

Make Every Time the Last Time

By Judith R. Merz

If I had known that was the last time . . .

Would I have played a kinder part . . .

Cherished the moments just a little longer . . .

Held you close just a little stronger

In my arms and in my heart?

Would I have breathed your spirit true,

Rapt and breathless, giving all . . .

Yielding, trusting , , , would I fall

And lose myself in the wonder of you?

If I had known that was the last time?

Now endless questions haunt and burn . . .

I thought we could forever learn

To know and love at every turn . . .

Instead, a lesson both cruel and sublime:

Make every time the last time.