

# After a While

After a while, you learn the subtle difference between  
holding a hand and chaining a soul,

And you learn that love doesn't mean leaning  
and company doesn't mean security,

And you begin to learn that kisses aren't contracts  
And presents aren't promises,

And you begin to accept your defeats with your  
head up and your eyes open,  
with the grace of an adult,  
not the grief of a child.

And you learn to build all your roads on today  
Because tomorrow's ground is sometimes too uncertain for plans.

After a while, you learn that even sunshine burns  
if you get too much.

So plant your own garden and decorate your own soul,  
instead of waiting for someone else to bring you flowers.

After a while, you learn that you really can endure...  
That you really are strong,  
And that you really do have worth.