

## THE PRICE OF INNOCENCE

I remember long ago when the way was new  
And our love was young.  
It was so easy then – just being with you,  
Just talking with you.  
Your nearness was all I ever wanted,  
And I found my heaven in your arms.  
The night had wings when you were close,  
And my heart soared in the innocence of your love.

But then came the time – that fearful time – when you were lost to me,  
Lost somewhere deep within your darkness.  
I knew that unless my soul could reach you in that far-off place,  
Unless my lips could awaken you, and my breath bring you life –  
My life had no meaning.  
Hands, damp with fear, touched you, caressed you,  
Drawing your soul back with love.  
That night, in that place beyond man, beyond reality –  
You were mine.  
I took you, and held you close until our spirits became one,  
Until your body awoke beneath me.  
I felt your heart beat with longing, saw your eyes burn with desire.  
Your innocence became mine.

And now you are healed and the nightmare forgotten.  
Oh, but Vincent, you have lost so much more.  
Our miracle has died – the wonderment of all that we shared that night.  
Let me take your hand and lead you back to love,

Let your heart be reassured and your dreams renewed.

Or would such memories cost you dearly?

Do you forget because you fear to remember?

Was the chasm that we crossed too deep

And the price of innocence too high?

Katrina Relf