

## Machine Ballerina

Suzanne Vega

Am I an afternoon's pastime?  
A thing on a string  
To be thrown and retrieved  
Like a phone call received  
On somebody's birthday  
To tease and delight  
And then say goodnight  
And then just say goodbye?

Am I a toy on a tray ?  
A soft piece of clay  
Queen or clown for the day  
Machine ballerina  
Soldier of tin  
Standing so loyal  
While you sit so royal  
Then I'm put away?

For your approval,  
Perusal,  
And your possible  
Refusal,  
I'm amusing,  
I'm a puppet for your play.

Am I your Mad Magazine?  
Skin trampoline  
Pin-up pinball machine  
Your fantasy girl  
Of puzzling parts  
But none fits or starts  
We match wits but not hearts  
I'm heard but never seen?

For your approval,  
Perusal,  
And your possible  
Refusal,  
I'm amusing,  
I'm a puppet for your play