

## Lament

Bernadette Peters

This is the world I meant  
Couldn't you listen?  
Couldn't you stay content?  
Safe behind walls, as I could not  
Now you know what's out there in the world  
No one can prepare you for the world, even I  
How could I, who loved you as you were  
How could I have shielded you from her or them?  
No matter what you say  
Children won't listen  
No matter what you know  
Children refuse to learn  
Guide them along the way  
Still they won't listen  
Children can only grow  
From something you love  
To something you lose