

## If I Should Die

Anita Lane

If I should die  
Before I wake  
Please dear friend  
My soul to take  
And if my eyes in freeze  
Embrace an unkind  
Vision of you  
Lock tight my lids  
With your lips fast kiss  
If you made her heart beat faster  
Steal from her just one throb  
Open my vein  
That corridor  
That sewer

And whisper down the same  
First your breath  
Then your name  
One fine breath  
In that cold red nest  
That should rob  
That chamber  
Of its horror  
But if I in silence  
You cannot trust  
To have that word  
Rest in my blood's dust  
Throw the part away  
Then I shall not name you

And if my mouth should open  
And I say  
I love you  
Put your fingers to my lips  
And push the soul  
Back in the hole  
Take my hair  
Bind tight your eyes and ears  
And as you take your leave  
So too take tight  
Her warm hand  
For she cannot hear me say  
Stay