reflect  
The truths our hearts convey,  
They speak of love and gratitude,  
Of wisdom, joy and caring,  
Of hopes and dreams and happiness  
And tender thoughts worth sharing;

Evelyn had the eyes of truth  
So crystal blue and clear,  
The sparkling eyes of happiness,  
Of friendship sweet and dear,  
The angel eyes of wisdom,  
The caring eyes of love,  
The light of understanding  
Sent from somewhere up above;

She'll always be remembered  
By those whose lives she touched,  
She left behind a legacy  
For those she loved so much,  
If eyes be windows to the soul  
Then this is surely true -  
She brought a glimpse of heaven  
To each person than she knew.

Linda Ori

# Forest Sprite

There was a little fairy  
Sat beneath a tree -  
Humming to her tiny self  
A haunting melody;  
Just a little tinkle  
Was all that I could hear  
Floating on the evening breeze  
High and crystal clear;  
Surrounded by a rainbow,  
Sparkles lit the air -  
Tiny wings did flutter  
Sprinkling gold dust in her hair;  
A tiny little forest sprite  
Had slipped the bonds of space,  
Perhaps a mere imagined thought  
Had brought her to this place;  
How sweet the sound she echoed  
Within this forest spot -  
Though I had never seen a sprite  
Her image now I caught;  
This tiny little fairy  
Sat beneath a tree -  
Humming to her tiny self  
A haunting melody.

Linda Ori

## Forest Sprite II

Wandering down the wooded path,  
A sparkle 'neath a tree  
Captures my attention -  
A forest sprite I see;

Lounging on a lilly pad  
Adrift upon a pool,  
A tiny fairy suns herself  
By waters clear and cool;

She seems to be asleeping  
So still her form does lie,  
Yet I detect a whisper  
As I quietly pass by;

'Come close that I may see you,  
For secrets I've to tell' -  
She spoke to me so softly  
Like the tinkling of a bell;

'It's magic that I offer,  
I'm equal to the task -  
I shall grant you one fine wish,  
You've only but to ask';

'Then, I shall ask for wisdom  
To help me find the way  
To open up my mind and let  
My spirit out to play';

Then with a tiny giggle  
She fluttered all around,  
And all the answers came to me  
Without a single sound;

My mind had been awakened  
As if by lightning speed,  
And with her little magic spell  
My spirit had been freed;

Now to this day I wonder  
Just how this came to be,  
To come upon a fairy sprite  
While walking 'neath the trees

In some enchanted forest -  
That day a spell was cast  
My heart was touched by magic -  
Forever it will last.

Linda Ori

## Forest Sprite Iii

'Twas a night of full moon splendor  
I lay restless in my bed,  
A haunting, magic melody  
Danced rainbows in my head;

Sleep was not an option,  
My mind now full awake -  
I grabbed my coat and lantern  
Thought a midnight walk I'd take;

I wandered toward the wooded path,  
The night was full of sound,  
The moon cast eerie shadows  
On the dampened leaf strewn ground;

Now entering the forest dark  
I thought I saw a light  
Away off in the distance  
In the misty woodland night;

My ears detected laughter  
And music crystal clear -  
A most enchanting fairy ring  
From nowhere did appear;

Tiny dancing fairies spun  
In circles round and round -  
Their tiny wings did flutter  
As they hovered o'er the ground;

Rainbow colored forest sprites  
Did chase each other after,  
Then tumble down upon the ground  
In giggling fits of laughter;

As I moved to better see  
I stepped upon a branch -  
Then instantly the fairy sprites  
Did freeze within their dance;

Then quickly in a blinking eye  
The ring did twirl and scatter -  
Leaving golden sparkles in  
A mist of fairy matter;

Once again the midnight sounds  
Returned as if on cue,  
The fairy ring had disappeared  
To where? I have no clue;

Slowly now I wander back  
Into my lucid world,  
I'd stepped into a magic land -  
My mind had been unfurled;

Yet still I question what I saw,  
And wonder at its meaning -  
Had I crossed into another realm,  
Or was I merely dreaming?

Linda Ori

# Forever Yours

Yesterday I saw you once again -  
How long has it been?  
You were deep in thought and walking  
Against the chill wind of the blustery day;  
Still the sight of you takes my breath away  
Just as it has for the past thirty years -  
That little boy face still glows mischievously  
Out from under the silver sprinkled hair  
That I loved to run my fingers through -  
Ah, such fond memories of a sweeter time  
When the world was ours, and love was simple;  
Do you ever think of me and wonder.....  
Could it have lasted, or was it all a dream?  
A rare gift granted to two kindred spirits  
So into each other that you became me  
And I became you.  
I often wonder how it could have been  
When I am lost in dreaming,  
Still somewhere in my heart you remain,  
Just as precious as the first time we met,  
That first glance that sent a shock of recognition  
From some lifetime faraway -  
I knew you then, and I know you still,  
And I will go on knowing every bit of you  
Until my eyes no longer see,  
And my heart ceases to beat.

Linda Ori



# Forgotten

I used to be the one you chose  
To tell your troubles to,  
I listened to your heartfelt words  
When you were down and blue;

I was always there for you  
Like you were there for me,  
But lately things have changed - you're not  
The way you used to be;

In your words a sadness  
Has stripped the color bare;  
And all the warmth that used to be  
Just simply isn't there;

Words that used to mean so much  
No longer dear to you,  
I'm not sure that you hear them now -  
The way you used to do;

You seem to be preoccupied  
Your mind no longer here,  
You've moved into another space  
You're motives are unclear;

The pattern now repeats itself  
Just like it's always been -  
I kept the pace, but lost the race.....  
Forgotten once again.

Linda Ori

# Freedom Of Choice

God's love is unconditional  
It is not bound by strings,  
He does not give the bird a voice  
Then tell it what to sing;

He does not give us wings to fly  
Then tell us where to go,  
He does not give each man a mind  
Then tell him what to know;

Life is an experience -  
Each man will choose his way,  
And if he makes wrong choices  
They'll come back to him one day,

But still he learns the lesson,  
Be it difficult or not -  
God does not tell us what to learn  
Nor dictate how it's taught.

Linda Ori

# From The Heart

I send this message from the heart  
To all who question love's intent  
It's only when we begin to start  
To question what the other meant  
That trust and caring suffer much  
Why can't we just accept the gift  
And not dissect the tender touch  
Or through the feelings start to sift  
And pick apart each little word  
Until the true intent is lost  
Then question what we really heard?  
Love is given from the soul  
By those who care for us the most  
So just believe and question not  
This message from the heart.

Linda Ori

# Full Moon Contemplation

It's said the moon has power over man -  
It governs our body mechanisms,  
Rising and falling biorhythms,  
Lunar months during pregnancy,  
And it plays with our minds:

The full moon is captivating -  
Rising as a ball of orange light in the fall,  
Blazing brilliant white on a winter night  
Enhancing the stars in their midnight glory  
And bathing the earth below in stark half-light:

It mesmerizes lovers and dreamers,  
Promises miracles to those who pray,  
Agitates the mentally unstable mind,  
Inspires the poet to create beautiful words,  
And interrupts our sleep with its magical glow;

It beckons us to explore its mysteries -  
A lucky few have walked its surface  
Leaving footprints for future explorers to follow,  
Always it appears as a beacon of steadfastness,  
An anchor that tethers this unstable planet.

A beautiful sight on a black onyx night.

Linda Ori

# Grandpa's Owl

My father believed in legends of Indian folklore -  
Being raised in the Ohio River valley, he knew his share  
He always believed the incessant hooting of an owl  
Was the harbinger of imminent death.

My youngest son was three when my father died,  
And though he had only met him a few times,  
The bond was strong between them.

One morning he came to me with a dream -  
During the night 'Grandpa's owl' came to him  
As he was playing outside in the yard,  
Swooped down and picked him up  
And flew him off to see Grandpa.

He never knew about the legend of the owl;  
That morning, mother called to tell the tale -  
My father had passed during the night.

He had heard the owl hooting outside his window  
For three nights, and he knew he would pass on soon,  
For that was the Indian legend he believed.

Although my son barely remembers him,  
He feels that he had a special visit that night  
And it's kept Grandpa alive in his heart.

To this day, we always think of him  
Whenever we hear an owl hoot -  
Everyone says.....'There's Grandpa! '

Linda Ori

# Green Peace

The golfer stands upon the green  
with putter in his hand,  
the flag is waving in the breeze -  
he's made it past the sand;  
He checks the slope and calculates  
the distance to the cup,  
assumes the stance, remembering.....  
look at the ball, not up;  
It's not that far, a piece of cake  
to sink it in the hole,  
a practice swing, a gentle tap,  
the ball begins to roll  
gently forward, now it curves  
along the emerald grass,  
but will it drop into that little  
hole.....you bet your ass!

5/24/2014

Linda Ori

## Haiku For You

The message you send  
Heals my heart with empathy -  
You're always my friend.

Your shoulder is strong  
Weary hearts find solace there -  
Your love rights the wrong.

My wonderful friend  
God's gift of precious wonder -  
May it never end.

Linda Ori

# Haiku For You-Fjr

Sentiments in bloom  
Blossom from my golden pen -  
Fragrant petals strewn

Linda Ori



# Handwriting On The Wall

Words that splatter dark  
Dry upon the barren wall -  
Nothing more to say.

Linda Ori

# Hasslefree Poetry

Poems, like poets, have much to say -  
They may describe a rainy day,  
They may sing love songs light and gay  
Or speak of deep despair;

Some poems are short and oh, so sweet -  
Some complex and indiscreet,  
Some say nothing at all concrete  
Just words that make no sense;

The poet knows what the poet means -  
He may be writing about his dreams,  
Or nothing more than a hill of beans  
To catch the readers eye;

Why must poets follow rules?  
Rhyme, and meter and other tools  
Sometimes dull poetic jewels  
Detracting from the flow;

Just open up and let it fly,  
You'll never know unless you try -  
Write poems that make the readers cry  
Regardless of the form;

I like to call it hasslefree -  
This personal type of poetry  
That has a style uniquely 'me' -  
Totally unpredictable!

Linda Ori

# Hope Rising

Leave behind the darkness,  
Your sad and weary ways,  
Make way for new experience -  
Come wander through the maze;

Life is short and fleeting,  
Cut loose the tethered hold,  
Fly upon uplifted wings -  
Embrace, let slip the old;

Hope is ever rising,  
Beckons us from sleep,  
Sunlight smiles through weary lids -  
With promises to keep;

Dance with wild abandon,  
Savor every kiss,  
Heaven's raining blessings.....  
Welcome to your bliss!

Linda Ori

# I Keep Thinkin'

I keep thinkin'.....

When did you decide you were better than me?  
When did you ever try to understand the real me?  
Did you ever really hear what I was saying to you?  
What gives you the right to ignore me?

I keep thinkin'.....

Am I crazy for still wanting to be your friend?  
Is my self image so distorted that I still need you?  
Am I a glutton for punishment to still want you?  
Can I walk away and close the door and start over?

I keep thinkin'.....

I'm better than you ever thought I was.....  
I am capable of greater love than you will ever know.....  
I learned a big lesson in compassion by staying with you.....  
I gave you the knowledge to be a better person.....

Will you cherish what I gave you so freely.....  
Or will you continue to live shallow and alone?  
The choice is yours.

Linda Ori

# If

If I could walk on water  
If I could calm your sea  
Perhaps you'd take a second chance  
And trust your heart to me

If I could make your sun shine  
If I could rise your moon  
Perhaps you'd really look at me  
And see you left too soon

If I could bring you wisdom  
If I could mold your dreams  
Perhaps you'd know just who I am  
All is not as it seems

But then I'd have to wonder  
Whose purpose was defined  
Would you have made these choices  
Had I not controlled your mind?

Linda Ori

## If Only

Lives pass by, intersect and connect,  
Those we would meet come and go -  
Often we don't see the overall plan  
Never meeting the ones we should know;  
It's all about timing, one tick of the clock  
Either brings us together or not,  
And if we are lucky we know in our hearts  
To be thankful for those that we've got;  
Sometimes we're caught up in life's daily grind  
And we never look up from our chores,  
That person we long for that just passed us by  
Might have stayed if we'd opened the doors;  
Then here comes a person straight out of the blue  
That totally blows you away,  
And though he is everything you'd ever want  
He's taken - there's nothing to say  
Except that it's not fair when things like this happen,  
And happen they do all the time,  
You wish things were different, but that's not to be  
So you suffer inside for the crime  
Of loving the one that you never can have  
No matter how hard you may try,  
So you make up your mind to get on with your life  
And just let those feelings pass by;  
If only we'd met when the timing was right  
While walking that infinite mile -  
I'd have given you the universe, the moon and the stars -  
If only you'd lingered awhile.

Linda Ori

# In My Imagination

I am WISDOM..... though I search for knowledge  
I am STRENGTH..... though I fear the unknown  
I am BEAUTY.....though my image tells me otherwise  
I am JOY..... though sadness brings me tears  
I am PEACE..... though conflict fills my life  
I am TRUTH..... though I trust very few  
I am LOVE..... though I am often judgemental

IN REALITY.....

I am PERFECTION.....unrealized.

Linda Ori

# Inspiration Overload

Oh, words! Why do you torture me?  
You spin inside my head -  
I hear you from the morning light  
Until I'm tucked in bed;  
You cry to me unending,  
You interrupt my chores -  
I run for pen and paper  
To record those sounds of yours;  
Some of you are happy,  
Some of you are sad,  
But most of all you pester  
And contrive to drive me mad!  
If I try to block you  
And pretend that you're not there,  
I'll hear you on the radio!  
Do any of you care  
About the stress you cause me?  
I guess the answer's 'No',  
Because here comes another poem -  
And on and on you go!

Linda Ori



# It's All Over But The Crying

Christmas day is over  
The gifts are all unwrapped,  
My patience now is wearing thin,  
My energy is sapped;  
Someone isn't happy  
'Bout the presents that he got -  
'You know I don't like such and such -  
This brand is simply not  
The one that I am used to'.....  
You'd think I would have known,  
No matter that I haven't bought  
Your clothes since you've been grown!

A little understanding  
Would be asking for too much?  
I realize our tastes don't match  
And we've grown out of touch;  
It's called the generation gap,  
It widens every year -  
Some day your kids will wonder why  
The things YOU buy are queer,  
So just be happy that you got  
Anything at all -  
I could have bought you fruitcake  
Or a fuzzy Elmo doll!

And now it's time for me to cry,  
It really is a crime  
That every bloody holiday  
I spend my last red dime  
Trying to please everyone -  
My check book is a mess,  
My credit cards are all maxed out,  
My nerves are shot from stress;  
Next year will be different  
When Christmas time is near -  
I'll fly off to Hawaii,  
Soak up sun and drink some beer!

Linda Ori

# Just A Little

Come love me just a little  
When I have a rainy day,  
Come love me just a little  
When my skies have turned to gray,  
Come love me just a little  
When there's nothing more to say -  
Support me;

Come love me just a little  
When I need your hand to hold,  
Come love me just a little  
When my sunny day turns cold,  
Come love me just a little  
When I feel I'm growing old -  
Comfort me;

Come love me just a little  
When I need to to see your face,  
Come love me just a little  
When the world is on my case,  
Come love me just a little  
When I need your warm embrace -  
Understand me;

I'm not asking for the world,  
I'm not asking for your soul -  
I just need you.

Linda Ori

## Just Thinking.....

Contemplate the universe -  
Just a simple task,  
What would be the purpose  
Of such a task, you ask.....  
Is it pure infinity?  
Is it microcosm?  
Is it all dimensional?  
Is it subliminal?  
Is it extraterrestrial?  
Is it intuition?  
Is it cosmic energy?  
Is it atomic fission?  
Is it internal?  
Is it external?  
Is it the Force?  
Is it the Source?  
Just a little question,  
Really doesn't matter,  
What the perfect answer is.....  
To cause gray matter chatter.

Linda Ori

# Kindred Spirits

I thought I knew you  
Long ago and far away  
In another world.

Thoughts in unison  
Memories of yesterday  
When love was sweeter.

Maybe I know you  
Something so familiar now  
Thaws my frozen heart.

Words I long to hear  
Whisper from your trembling lips  
Touch my very soul.

Heal my broken heart  
Kiss my wounds and make me whole  
Let me live again.

Linda Ori

# Lake House Morning

Waking to the early morning sound  
Of a single trolling motor  
Off in the misty distance  
With the scent of pristine pine  
Breezing gently through the open window;

Sunlight peeking through the rising mist  
Slanting onto sand scuffed floors,  
A damp bathing suit lies crumpled  
In the corner  
Waiting for another early morning dip;

Scent of good strong coffee drifting  
Through the open doorway  
Mixed with subtle lakey smell  
Stirring senses to awaken  
And greet this lovely summer morning;

Soon barking dogs and laughing children  
Will mingle with the incessant honking  
Of Canadian geese  
Wandering aimlessly along the lakefront  
In search of tasty morsels washed ashore;

I must go find my special mug....  
Feet propped on the railing  
Of the deck with chairback tilted  
Against the sunsplashed shingles  
Gazing out across the sparkling ripples;

A sailboat in the distance dips  
Dangerously toward the surface  
As the sail scoops water  
And the occupant dumps  
Into the chilly wake up wetness;

A yell from the startled sailor  
Breaks the hazy coffee daydream  
It's time to snap out of memories

And take up the tasks at hand.....  
Just another lake house morning.

Linda Ori

# Level Of Thought

Negative thinking breeds negative energy -

A lower level of vibration

A lower level of feeling

Slow

Heavy

Depressing

Dead.

Positive thinking breeds positive energy -

A higher level of vibration

A higher level of feeling

Quick

Light

Exciting

Alive.

Careful what thoughts you create -

They will be your reality.

Linda Ori



# Life Descending

Darkness falls in shades of gray  
Where sunlight once did shine,  
Shadows gather deepening  
Thoughts that once were mine;  
Silence echoes all around  
In loud and piercing pall  
Lifeblood throbbing only sound  
Within these darkened walls;  
Slowly ebbing,  
Slowly ebbing,  
Emptiness is all surrounding  
All consuming every breath  
Void of color, only darkness  
Velvet darkness touching death;  
Peaceful quiet, peaceful nothing  
No more thoughts forevermore  
End is nearing, spirit clearing  
Pathway leads to heaven's door -  
Slowly ebbing,  
Slowly ebbing,  
Slowly ebbing  
Nothing more.

Linda Ori

# Life's Lesson

Can we truly understand  
Thoughts and needs of every man  
Living on this blessed earth?  
Not something that we know at birth -  
Something we must strive to know  
Whether man is friend or foe;  
Our lesson is to learn to feel  
Compassion and a love that's real  
For each and every human being  
No matter what our eyes are seeing;  
'Though we live in a different place  
We all make up the human race,  
And each of us is of the One  
In equal force our blood does run,  
No man is better than his brother  
Come Judgement Day there'll be no other  
Reason why we'll stand together  
And rise to heaven like a feather  
There beside the one we hate -  
We'll stand in line outside the gate  
And wait our turn to pass on through -  
And I'll be standing next to you;  
Will you reach your hand to me  
And be of cheer as friends should be,  
Or will you meet me with a grudge  
And to the end still be my judge?  
Life's a chance that's given free  
To be the best that you can be,  
To learn to love your fellow man -  
So trust your heart and know you can.

Linda Ori

# Little Minds

Little minds will box you in  
Hold you fast within the walls  
Of what you know and what you see  
But never let your thoughts run free

To challenge what you understand  
To reach for heights you never knew  
Expand your mind beyond the wall  
Enlightenment your wake up call

There is a safety in your realm  
That bars the dragon's unknown breath  
High walls may be your saving grace  
But shade the sunlight from your face

Reach out and let your mind run free  
Savor knowledge far and wide  
Wisdom comes to those who seek  
Strength will save the mind that's weak

Open up the long locked door  
Breathe the essence of your life  
Take that step outside the box  
Onto the road where wisdom walks.

Linda Ori

## Little Poem

Just a tiny little poem  
It won't take up much space -  
Have I lately said how much  
I love your smiling face?  
Just in case your memory  
Doesn't serve you well,  
Let me tell you one more time.....  
I'm captured 'neath your spell!

Linda Ori

# Lost Dreams

How soon we forget  
The broken dreams of yesterday  
Now scattered across the sands of time  
Like broken bodies half covered and forgotten;

Each with his own  
Dreams that never will come true  
Carried on the winds to who knows where  
Like a thought lost somewhere in mid sentence;

And will they appear  
On the other side of awakening  
To begin the journey one more time  
Like a broken record going 'round and 'round?

How soon we forget  
Today's sad news fades quickly  
Into the hot dry sands of oblivion  
And life goes on just as it always has

But for the grieving  
Suspended now in their sorrow  
Trying to make sense of utter senselessness  
And retrieve those lost dreams for safe keeping.

Linda Ori

# Lost Time

Ten years ago, driving home late at night  
My son in his car sees a shimmering light  
Hovering over a hill far away  
'Wonder what that is, ' he started to say;  
Reached down to put a tape in the deck,  
Clock on the dash reads 2: 30 - he checked  
Glancing back up at the road he could see  
Five more lights hanging over the trees;  
All of a sudden the engine goes dead,  
He steers the car towards a pull-off ahead;  
Took a few seconds to maneuver the car  
Off to the edge since it wasn't that far;  
Reaching back down to examine the tape  
The engine starts running, the tires start to scrape  
Loose gravel flying all over the road,  
Music starts blaring in panic mode;  
Glancing back down to the clock on the dash  
The time now 3: 30 -gone by in a flash!  
Ten minutes later he runs through the door  
Shaking and sweating and pacing the floor,  
I come from the bedroom to check out the noise  
The sight I behold is NOT one of my boys,  
His face is death white like he's just seen a ghost  
(And this is my son who is braver than most)  
He's shaking so badly he can't even speak  
His knees are like jello, he's starting to freak!  
Long minutes pass 'til he finally calms down  
And although he speaks, he keeps looking around;  
Something transpired the night of that ride  
But still we don't know cause he keeps it inside;  
One missing hour he'll never regain  
But just where it went he can never explain.

I

Linda Ori

# Memories

It seems like only yesterday  
The first time that we met  
He filled my heart with happiness  
And dreams I can't forget;  
I looked into his smiling eyes  
And saw my future there  
For this was the beginning  
Of the life we were to share;  
He taught me oh so many things  
I'd never known before  
Of love and understanding  
Of sacrifice and more;  
He brought me days of sunshine  
And also days of rain  
At times he brought such gladness  
And other times such pain;  
Sometimes he was an angel  
His sweetness never ceased,  
At other times he turned into  
A hateful little beast;  
But nothing that he ever did  
Could take away the pride  
I felt each time I looked at him  
He made me melt inside;  
It seems like only yesterday  
He came into my life,  
But soon I know my little boy  
Will trade me for a wife.

Linda Ori



# Memories On Your Birthday

You taught me how to bake a cake  
So many years ago,  
You took me swimming in the lake  
And walking in the snow;  
We went to watch 'The Black Hand'  
And 'Wake of the Red Witch', too -  
I don't remember many things  
I couldn't make you do;  
You used to put my hair up  
In pins to make it curl,  
So many hours I spent with you  
When I was just a girl;  
You'd come and play piano  
And I loved to hear you play,  
Your fingers danced like butterflies  
On a lazy summer day;  
I loved to eat your sandwiches  
Of butter and cream cheese  
Whenever I would spend the night  
Or picnic 'neath the trees;  
You spoke to me of many things  
That now I understand -  
We wander through 'Green Mansions'  
With our spirits hand in hand;  
I have so many memories  
To last my whole life through,  
If anyone has touched my heart  
It certainly was you;  
I feel we have a special bond  
That few will ever know,  
And we'll always be together  
Wherever the road may go.

Written for my favorite' aunt' five months before she died of a stroke. I had a feeling I wouldn't see her again, and it was true.

Linda Ori

## Mere Words

Today you called to say hello,  
To say you love me - now I know  
Just why your words enthrall me so.....  
I love you.

Your conversation melts my heart,  
Though we are many miles apart  
Such hopes and dreams your words impart.....  
You love me.

Perhaps one day our paths will meet,  
We'll taste that love and feel the heat,  
Your kiss will make my world complete.....  
Embrace me.

Now speak to me of love and dreams,  
Of lazy days by whispering streams,  
Let me know how much it means.....  
To love me.

Until that day when love is real  
Mere words convey what hearts would feel,  
Let destiny in time reveal.....  
Our future.

Linda Ori

# Midnight At Eight - A Timely Poem

Time is so confining -  
Einstein had the right intent  
In third dimension we exist  
In fourth, time can be bent;  
Why not exist in timeless space  
In future, past and now  
I think it makes a lot more sense  
Although I don't know how;  
If this may be our only hour  
And if we blow this moment  
Then we may never meet again  
Or have time for atonement  
So I think we should change the hours  
And eliminate the wait  
I'll meet you at midnight in my own time -  
So let's make it midnight at eight!

(How's That for Timing?) MNA

Linda Ori

# Midnight State Of Mind

Six a.m..... the alarm is beepin'  
Hit the snooze and keep on sleepin'  
Crazy dream..... want to go on keepin'  
That midnight state of mind;

Another workday, and I'm not ready  
To hit the grind and keep goin' steady  
Colleagues kickin' over somethin' petty -  
Want my midnight state of mind;

Tryin' to work but my mind's not in it,  
Wantin' my way but I just can't win it,  
Just can't tolerate one more minute -  
Without my midnight state of mind;

Clock out time and I'm out the door  
Gotta run over to the grocery store  
Pick up some chips and a six-pack o' Coors -  
Come on midnight state of mind!

Hit the den and log  
Check my e-mail while tryin' to dine  
Back on PH and the world is fine -  
I'm in my midnight state of mind.

Linda Ori

# Midnight Visitation

Three o'clock in the morning  
And I am wide awake -  
Something roused me from my sleep -  
The room is all aglow  
And over in the corner  
A mirage of shimmering light  
Heightens my awareness  
In the stillness of the night;  
And as I lay there watching  
The mirage begins to move -  
Coming ever closer  
Though I am not afraid;  
I feel a strange sensation  
Of peacefulness and love  
This vision has a tenderness  
I recognize the scent  
Of someone dear I used to know -  
She's come to visit me;  
Slowly from the shimmering light  
A tendril reaches out  
And softly brushes o'er my cheek  
A fleeting sweet caress  
Then slowly disappears;  
Was this just a waking dream?  
Or was she truly here?  
I'd never ever seen a ghost,  
And yet I had no fear;  
We used to play the ouija board  
When she was still alive  
She always said she'd let us know  
What happens when she died;  
If anyone could do just that  
I know it would be her -  
She was always someone special  
Even on the other side!

Linda Ori

# Moonglow

Did you see the moon tonight  
Hanging 'tween the trees?  
Blazing in her splendor bright  
She kissed the evening breeze;

Playful shadows skipped and danced  
Along the silent shore -  
Reflecting off the water's edge  
Across the valley floor;

A wishing moon, as some would say  
All lovers would agree -  
It holds all secrets great and small  
And whispered thoughts set free;

This regal beauty of the night  
Reigns mystical on high,  
She governs all the earth below  
And dominates the sky;

If dreams be colored by her glow  
And wishes granted, too -  
May all my dreams be realized,  
And let my wish come true!

Linda Ori

# My Choice

Today I thought I really must  
Sit down and write a poem,  
I had no topic in my mind  
Just lounging here at home,  
And then I thought about my life,  
How fortunate am I  
To bask in comfort, warm and safe -  
My nest is soft and dry;  
I have no need to venture out  
Unless I make that choice,  
It's peaceful here and quiet  
I don't need to raise my voice  
Unless I care to make some noise,  
To let myself be heard,  
But even then it's up to me  
To speak or write the words;  
How fortunate to have the choice  
To dictate how I live,  
I may choose to hoard my wealth  
Or I may choose to give;  
There are those who have no say  
In what each day will bring,  
Someone else controls their lives,  
Dictates the songs they sing -  
They have no rights, they feel no love,  
Their lives are cold and dead,  
And all the dreams they long to dream  
Lie dormant in their heads;  
I guess sometimes I take for granted  
All the gifts I own,  
Maybe today I'll share a few  
With someone who's alone  
Because I know it means much more  
To give than to receive,  
It's time to venture out, I think.....  
To live what I believe.

Linda Ori

# My Friends

Some friends I turn to for comfort  
Some friends I turn to for fun  
Some friends are there when I need them  
And some friends are second to none;  
Some friends will give me attention  
Some friends will give me a call  
Some friends Just know what I'm saying  
When I'm saying nothing at all;  
Some friends will give me the shirt off their back  
Some friends will give their last dime  
Some friends will give up their moments  
To give me the gift of their time;  
These are the friends that I treasure  
These are the friends that will last  
These are the friends I can count on  
When all other friendships are past.

Linda Ori



# My Life

I am a child of innocence,  
I am a child of grace,  
Sent here for this existance  
In this God forsaken place;  
I did not come with orders  
I do not know the rules,  
I only do the best I can  
And often I'm the fool;  
But this is my existance -  
I'll learn from my mistakes,  
Experiences varied  
To teach me what it takes  
To blossom into wisdom,  
To love my fellow man,  
To sow the seeds of friendship  
In every way I can;  
And if I use my talents  
The best that I know how,  
My spirit may touch someone  
Who really needs me now;  
I chose my present journey  
Waiting on the other side -  
If I knew then what I know now  
I might rethink the ride!

Linda Ori

# Navigating The Black Hole

I skirt the perimeter  
Biding my time,  
Walking on eggshells,  
Avoiding the crime  
Of caring too deeply -

I don't understand  
This one sided affair,  
I give you my all  
But you're barely there -  
What's the point?

Sometimes I wonder  
Why I pursue  
This fantasy life  
I've chosen with you -  
I keep trying.....

To keep you amused,  
I long for your touch,  
I try to be patient  
Not give you too much  
Or push you away;

But now you are distant  
Your words aren't the same,  
I think you've grown tired  
Of playing this game,  
Your coolness I feel;

As I contemplate black holes  
And things that fall in,  
No chance for retrieval  
Of all that has been.....  
You're not coming back.

Linda Ori

## Next Time

Tell me not to love you,  
Tell me not to care,  
Tell me not to want you  
When I see you standing there  
With eyes so full of sadness,  
With arms that ache to hold,  
With lips that beg for kisses  
And endearments left untold;

How can I never touch you?  
How can I never know  
Again that tender passion -  
How can I let it go?  
That other half of everything  
That I have finally found -  
The mirror of my spirit  
That my heart is wrapped around;

Just tell me how to do this,  
Just tell me how to start,  
Just tell me how I'm going  
To survive with half a heart -  
If you know the answer  
And if you really care  
Then pretend it doesn't matter  
When you see me standing there;

Whatever your emotion,  
Whatever face you wear  
You'll see in my reflection  
For we're two halves of a pair;  
How sad to find the spirit  
That compliments your soul  
And never get the chance  
To blend the halves into the whole;

Next time I will find you  
After darkness turns to light -  
Next time we'll remember

And next time we'll get it right!

Linda Ori

# Night Terror

Running scared  
Through deserted countryside  
Hiding beneath the trees, breath in ragged gasps -  
In the dark heavens overhead, tiny 'stars'  
Begin to group and cluster;  
Random laser striking electric blue, green and red  
Scan above the trees and cast eerie shadows;  
Looming silently overhead  
Massive darkness pulsates, pulsates.  
Barely breathing now, every nerve on naked edge  
Waiting, waiting.  
Huge explosion! Flaming meteors from heaven  
Pierce the silent earth at random -  
Humans running, falling, vaporized in mid stride -  
Screams wrench from frozen throat -  
'Help me! help me! '  
Instantly aware of surroundings -  
Unable to move,  
Heart pounding in my ears,  
Covers grasped tightly under my chin-  
Silence..... only ragged expiration - inspiration  
Expiration - inspiration.  
Slowly, cramped fingers release the crumpled blanket,  
Deep sigh of relief.....  
Only a nightmare -  
Hope I didn't wake the neighbors next door!

Linda Ori

# October Night

I was a youngster - a girl in my teens,  
He was captain of the school football team -  
The month of October, full moon shining bright,  
An old fashioned hayride on a Saturday night;  
Parked his Chevy in the drive and walked up to my door  
I thought I would faint dead away on the floor,  
How was I so lucky to capture his eye?  
This larger than life, most incredible guy.  
We dressed in team jerseys smuggled out of the gym,  
I looked like a miniature reflection of him,  
The night air was crisp -our breath hung in the air,  
The frost bit my fingers, but I didn't care  
Caught up in the moment with the guy of my dreams  
Autumn Perfection in still frame.....It seems  
Like just yesterday that long ago night  
A memory so precious, and my world so right -  
This blast from the past brought to life once again  
By an e-mail surprise.....birthday wishes from HIM! ! !

Linda Ori

# Ode To A Flower

Delicate and fragile,  
So lovely to the eye -  
One of heaven's beauties  
Tumbled from the sky;

Come to rest upon the earth,  
This lovely little flower -  
Awakened by the morning sun,  
Warming by the hour;

Raising up her lacey head,  
Fanning out her petals -  
A flash of velvet brilliance  
Standing tall among the nettles;

Perhaps a gift sent from the gods  
To brighten up the world,  
Reflecting answers to our prayers  
On petals now unfurled;

A fleeting ray of sunshine,  
An angel feather lost -  
A breath of heaven's sweet perfume  
Released from midnight's frost;

Just a little springtime flower  
Warmed by earth's embrace -  
Sent to bring a smile to all  
Who gaze upon her face.

Linda Ori

# Ode To A Rainy Day

Pitter patter -what's the matter?  
Can't go out and play?  
Pitter patter - getting madder -  
Hate this rainy day;  
Thunder, lightning - it's so frightening!  
Let's go run and hide,  
Find a place that's warm and cozy -  
Leave the storm outside;  
Splish splash - lightning flash!  
Between the drops of rain,  
Tumbling like a waterfall  
Down the window pane;  
Something sort of comforting  
Listening to the rain -  
Pitter patter, skitter skatter -  
Like my thoughts today -  
Washing out the cobwebs  
Is refreshing - let's go play!

Linda Ori



# Ode To Charlie

Oh, my dear fair weather friend,  
Do you think my love would end  
If you forgot to spread your coat  
So I could walk across the moat  
On some dark day when sun won't shine,  
And rain may come to spoil the wine  
I share with love and gratitude  
Although I guess I could be rude  
And chastise you for lack of plan  
(So typical of any man)  
To bring umbrellas for protection  
From the rain in all directions  
I would rather jump in puddles  
Or under rooftops run for cuddles  
When the rain comes 'pissing down'  
I wouldn't show up with a frown  
I'd just be glad that you were there  
We'd still be lovers - foul or fair.

Linda Ori

# Ode To George

Who is this man with bearded face?  
A child from some forgotten race,  
An alien from outer space  
That just fell from a star;  
Who is this man with turquoise eyes?  
Reflections of the desert skies  
That have the power to hypnotize  
And see into the soul;  
Who is this man that speaks of love  
For all the earth and all above  
Who comforts with a velvet glove  
That soothes the troubled heart?  
Who is this man that teaches all  
To search the soul and heed the call  
Respect this life or lose it all  
The truth resides within;  
Who sent this man to touch our lives,  
Define the goal toward which man strives  
To guarantee that earth survives  
To mend our reckless ways?  
He must have come from worlds away  
A random sparkle from a ray  
Of light so precious one could say  
'An angel touched my heart.'  
And one day I would hope to learn  
That I have touched you in return,  
This candle lit will always burn  
Because of you, my friend.

For a mentor from the old days of soul searching

Linda Ori

# Ode To Rhiannon

I wish I knew you better  
Little flower from above  
A tiny little sparkle  
Full of laughter, full of love;  
I wish I knew you better  
And the place from where you came,  
You must have been a fairy  
For Rhiannon is your name;  
Your mother must have known you  
From some long forgotten dream,  
Your father must have wished you  
To be everything you seem;  
And if I had the power  
To make all your dreams come true,  
I'd wish for all that's wonderful  
And beautiful for you.

For my lovely granddaughter - a real fairy princess

Linda Ori

# Only You

If I could choose a loving heart  
To compliment my own,  
If I could choose a smiling face  
The sweetest I have known,  
If I could choose a caring soul  
To understand my ways -  
I know it would be you;

If I could ask for tenderness  
To soothe my troubled mind,  
If I could ask for honesty  
Complete and unrefined,  
If I could ask for loyalty  
No matter what the price -  
Then I would ask for you;

If I could dream of paradise  
Within a warm embrace,  
If I could dream of drowning  
In the sweetness of a face,  
If I could dream of passion  
To last a lifetime through -  
Then I would dream of you;

For you are all the wonders  
That I would ever know,  
And you are all the feelings  
That I would ever show,  
For no one else completes me  
Or compliments my soul -  
And I thank God for you.

A wedding poem for my best friend's daughter.

Linda Ori

## Out Of Your Mind

Sometimes there are things that just have to change  
When you're swimming upstream in your life  
Your head keeps on banging that hard cement wall  
Till it just doesn't work anymore  
The things you were hoping for just don't pan out  
No matter how hard you keep trying  
Then one day a light shines through all of the crap  
And you wonder just what you were thinking  
So, how many hours have you wasted in limbo  
While your life has been passing you by?  
You don't have forever to figure it out  
So just take a deep breath now and fly!

Linda Ori

# Passage

There is a new beginning  
At the moment we pass on -  
A special understanding comes  
When darkness turns to dawn;  
There is a new beginning  
Once the spirit is set free -  
The door that closes opens  
To reveal Eternity.....

Linda Ori

# Passing Ships

Maybe I should have told you sooner  
That I thought you were wonderful?  
Maybe I should have pushed you a bit more  
Or forced my affections on you?  
Maybe I should have put all my cards on the table  
At the very beginning?  
Maybe I should have made the supreme effort  
To enhance this obvious connection?  
Maybe I should not have held back my feelings  
For fear of having them rejected by you?  
Maybe I should not have ruffled your feathers  
Quite so many times - unintentionally?  
Maybe I should not have craved your attention  
Every minute of every day?  
Maybe we should have cut to the chase - point blank.....

Instead.....we are just passing ships in the night.

Linda Ori

# Patience

You ask me to be patient,  
Things will work out well -  
I sit here and I wonder  
In this waiting room in Hell;

My mind jumps to conclusion  
Should I trust or run away?  
Just a little longer now -  
That's all that you can say:

I have no light to guide me,  
My instinct says take care -  
I used to trust so easily  
But now I must beware;

I'm standing on that precipice  
About to make the leap -  
I hope my faith sustains me  
And the waters aren't too deep;

And so I sit here waiting  
Cause it all depends on you -  
I close my eyes, breathe deeply  
Nothing else that I can do

Until you make your mind up  
And you're ready to move on -  
Remind me that you love me  
More than life, or I'll be gone.

Linda Ori



# Perception

I have come to the conclusion  
Through a process of perusion  
That the source of our confusion  
Lies in concepts we believe;  
There's a purpose in revision  
It facilitates decision  
And deliniates our mission -  
Understand what we believe;  
When we fail to seek direction  
And refuse to make correction  
Then our truth is a reflection  
Of the thoughts that we conceive;  
Now's the time to make concession  
We must join in the procession  
If we hope to learn the lesson  
That we struggle to achieve -  
Put an end to pursecurtion  
Let the soul seek evolution  
Look inside for the solution -  
We become what we believe.

Linda Ori

## Plain Paper

Just a simple piece of paper  
Lying naked on the floor,  
It had so much potential  
To turn into something more;  
Completely void of color,  
Completely void of lines,  
An empty artist's canvas  
Waiting for a poet's rhyme;  
A chance to tell a story,  
A chance to make you smile,  
Pretty words upon the paper  
Make it famous for awhile;  
Just a simple piece of paper  
Like a garden set to bloom  
With a little bit of nurturing  
Fed by a poet's plume;  
Sad and lonely piece of paper  
Lying naked on the floor,  
I'll cover you with words  
And turn you into so much more.

Linda Ori

# Precious One

Sugar sweetness in angel form  
Laughter and kisses divine  
The day that God made you  
The heavens rejoiced  
And placed you right here in my arms;  
The wonder of innocence  
Shines in your eyes  
You give all your love in a smile  
A bundle of laughter  
A sparkle of magic  
That touches my heart and my soul;  
Forever in awe of you precious one  
My love overflows with no bounds  
You've stolen my heart  
You were mine from the start  
My sweet little angel divine.

Linda Ori

# Put On The Brakes!

My thoughts are a spinnin'  
There's smoke in the air -  
Got so much confusion  
It's curlin' my hair!

I know what I know but.....  
Sometimes I must wonder -  
My mind likes to trick me  
And pull me asunder;

Although I have wisdom  
Sometimes it gets lost -  
My gray matter's shrinking,  
My wires get crossed!

I know when the time comes  
To put on the brakes -  
Slow down, take it easy  
Make no more mistakes;

Make certain my circuits  
Are fully aligned -  
Put pen to the paper  
And empty my mind;

OK, now that's better  
I'm back to myself -  
Just dust off my cover  
Put me back on my shelf.

Linda Ori

# Read My Mind

Abstract thoughts in random pattern  
Bouncing off the rings of Saturn -  
In a galaxy far, far away;  
Some would say 'she's out to lunch! '  
Her grape's no longer in the bunch,  
One sandwich short of a picnic lunch -  
And I say that's OK;  
Cause all those thoughts make one smart cookie  
This poetess, she ain't no rookie,  
All ya gotta do is take one lookie -  
She's got her head on straight!  
My thoughts, tho' strange, belong to me  
But if you're nice, I'll let you see  
Just how strange those thoughts may be -  
If you dare to read my mind.

Linda Ori

# Reality Check

How fragile is the thread  
That anchors us to reality,  
That spans the gap between here and there;  
How easily we flow  
From one side to the other  
With barely a thought interrupted;  
'Tis part of the process -  
Reason is not selective  
Of the source from which it comes;  
And therefore may be real or not;  
How much of inspiration  
Is personal belief  
And how much is fantasy?  
Do our lives get caught up  
In the passion that is word  
And the fine line becomes blurred?  
Do we become the product  
Of our own imagination  
With addiction to the written word?  
'Tis a very fine thread  
That anchors us to reality.....  
Is it strong enough to hold us there?

Linda Ori

## Remember?

Do you not remember me  
The one who set your feelings free  
And brought you to your knees.....

Do you not recall the days  
You threw away your careless ways  
And lost your heart to me.....

Do you not relive those nights  
Of wild abandon - timeless flights  
Into a magic place.....

Where I was all you needed then  
Oh, surely you remember when  
The world was ours alone.....

The magic still remains with me  
It hurts to know that you don't see  
How much those moments meant.....

In quiet times I hope you know  
Deep in your heart I loved you so.....  
And maybe shed a tear.

Linda Ori

# Restless Wind

There is a known phenomenon,  
A universal state,  
When everything's turned upside down  
And dumped upon your plate;

You run around in circles,  
Your mind is out of sync,  
Completely out of balance  
And it's driving you to drink!

The natives call it 'restless wind'  
I can't recall the name -  
It's totally frustrating  
And probably to blame

For my lack of creativity,  
My pen has long gone dry -  
I hit my head against the wall  
So hard it makes me cry;

Now that's a bit unsettling,  
It's time to get a grip -  
There must be something I can write  
Straight-shooting from the hip;

Nothing too incredible,  
Something short and sweet  
Might be just the ticket now  
To stand me on my feet;

So..... OK, Frank, I get the point  
Not good to sit and stew -  
Instead I'll get off my dead butt  
And write this poem for you!

Thanks for the boost, Frankie J. I needed that!





# Rude Awakening

Is that another strand I see? !  
Silver winking back at me  
From where my blonde (brown) used to be.....  
This really makes me mad!

Another wrinkle on my face  
Taking up its own sweet space,  
Guess I know who wins this race.....  
It really makes me sad;

No matter how I fight this foe,  
There's no rare miracle, I know  
To stop this monster as I grow  
Older by the day!

Creams and lotions, dye and bleach  
Still it hides beyond their reach,  
Undermining all they preach  
And oh! The price I pay!

Getting older is a crime,  
Especially when I'm in my prime -  
There's no stopping Father Time  
He sneaks beneath my skin,

Leaving wrinkles in his wake,  
Now my hair and teeth are fake,  
Oh! This is a big mistake.....  
A war I cannot win!

Linda Ori

# Sad Green Eyes

You look at me with sad green eyes,  
I'm overcome with feeling-  
Such deep emotion they disguise,  
Yet send my senses reeling; They speak to me of loneliness  
And feelings unexpressed,  
Of hopes and dreams unrealized  
And love gone uncaressed; They cry to me of urgency  
To experience it all-  
But here you are in limbo  
With your back against the wall; I wish I had the answers  
To the questions they impose-  
I'm drowning in those sad green eyes  
And the sorrow only grows; If I had one magic wish,  
You know what it would be?  
To see instead of sad green eyes  
Green eyes that smile for me.

Linda Ori

# Scattered Ashes

Will you love me in the future  
Like you're loving me today,  
When our skin in old and wrinkled  
And what hair we have is gray?

Will you love me when I'm sleeping  
Warm and cozy in my chair,  
Oblivious to everything -  
My life without a care?

Will you gaze at me and wonder  
What it was that stole your heart -  
Will you hope we'll live forever,  
That we'll never be apart?

Will you cherish every moment  
That we've shared in years gone by,  
Will you find me over yonder  
When my time has come to die?

Let's make a pact to celebrate  
Our lives when they are done,  
Let our spirits travel onward  
Side by side beyond the sun,

May our ashes blend together  
As they scatter o're the land -  
On the other side of heaven  
We'll be walking hand in hand.

Linda Ori

# Season Of Change

There is a wistfulness in the breeze  
That caresses my hair  
And the warmth of the autumn sun  
Stirs a longing in my soul -  
Where did the time go?

I recall days of endless wonder  
Never at a loss for adventure  
Experience filled my days  
With joy and sorrow -  
I never thought it would end;

Now I treasure every moment  
Holding them close to my heart  
Making deep impressions  
To last me through the winter  
For spring may never come;

And you will be the one thought  
That will carry me through the night  
Stay close, my love,  
Whisper soft and sweet  
The words I'll always remember.

Linda Ori

# Secrets

I wonder if you understand  
The power held within your hand  
That burns into my very soul -  
I wonder if you know.....

That I can see through your disguise  
The fire burning in your eyes -  
Reflections of your deepest thoughts -  
I wonder if you know.....

That I've become a part of you -  
The something that you always knew  
Was waiting just beyond your reach -  
I wonder if you know.....

The passion burning in my heart,  
The love that's tearing me apart,  
The dreams that never can come true -  
I wonder if you know.....

That I would give all I possess  
To linger in your sweet caress -  
You're everything that I desire.....  
I wonder if you know.

Linda Ori

# Self Analysis

I write when I'm feeling elated  
I write when I'm feeling sad,  
My poems are all thoughts I've created  
Some may be good and some bad;  
Some people like to accuse me  
Of living inside of my head,  
Well, I've lived in places less friendly  
And too many words I have said;  
I may have stepped over the boundary  
Of walls that I shouldn't have climbed  
But when there's an issue to ponder  
I just have to put it to rhyme;  
I hope that my words have some impact  
At least in a positive way,  
As long as the people keep reading  
I'll keep finding something to say!

Linda Ori

# September

Brilliant blue splattered  
With crayola colored leaves -  
Wind blown and tattered.

Frost on the pumpkins  
Corn stalks shocked in silent rows  
Like country bumpkins.

Linda Ori



# Shades Of Autumn

I felt it in the air today  
Summertime's demise,  
The crispness of the morning air  
Caught me by surprise;  
I should have known the time was near  
I've felt it coming on,  
The urge to rearrange the house  
Has lately been so strong;  
I need to have the carpets cleaned  
And paint the children's room,  
Hang some cheerful curtains up  
To chase away the gloom;  
For winter can't be far away  
As falling leaves predict  
That soon the branches will be bare  
And all the flowers picked;  
When the air is clear and vibrant  
And the dogs bark far away,  
I know it won't be long before  
Autumn's here to stay.

Linda Ori

## Side By Side As One

Two souls joined now hand in hand  
That once were but a grain of sand  
In the vast expanse of time;  
How wondrous that your soul found mine  
In this whole span of space and time,  
Like a beacon you called out to me  
And I to you;  
Through all time, my love, my friend  
You'll stand beside me to the end  
And then beyond -  
When we are but a grain of sand  
In the vast expanse of time,  
Yet side by side still joined as one  
To sparkle in the morning sun;  
How well your hand fits into mine  
As though designed for me alone,  
And now our hearts are intertwined  
As morning glories on the vine  
We'll wind our way up to the sun  
Side by side as one;  
Though rain may fall and dark descend,  
And wind may cause our hearts to bend,  
I have no fear for you will be  
Forever near, forever dear -  
The keeper of my soul.

Linda Ori

## Simple Poems

Sometimes I like to write a poem  
That doesn't take much thought  
Just put the pen to paper  
Close my eyes and start to jot;  
I give my pen the freedom  
To travel where it may  
Such wonderful surprises come  
From minds let out to play;  
No structure, rhyme or rhythm,  
To complicate the flow  
Just pure and simple language  
From a source that I don't know;  
It's difficult to write a poem  
That's technically correct  
When all I want to do is play  
With thoughts that don't connect;  
Sometimes you gotta let it say  
Whatever comes to mind  
Some poems just like to write themselves -  
Those are the funnest kind!

Linda Ori

## Some People

Some people never leave your heart  
Although they leave your door -  
They linger in the loving part  
And touch you to the core;

You only have to reach inside  
To find their spirit's light -  
For deep within they still abide  
Although they're out of sight;

Don't cry for kisses never tasted  
Treasure those you've had -  
Time spent in love is never wasted  
Cherish and be glad;

For loved ones gone are still a part  
Of everything we do -  
They leave their memories in our heart  
And touch our spirits, too.

Linda Ori

# Sometimes When I'M Dreaming

Sometimes when I'm dreaming.....

My world is bright and clear -  
I know my heart,  
I know my part,  
No hesitance or fear;

Sometimes when I'm dreaming.....

I wander through the night -  
To distant lands,  
I grasp the hands  
Of poverty and plight;

Sometimes when I'm dreaming.....

I have the power to cure -  
The weak of heart,  
Lives torn apart,  
My faith is strong and pure;

Sometimes when I'm dreaming.....

The answers come to light -  
Which path to take,  
Which choice to make,  
No question which is right;

Sometimes when I'm dreaming.....

I feel you standing near -  
You calm my storm,  
Your heart is warm,  
Your love for me is clear;

Sometimes when I'm dreaming.....

I just enjoy the view -  
I'm in my space,  
My perfect place,  
That's when I dream of you.

Linda Ori

# Sports Fanatic

My wonderful son has a way with the girls -  
He's tough and he's buff, and he has lots of curls -  
He loves to play sports and he's usually found  
Lifting, or batting or golfing a round;  
His den is his trophy room - all black and white  
A staunch White Sox fan from morning 'til night  
In front of the big screen for hours he'll sit  
Engrossed in the sport to the very last hit;  
His ankles are taped, his knee gives him fits  
But he just keeps on playin' - the guy never quits!  
So either he's playing or watching a game,  
He lives it, and breathes it - there's nothing the same  
Since he was a little tyke sports are his life,  
I pity the girl that he takes for his wife!

For Jimmy - my 'sports nut' son

Linda Ori

# Stolen Moments

Our paths had crossed so many times  
With neither one aware  
The future held a sweet surprise  
A love beyond compare;  
And then one day our paths did meet  
Caught totally off guard  
Like falling through a vortex  
And landing fast and hard;  
I recognized you at first sight  
You recognized me, too  
Like gazing in a mirror  
Struck by lightning from the blue;  
But you were not available  
My circumstance the same  
And so we made a pact that day  
To somehow play this game;  
This game of such sweet sorrow  
Of love so bittersweet  
A game of stolen moments  
Whenever we could meet;  
You showered me with tenderness  
And made me feel alive  
The part of me that had been dead  
Had somehow been revived;  
And even tho' we both knew well  
One day our lives must part  
I carry all your tears and joys  
Tucked warmly in my heart;  
They get me through the bad times  
They hold me close at night  
And still those stolen moments  
Are the ones that seemed so right;  
My life's been blessed a thousand times  
It's hard to comprehend  
How something so incredible  
One day could ever end;  
But life goes on and so did we  
We went our separate ways  
But you will always own my heart

Until my dying day.

And beyond until we meet again.

Linda Ori



# Strength

Let me be your comfort  
Let me be your friend  
Let your worries flow through me  
Let your troubles end;  
Let me give you sympathy  
Let me take your hand  
Let me give you all I have  
Let me help you stand;  
Let my spirit touch you  
Let my strength be yours  
Let me guide you through the maze  
Let me fight your wars;  
Let me give you time to dream  
Let me give you peace  
Let me kiss away your tears  
Let your worries cease;  
If you let me love you  
If you let me care  
If you let me be your strength  
You know that I'll be there.

Linda Ori

# Sweet Baby

Baby, sweet baby, with tears in your eyes  
Rest your head gently, there's no need to cry,  
Come let me sing you a soft lullaby  
The sandman is coming and dreamland is nigh;

Baby, sweet baby, with skin soft and fair  
And little pink ribbons done up in your hair,  
In your tiny world there should not be a care  
May angels surround you and send you a prayer;

Baby, sweet baby, your cute button nose  
Your soft tiny fingers and sweet baby toes  
Have truly bewitched me and nobody knows  
How the depth of my love for you just grows and grows;

So precious and tender your love is to me,  
Until I first held you, I never could see  
How wonderfully magical my life could be -  
You've opened my heart and my spirit is free!

For my sweet little angel Shelby Lynn

Linda Ori

# Sweet Somethings

Chocolate eclaire  
Creamy, dreamy confection -  
Indulge if you dare!

Strawberry shortcake  
Smothered high with whipping cream -  
Negates my sport shake.

Chocolate covered ants -  
Exotic delicacy  
(Not those in your pants) !

Bubbling hot spiced wine  
Slowly seeps into your brain -  
Makes you feel just fine!

Midnight PH friend  
Tops my list of sweetest things -  
With writings well-penned.

Linda Ori

# Take A Chance

I'm not the one you long for, that you worship and adore  
I'm not the one your heart is crying for  
I'm not that pretty sweet young lass that colors all your dreams  
I'm not your cute angelic girl next door  
I'm not your inspiration, or the object of your poems  
I'm not the long-time memory you keep  
I'm not the one to hold you so your heart would never roam  
I'm not the one you dream of in your sleep

.....BUT.....

I could make you love me if you give me half a chance  
I could be an inspiration true  
I could write you sonnets that would make your spirit dance  
I could give you feelings bright and new  
I could make you wonder what you're missing in your life  
I could make your wildest dreams come true  
I could make you love me if you give me half a chance -  
I could be the other half of you.

Linda Ori

# Take It To The Sea

Where do you go when you're weary,  
Where do you go when you're sad,  
Where do you go when your world's dark and cold  
And no comfort is there to be had?

Where do you vent all your anger,  
Where do you throw all your hate,  
Where do you run when you just need to run  
When you turn your life over to fate?

You drown all your cares in the water,  
You float all your worries asea,  
You rock in the arms of the soft rolling waves  
And your mind from its prison flows free;

You gaze at the stars in the heaven,  
Your thoughts become one with the moon,  
You realize the wonder of all that you are  
'Cross the heavens your worries are strewn;

Now you are one with the water,  
You've given yourself to the sea,  
The sailor comes home to the ocean -  
Your spirit from bondage set free.

Linda Ori

# The 200

It started many years ago  
My love affair with words  
From comics to the classics on the shelf -  
The power of the written word  
Could set my spirit free  
Could take me on a voyage by myself;  
While sitting in the comfort of  
My favorite easy chair  
I've traveled to the corners of the earth -  
And sometimes far beyond that  
To horizons yet unknown  
I've contemplated miracles of birth;  
Yes, I have been a reader  
And a writer of these words  
For many hours they've occupied my mind -  
How could I live without them?  
They're the nourishment I crave  
A better lover would be hard to find;  
So on this sweet occasion  
As I celebrate this goal  
Two hundred poems have tumbled from my pen -  
I hope to write two hundred more  
Before my thoughts run dry.....  
And then I'll start all over once again.

Linda Ori

# The Cat

Gliding, gleaming, slithering  
'Round about the furniture -  
Silky, slinking silently  
Down the stairway's curvature -  
Padding quickly, quietly  
O'er the marble window sill -  
Waiting..... crouching cautiously,  
For the chance to make her kill;  
Silent - watching, deathly still  
Listening for the slightest noise -  
Hearing.....springing suddenly,  
Coal black demon, sleek and poised;  
Needle-clawing, capturing  
Unsuspecting little mouse -  
Petty, painless duty done,  
Returns the 'mistress' of the house -  
Gliding, gleaming, slithering  
'Round about the furniture,  
Silky, slinking silently  
Up the stairway's curvature.

\*This is an old one I wrote when I was about 15. Frank's Kat Ku's reminded me to add it to my collection

Linda Ori

# The Chickadee

My father had a way with birds -  
He would listen to their songs,  
And he knew them well.  
There was a little chickadee  
That always perched on the bench  
On the back porch;  
My father would put seed in his hand,  
Hold it up and call:  
CHICKADEE - DEE - DEE  
He did this several times a day  
And the little bird would look  
But never ventured close.  
One day, as dad was holding out his hand  
The chickadee edged closer and closer  
And finally lit on my father's hand  
And began to eat the seeds.  
From then on, when dad would call  
CHICKADEE -DEE -DEE  
The little bird would swoop down  
And land on his hand.  
My father has passed away since then,  
But often a little chickadee  
Lights in the pinetree outside my window  
And peers through the glass  
As if to say 'hello! '  
And I always say,  
'Hi Daddy, sing me a song.'

Linda Ori



# The Cowboy Life

When you wake up in the morning  
And the sky is streaked with gold  
And the birds begin their chatter in the trees,  
You yawn and take a deep breath  
And the air is crisp and cold,  
So you hunker down to catch a few more z's,  
And somewhere in the distance  
You can hear the cattle moan,  
As a lazy hawk is cawing up above,  
And a whiff of good strong coffee  
Drifts to tickle up your nose -  
Ah, the cowboy life, this is the life I love;

Soon the sun will be ablazin'  
And the air will roll with dust  
As you move your herd out on the open range,  
With a whistle and a whip crack  
As you rustle up the strays,  
From your saddle you can feel the seasons change,  
For the air smells sweet in springtime,  
And the sun smells summer hot,  
There's an earthy smell of autumn leaves that fall,  
And the crystal smell of winter  
Makes the hairs stick in your nose -  
Ah, the cowboy life, this is the best of all;

Oh, the sunsets in the evening  
Are the grandest in the land  
When a rainbow streaks the endless western sky,  
As you lay down on your bedroll  
By the fire as it sparks  
And the leaves beneath you smell a musty dry,  
You can gaze up to the heavens  
And contemplate the stars  
As they glitter in the inkiness of night,  
And you sigh a sweet contentment  
For the blessings you have known -  
It's a cowboy's life, and everything's all right.



# The Devil's Due

Did you sell your soul  
For a sensual smile  
On a younger model  
With a wayward style  
That makes you feel young again?

Does she make you tingle  
Make you lose your mind  
Make you think you're single  
But she's not your kind -  
There's a 20 year age gap!

So now your thinkin'  
With your other head  
Here she comes a winkin'  
Might as well be dead  
Because you will be soon

As the devil wants you  
And you cannot run  
Even though you want to  
Now your life's undone  
Was it worth the price you'll pay?

Did you sell your soul  
For a few hot nights  
With some clueless bimbo  
Reality bites.....  
Now there'll be hell to pay

'Cause the game is over  
And your number's up  
No more days of clover  
Life's an empty cup.....  
And the devil wants his due.

Linda Ori

# The Game

One incredible journey -  
Reserved for curious travelers  
Without a map - no particular direction,  
Unrestricted, uncontrolled, unpredictable;  
No obvious destination -  
Enhanced by anticipation,  
A search for happiness, love, success  
Clouded by disappointment, fear, possible failure;  
Created by individual perspective -  
Positive, negative - right choice, wrong choice  
No applause, no reprimand  
Just pure exhilaration, or pure despair;  
Continuous progression -  
Prodded by endless curiosity  
Infinite learning experiences  
Culminating in awareness.....  
Ding..... Ding.....Game Over  
Want to play again?

Linda Ori

# The Gift

Treasure friendships while you may,  
The ones for life, or just one day -  
Each time we meet and share a thought  
Is a precious moment not forgot;  
So spread your sunshine all around  
And soon good friendships will abound  
Like vintage wine with fragrance sweet,  
Our lives are touched by those we meet;  
So never let a chance go by  
Or spend a lifetime wondering why  
This precious gift was sent your way -  
Treasure friendships while you may.

Linda Ori

# The Journey

Oh, I have walked this land before -  
Have wandered through some hidden door,  
Left footprints on a distant shore  
Then traveled 'round the bend;

I have appeared in many forms,  
And I've encountered many storms,  
Lived and died and been reborn -  
My lifetimes to defend;

There is a purpose so divine  
That lets our spirits intertwine  
And blossom into vintage wine -  
Our hearts and souls to blend;

And even though our paths divide,  
That soul connection deep inside  
Will hold us close though we have died -  
I'll know you as my friend

When we shall wander back again,  
Neither knowing where or when,  
No matter where our souls have been -  
The journey has no end.....

Linda Ori

# The Nature Of Things

How many times we say or do  
Something that we thought was true  
And then it made us sad;  
A hurtful word, a shameful look  
I've done enough to write a book -  
I doubt that it would sell;  
We stumble on in ignorance  
Until in time we find by chance  
The answers that we seek,  
For there are lessons to be learned  
All thoughtless deeds will be returned -  
It's one of nature's laws;  
That's how we grow in mind and soul,  
Each incarnation sets the goal.....

It's the nature of things.

Linda Ori

# The Party's Over

The party's over,  
The wine is gone,  
This awful headache  
Arrived with the dawn;

'Twas fun while it lasted,  
A banquet sublime -  
But now that it's ending  
I'm dreading the time;

No more conversations,  
No more wars to fight,  
No more tender make-ups  
Long into the night;

And oh, how I'll miss you  
And all that you are -  
In such a short distance  
We've journeyed so far;

My soul will stay with you  
From now 'til the end -  
This bond can't be broken.....  
I luv ya, my friend!

Linda Ori



# The River Of Time

The river of time keeps on flowing  
O'er wishes and dreams gone unknown,  
The worst thing is wanting and knowing  
Endearments that never were shown;

Tomorrow is better than never  
To speak all those words in your heart,  
Don't hold them inside you forever -  
Perhaps it's a good time to start

By saying 'I love you' more often,  
Let everyone know that you care,  
You simply can't take it for granted  
And hope they're already aware;

Three little words - you can do it!  
Don't let them get stuck deep inside,  
Just say them out loud, nothing to it -  
Speak up! There's no reason to hide;

That river of time keeps on flowing  
The present turns into the past -  
Your light should be shared while it's glowing,  
So love like today is your last.

Linda Ori

# The Source

Stardust exploding in infinite sparks  
Rivers of gold swirl in circular form  
Blackness the drape for celestial art  
Wonder and magic infinity's storm;

Darkness and light in continuous flow  
Dazzling reflection of diamond dust star  
Spiraling orbs in a nebulous glow  
Radiant energy waves from afar;

Thoughts of all mortals here on this plane  
Highly transcendent they mingle as one  
There in the vastness of cosmic domain  
Reality's truth is begun.

Linda Ori

# The Subways Of Your Mind

It's midnight here in Utah  
And the world outside is still  
As I sit down at my keyboard to compose -

My mind begins to wander  
Down the sidewalks of New York  
And I wonder if your sweet subconscious knows -

Assuming that you're sleeping,  
But that never was your style -  
Too many midnight poems confirm that fact -

I wonder, Mr. Ryan.....  
Do you miss your poet friends -  
Does your lonely laptop beg you to react?

It's really much too quiet  
Ever since you went away,  
And midnight now has lost its magic spell -

My poems now seem unnoticed  
As the lack of comments show,  
And I always knew you would critique me well -

But, I'll continue searching  
For your words upon my page,  
As I believe that one day I will find

That still my light is shining  
In the midnights of your life  
As I travel through the subways of your mind.

Linda Ori

# The Time Is Now

This lonely little planet  
In the infinite sea of night  
Shivers in the darkness  
Waiting for the warmth of light;

It seems to be forgotten  
Left out there all alone -  
Bravely now it struggles  
Like a child left on his own;

Is anybody listening?  
Does anybody care?  
The fear is overwhelming  
And it's cracking everywhere;

Maybe God is testing it  
Giving it a chance  
To find an answer to its plight  
To change its circumstance;

What will be the outcome?  
Will this Earth survive?  
Is it just a dying star  
Or will it stay alive?

The time has come to lend a hand  
To save this precious star,  
Bring peace and love together  
And be proud of who we are.

Appreciate this Mother's love  
That shelters us from harm,  
Provides our food and sustenance  
To keep us safe and warm;

Stop taking it for granted  
That this Earth will always be,  
It could all be gone tomorrow -  
Now it's up to you and me.

Linda Ori

# The World Is My Toy

The world is my toy, and I am the player -  
No boundary is too vast for my imagination.  
Everything I hope and dream is within my grasp -  
I have but to reach out and take what is mine.  
Within the confines of my mind lie infinite possibilities -  
Nothing is too complex for my inquisitive nature.  
First the thought, then the word, then the act  
Manifests all that I desire if only I release the fear  
That holds me back and threatens to limit me.  
I am the creator of my reality, and all that I know -  
I live what I create and attract what I think to me.  
Life is an adventure - an experience of unlimited range -  
Nothing is too difficult to accomplish with imagination.  
I can be whatever or whomever I choose to be -  
My existence is not limited by my surroundings  
Nor by the physical aspects of my body and mind.  
I am a spark of the Divine energy of the universe -  
I am one with the Source of all creation and all mankind.  
The world is my toy, and I am the player -  
The game of life is the most precious gift I will ever receive.

Linda Ori

# Time For A Change

So life has handed you sour grapes,  
They're bitter and hard to swallow -  
But you'll be just fine  
Sour grapes make good wine  
If you throw in enough sweet sugar;

So lemons are the fruit of the day,  
So sour your lips start to pucker -  
Just make lemonade  
A tall glass in the shade  
Will refresh on a hot summer day;

So your garden has grown green tomatoes,  
That just won't turn red in the sun -  
Fry them up in a pan  
Make some relish to can  
What a wonderful change of taste!

Whenever life throws you a curve ball  
When you were expecting a hit -  
Then you should be guessin'  
You're learning a lesson.....  
It's time for a change of scenery.

Linda Ori

# Time Of Truth

The time is now  
Let change begin,  
Blend heaven and earth  
In an endless spin,  
Wherever you're going,  
Wherever you've been  
Now change your direction  
And travel within;

The time is now  
To take a good look  
Examine your life  
And the roads that you took,  
From cover to cover  
You've written your book  
Did you swim in the river  
Or sleep by the brook?

The time is now  
Get your head on straight  
No more indecision  
To love or to hate,  
Since you are the author  
Don't blame it on Fate,  
Take control of your future  
Before it's too late.

Linda Ori



# Time's Toll

I see it in your face -  
Too many unslept hours,  
Forgotten, unpicked flowers -  
When will you stop?

I see it in your eyes -  
All the unshed tears  
You've held back through the years -  
Why don't you cry?

I hear it in your voice -  
The sighs of frustration,  
Too much aggravation -  
Where is the joy?

I feel it in your touch -  
The tension and the worry,  
You're always in a hurry -  
Where are you going?

Come rest in my embrace  
And cry upon my shoulder,  
Confide in me -  
I need to comfort you.

Linda Ori

# Transition

A searing pain deep in his chest  
And crimson all around,  
The once magnificent warrior  
Now lies still upon the ground;

A single shaft within his grasp  
Has done the awful deed -  
A piercing blade has cleft the heart  
And left him there to bleed;

With clouding eyes and ragged breath  
A chill cuts to the bone,  
Although the sun rides high above,  
His body turns to stone;

No feeling now but wonder  
At the broken man below -  
A hollowed-out reflection  
Of someone he used to know,

Awareness of a blinding light  
Through eyes that cannot see -  
A voice so sweetly beckoning,  
'Come now my son to me';

A feeling of contentment,  
Of serenity and love  
Surrounds the mighty warrior  
As he lingers high above

The fading once proud body.....  
'You must come now, my son -  
This battle has been finished,  
There are new wars to be won.'

Linda Ori

# Tribute To Diana

With healing in her gentle touch  
And gold dust in her hair,  
Heaven lost an angel  
When it sent a light so fair  
To comfort all the wretched souls  
Whose lives had come undone,  
To help the dying reach their goal -  
The warmth of Heaven's sun;

And though her stay on earth was brief,  
Her flame burned clear and strong  
To show we can accomplish much  
And yet not stay so long -  
For passion can move mountains,  
And love can do the same -  
One dropp returns the ripple  
To the Source from whence it came;

She lived her life as she had planned  
Before she was aware  
That Heaven had a plan for her  
And a gift for her to share -  
Her name will live forever  
On the lips of those she knew,  
Though Heaven reclaimed an angel,  
Earth has known one, too.

Linda Ori

# Trio Of Darkness

The room surrounds my waking mind  
Something feels unreal -  
I watch from under hooded lids  
Three figures in the mist;  
Cloaked in black with lazer eyes  
They turn their sight to me  
Searing thoughts flash through my mind -  
They plan my destiny;  
Awareness of some sort of speech  
Although no sound I hear  
I understand each word they 'speak'  
Their thoughts are crystal clear;  
My instinct is to run and hide  
My body won't comply  
I lay in frozen terror now  
God! Free me from those eyes!  
Next day at work I ask for drugs  
To sleep - my mind is wound -  
Seems darkness brings uneasiness  
And I am losing ground  
Concerned about the side effects  
My doctor asks point blank  
'Do you think you're pregnant? '  
I know there's not a chance;  
'Let's run a test and just be sure,  
I'll call and let you know'  
Two hours pass and comes the call -  
'It's positive! '.....OH, NO! !  
My daughter born nine months from then  
A child of mystery -  
I always wonder who she is  
And why she came to me;  
Perhaps the 'trio' sent her  
To guide me on my way -  
My life so much complexity  
She teaches me each day;  
Often as I drift to sleep  
That haunting dream returns,  
It still remains a mystery -

Those lazer eyes still burn.

Linda Ori

# True Friend

Sometimes when you least expect  
A true friend comes along  
And even though you have no proof  
You know you can't be wrong,  
For in his eyes there shines a light  
That's honest, pure and true,  
And in your heart you understand -  
This friend was meant for you;

Sometimes you get lucky  
Though you really don't know why  
And your life becomes enriched by one  
Who may have passed you by -  
What brings about the circumstance  
That causes you to grow  
From some mere, by chance encounter  
With a stranger you don't know?

Sometimes you stop to listen  
And you listen with your heart,  
Sometimes you stop to smell that rose  
And the fragrance it imparts,  
Sometimes you run into a friend  
And have the sense to see  
That all the grand things in your life  
Are where they ought to be;

For sometimes when you least expect  
A true friend comes along  
And even though you have no proof  
You know you can't be wrong,  
For in his eyes there shines a light  
That's honest, pure and true,  
And in your heart you understand  
This friend was meant for you.

I imagine your eyes to be beautiful and caring my friend.

Thanks for the inspiration - good medicine.

Linda Ori

# True Ku

All is possible  
By the law of attraction -  
Let your thoughts be great

Positive ripples  
Permeate the universe  
Manifest in time

Negative musings  
Set in motion nasty things -  
Let your thoughts be pure

Linda Ori



# Twilight

Time passes.....  
And still we fail to see  
How brief is our mortality;  
Days flow  
In habitual, mindless haze  
Yet always aware  
In unconscious ways-  
The clock ticks on;  
The sun rises,  
The sun sets-  
Another day lost forever  
And still we fail to see  
How brief is our mortality;  
The baby cries,  
The old man dies-  
Birth and death,  
Life's accomplishments along the way  
Mark time by memories;  
Always tomorrow comes  
Unbidden, endless days  
And still we fail to see  
How brief is our mortality;  
Awake! Toss back the covers of indifference-  
Breathe the fragrance of existence,  
Savor the banquet of Life,  
Visualize the inner beauty of creation-  
Listen with a passion of the heart  
And feel from the depths of the soul,  
For this is our mortality.....  
No matter how brief.

Linda Ori

# Ultimate Decision

When the earth is bathed in purple haze  
And toxins choke the air  
And the fields have turned to dusty brown  
Will anybody care?  
When the heat bakes every living thing  
That God and man created  
And the birds no longer sing their songs,  
We'll know our time is dated;  
When forests have been ripped apart  
And wildlife runs afraid  
That heat and thirst will kill them off  
Before they find some shade,  
When flowers, plants and animals  
Are fading from the earth  
And man is struggling to survive  
And woman fails to birth,  
When pestilence and sickness  
Are the order of the day,  
And man will kill his neighbor  
For a decent spot to lay,  
The ships will come from heaven  
To sweep us all away -  
What is your decision?  
Will you go or will you stay?  
Even now they hover  
Far beyond the stars  
Not allowed to interfere  
In this life of ours  
Until we make that final choice  
To throw it all away -  
Then the ships will come from heaven -  
Will you go or will you stay?

Linda Ori

# Voices

Voices of the universe  
Send whispers on the wind -  
The time has come  
To make amends  
For man has greatly sinned,

Destruction of the planet  
Looms heavy on the brink,  
The time has come  
To make amends  
For man has ceased to think:

Don't' you hear them calling?  
Can't you feel their tears?  
The time has come  
To make amends  
For man has wrought the fears;

We've caused this great pollution  
That blankets all the earth  
The time has come  
To make amends  
And justify our birth;

Oh, listen to the voices  
Of wisdom from above  
Remember what  
You always knew.....  
Our purpose is to LOVE.

Linda Ori

# Waiting For The Other Shoe To Drop

Uneasy - feeling that I don't belong  
Where am I headed, and what do I need?  
Dangling on the end of this rope  
Swinging in the wind -  
Should I climb up or fall off?  
Am I in a holding pattern?  
Waiting for the other shoe to drop.  
Do something, or do nothing?  
Am I spinning out of sync with the world?  
Too fast, or too slow?  
Which way do I go?  
Maybe just a glitch in the machine.....  
Tomorrow, timing may be better  
Tomorrow that other shoe may drop  
And all's right with the world.

Thanks, Jerry, for the inspiration.

Linda Ori

# War Of The Words

I'm into mental sparring -  
Catharsis for the soul,  
It loosens up the attitude  
But often takes its toll;  
It makes you feel important,  
It lets you spread your wings,  
But even though it feels so good  
It just might ruin things;  
Like laughter shared so easily  
When times are going well,  
And then with just one careless word  
You blow it all to hell;  
It isn't good to hold it in  
When words you have to say,  
But be prepared for consequence  
Once venom starts to spray;  
Sometimes you have to speak your peace  
And stand up for yourself  
Or folks will walk all over you  
Then put you on the shelf;  
A little mental sparring  
Can be healthy in a way,  
Just keep it to a minimum  
Or there'll be hell to pay!

Linda Ori

# What Do I Know?

Why is it.....

Just when you think you have the world at your fingertips

And all your dreams are about to be realized.....

Someone pulls the rug out from under you?

Why is it.....

When something seems just too good to be true

But you think maybe it could be true afterall.....

Someone takes a pin and bursts your balloon?

Why is it.....

After all the hard work, trial and error

And all the pieces are just about to fit together

Someone messes up your puzzle?

Is it the law of averages?

Is it a cruel game of chance?

Is it payback for past karma?

Is it a wakeup call?

I swear.....

No matter how old I get or how wise I become

The one thing I know is that I don't know anything.....

And that's a fact!

Linda Ori

# What I Know

All that I know is everything  
All that I feel is energy  
All that I think becomes reality  
All that I want is possible  
All that is possible is infinite  
All that I have is limitless  
All that I need is provided  
All that I imagine is beautiful  
All that I am is LOVE

Linda Ori

# What's It All About?

I don't understand it,  
This life that I chose -  
I ask, 'What's my purpose? '  
But nobody knows,  
Stumbling blindly  
In search of the light,  
I'd just like to know  
If my choices are right;  
I dwell in confusion,  
Thoughts spinning around,  
No sense of direction,  
No truth to be found;  
Is it all about karma?  
For the good of mankind -  
If I give unto others,  
True blessings I'll find?  
So who dishes karma  
And what is their game?  
Is it logged in some ledger  
Embossed with my name?  
My good deeds, my bad deeds  
The laughter I bring,  
The tears of resentment  
That well up and sting?  
Some day when I'm older  
And wise for my years,  
Perhaps understanding  
Will make it all clear,  
'Til then I'll just blunder  
My way through the mire,  
And hope for the guidance  
Of Someone up higher.

Linda Ori



# When I'M Gone Away

Some day when I am gone away  
They'll ruffle through my things,  
I'll watch from somewhere undisclosed  
And hope my praise they'll sing;

They'll look through all my papers,  
My emails will surprise  
Some unsuspecting voyeur  
Who'll find treasure for his eyes;

They'll wonder who I really was -  
They never had a clue,  
Perhaps my poems will help them see  
The me they never knew;

Another side long hidden,  
A deep creative mind,  
So many feelings put to words -  
My very soul they'll find;

One day my friends and family  
Will come to realize  
In life they never knew me well,  
In death they'll be surprised;

They'll find my published poetry,  
Anthologies and plaques -  
They'll realize the secret life  
I lived behind their backs;

I only hope my closest friend  
Is first to reach my door,  
She'll throw away the 'secrets'  
Stowed inside my dresser drawer!

Linda Ori

# When Love Speaks

You ask God for direction  
You ask for vision clear,  
Why is it that you question  
The love of one so dear?  
He tells you that he loves you,  
He promises his heart,  
And still with reservation  
You're afraid to let it start;  
What is it that you long for?  
What makes you hesitate?  
Why can't you just be satisfied  
Before it gets too late?  
This man is giving everything  
He owns to have you near,  
And still you wonder if it's right.  
The answer's very clear:  
God gave you what you wished for  
It's not the way you thought,  
But love is speaking clearly -  
What you need is what you got!

Linda Ori

# When You'Re Gone

Do you ever wonder  
What will happen when you're gone?  
Will your life be food for  
Others to reflect upon?  
Did you make a statement,  
Leave a legacy behind?  
Did your life have meaning,  
Were you passionate and kind?  
Will this world remember you  
For all things, great or small?  
Did you do the best you could  
When others came to call?  
If you could do it over,  
Would you live it differently?  
Take the time to smell the roses,  
Be the best that you could be?  
Take the chances you were given  
That you carelessly passed by -  
If you knew your life was over  
In the blinking of an eye?  
Today is the beginning  
Of whatever lies ahead -  
So live like you were dying.....  
And be glad that you're not dead!

Linda Ori

## Who Am I?

She's such a cutie, the neighbors would say  
That little blonde girl with the curls,  
So strange to see brown eyes with blonde hair, they said  
I guess I was strange even then  
My sister had black hair and eyes that were green  
A beauty if ever you saw one  
Even my father called her 'the queen'  
But I was the one that was different  
You look like your father, people would say  
I guess they considered that kind  
But I always wanted to look like my mom  
With dark hair and eyes like the sky  
But now that I'm older and used to myself  
I like what I see in the glass  
I may not be lovely, or turn many heads  
But at least I'm a sensible lass  
My father passed on a long time ago  
His picture still sits by the window  
And it tickles me now that I take after him -  
It's the ones who are different that sparkle.

Linda Ori

# Why War?

Why do people go to war?  
Why must nations fight?  
This man wants what that man has  
And each man thinks he's right;  
Ever since the dawn of time  
War has been around,  
One man thinks he has the right  
To steal his neighbor's ground;  
They fight about religion,  
They 've battled over slaves,  
And in the end so many men  
Lie burried in their graves;  
One man fights for oil  
The other fights for gold,  
When will they learn that human lives  
Must not be bought and sold?  
Where is man's compassion?  
What happened to his love?  
When did he lose the sense to choose  
The olive branch and dove?  
Instead he craves the power,  
He wants to have it all,  
And if it takes the lives of man  
He'll count them as they fall;  
The world is in a sorry state  
Because of greed and power,  
We need to try to understand  
This is the final hour;  
Men must try to get along  
With men of other nations,  
To show respect for human rights,  
These men of equal stations,  
They need to learn to give and take  
And understand each other,  
For each was once a little child  
Dependent on his mother,  
But little boys grow into men  
And often leave behind  
Their gentle ways and carefree days -

Their innocence of mind;  
Wouldn't it be wonderful  
If men weren't so concerned  
With how they look to other men -  
This lesson must be learned:  
It isn't in how strong you are  
Or how you play the game,  
It's knowing when to compromise  
For all men are the same -  
They need to feel important  
And each man has to show  
He has the need to be in charge,  
But something he should know -  
That every man that ever lived  
Has had that same desire,  
So each must learn to take his turn  
Then gracefully retire.

Written during the Gulf War

Linda Ori

# Why?

Often in the still of night  
I wonder why it wasn't right.....  
Why couldn't you love me?

Was there something wrong with me  
Something that I couldn't see  
That turned you cold inside?

I reached out and offered you  
Everything you asked me to.....  
Why wasn't it enough?

When did passion's flame burn out?  
When did you begin to doubt.....  
Perhaps you were afraid

Of getting close to someone new,  
Committment wasn't part of you.....  
Your freedom held you back;

I only wanted you to share  
My hopes and dreams because I care.....  
My feelings were sincere,

But you thought I would stifle you,  
Would question everything you do.....  
And so you chose to run;

In all your life you never knew  
Another who would care for you  
And overlook your flaws.....

Perhaps you couldn't understand  
Why I reached out to take your hand -  
To share my life with you.....

And in your insecurity  
You turned and walked away from me.....  
Why couldn't you love me?

Linda Ori



# Winter Scene

The sky grew white  
The wind did blow  
The earth lay powdered  
With flurried snow  
Outside the window  
In splendored glow  
Christmas lights  
In a colorful row  
And I inside  
In my downy fleece  
Stay warm and cozy  
And my heart's at peace  
Tomorrow will dawn  
When the night is done  
And the world will sparkle  
Like spun glass in sun

Linda Ori

# Within A Dream

Last night I slept within a dream  
And you were by my side -  
Your arms embraced me tenderly  
With love you could not hide;  
I felt your warmth envelope me  
With every tender kiss,  
In all my life I never knew  
A love as sweet as this;

You whispered sweet endearments  
As you gently stroked my hair -  
Though I was only dreaming  
I could feel you everywhere;  
Like pure intoxication  
From a fine exotic wine,  
Your warmth flowed all around me  
As our hearts became entwined;

I slept within a dream last night  
My soul you came to take -  
Now captured by your magic spell.....  
I hope I never wake!

Linda Ori

# Woman Of The Night

The black cape floated soundlessly into the room.....  
All eyes turned to admire the shapely beauty within -  
Long black tresses flowing like liquid fire by candlelight,  
An air of mystery surrounded her, emanated from her  
Like magnetic electrical charges - sparking and snapping;  
She owned the room, and the dumb-struck figures within,  
Captivated by the spell of her mere presence;  
Energy flowed from each mind to the source  
Filling her with power, enhancing her magic  
As though they had been absorbed into her mystique.  
Then slowly turning around to face her victims,  
The cape caught on the overhead chandelier  
And as she stepped forward, the cape and wig lifted off  
And revealed her true identity.....

Damn! I KNEW I should have worn that other costume!

Linda Ori

# Woods And Wildflowers

Wandering back to my childhood days  
Memory serves up delicious scenes -  
Days spent roaming the silent woods  
Gathering wildflowers and bruises;  
Bloodroots, trilliums, jack in the pulpit  
These were my favorite ones  
Some were in plenty, some were scarce  
Some easy conquest, others more daring  
High on stone ledges just above reach;  
Clinging to branches.....stretching.....  
Lying on leaf covered ground strewn with acorns  
Sweet smell of moss warming under my nose  
Gazing aloft through the leaves overhanging  
Breeze blowing gently to birdsong and bugs;  
Sticky and dirt covered, trophies in hand  
Wandering slowly back home  
Elbows and knees bleeding and scratched  
Back pocket hanging by threads  
Mother was waiting there by the door  
Ready to scold, yet to kiss  
Accepting my offer of sweet smelling petals -  
How could she reprimand this?  
Those were the days of carefree abandon  
Never a doubt in my wandering ways,  
I often return in my daydreaming moments  
Back to those sweet childhood days.

Linda Ori

# Words

Words of love still haunt me so  
From long forgotten days of old -  
Endearments that I used to know  
Still deep within my heart I hold;

Sweet memories of softer times  
When eyes spoke more than tongue,  
You sang to me sweet words and rhymes  
Of days when we were young;

My heart is filled with longing now  
My soul lies unfulfilled -  
To mend the wound I know not how  
The memories now are stilled;

I cannot live another day  
Oh, hear my mournful plea -  
Come now my love, for this I pray  
Return your words to me.

Linda Ori

# Would It Have Made A Difference?

If I had pursued you more aggressively?  
If I had slept with you on the first date?  
If I had not asked about your family?  
If I had not fixed your collar that was askew?  
If I had not brushed the eye lash off your cheek?  
If I had not made you chicken soup when you were sick?

Would it have made a difference

If I had been younger, prettier, sexier?  
If I had not wanted you to have feelings for me?  
If I had not cared about your health?  
If I had not invited you over for the holidays?  
If I had not put notes on your windshield?  
If I had not cried when you hurt my feelings?

Would it have made a difference?

If I had not gone to breakfast with you every weekend?  
If I had not been jealous of other women in your life?  
If I had not loved your daughter like one of my own?  
If I had not listened to your problems over a beer?  
If I had not enjoyed drinking wine with you?  
If I had not gone to Disneyland with you - twice?

If I had not fallen in love with you

Would it have made a difference?

Linda Ori

# Writer's Block

Just for the record.....  
Every writer blocks in time -  
Mental overload.

Linda Ori

# You Know Who You Are

This guy who's always there for me  
The one pulling me up from the dregs  
Placing a smile on my tearful visage  
Making my day no matter how miserable  
A priceless treasure -  
Love without measure -  
How did I get so lucky?

Linda Ori