

*Ami Rebecca Blackwelder*

Like a Budding Flower:  
Anthology of Poetry

# *Like a Budding Flower*

Like a Budding Flower

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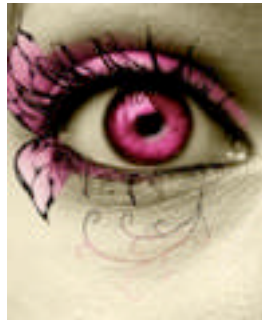
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<http://www.amiblackwelder.blogspot.com>

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# *Ami Rebecca Blackwelder*

I dedicate this book to the dreamers of the world and all those hoping to make a difference in the world.

## *About the Author:*

I am a teacher and writer with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. I have traveled and loved in Asia for eight years and this exploration of other cultures has shaped my writing. I hope you enjoy this collection.

Also by the same author:

*The Water Jug: Personal Shorts*

*The Guardians of the Gate Saga*

*The Day the Flowers Died*

*The Hunted of 2060*

*Like a Budding Flower*

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## The Ways of Love

### **You Were Mine**

You were mine  
In my arms  
Dimming lights  
Music low  
Ta da da ta  
Sweating palms  
Imaginations wild  
Sensual glances  
You were mine  
Beating heartbeats  
One on the other  
Body caresses  
Wet lips  
Lingerie at noon  
Candlelight  
Under the moon  
Knowing you  
You were mine

### **A Sacred Part**

I've held the most sacred part of life under a burning sun  
A dark blue sky with white brave clouds  
Lazily laying upon trampled green grass freshly cut  
Wrapped only with a quilt made of yellow-purple patches  
And bits of unraveling thread  
Surrounded by smells of honeycomb and honeysuckle  
Telling me that I am tasting something so sweet, so delicate, so unique  
It could only be found here between you and me  
And it couldn't be found anywhere else on this earth  
Or away from this earth in the endless abyss of an endless universe  
Or without this earth a rock sitting so heavily and silent in its empty place  
It makes me wonder in amazement at how I can be here

## *Like a Budding Flower*

Here under this burning sun with you sitting simply  
Undirected and unadulterated by life  
Resting in this singular moment, amazed and star-gazed  
That we could be sitting together yet reckless like a chariot of falling stars  
Without interruption from our jealous God or faltered universe  
And not in some far off away place like that of Alice lost in Wonderland  
But here with you and you with me between us  
Time given to us while we still hold each other  
Without regrets and against our given ends.

### **Ode To Pedro**

Spanish eyes set into your face  
Like the sun sets into the sky  
With fragility and yet still strong  
Knowing that without it  
All would cease to be.

*Your eyes hold me.*

Your lips are like long black stones  
Set tenderly but still surely in soft mud  
Pulling me to you from so far away  
The stones become pearls close with you  
Your jewel is a force to be reckoned.

*Your lips hold me.*

A face like an orange-blue afternoon sky  
Twilight nears and I'm am ready to give in  
Ready to burst into the stillness of it all  
Fluttering so softly above me  
Thinking of me often and won't be forgotten soon

*Your face holds me.*

Kisses tell us this moment is forever  
The morning tells us it is not  
Your lips tell me you won't let go  
We recall every moment that brings us closer to forever  
Before the morning woke us and told us better.

*Your kisses hold me.*

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**Your Love Feels**

Sun bursting upon me and over me  
Glistening lights interrupt a cold darkness  
An ocean tide races and engulfs my bare skin  
Your touch  
Your kiss  
Your smile  
Feels like this.  
Sand squeezes between my naked toes  
Makes me giggle and squirm  
Scents of flowers blossoming  
Your touch  
Your kiss  
Your smile  
Feels like this.  
A lullaby floating by  
A gentle and warm breeze over me  
Sweet songs of melody moving freely  
Your breath  
Your eyes  
Your hand  
Feels like this  
Your embrace  
Your heart  
Your soul  
Feels like this.

**Toothache**

You are my  
Soreness without the cure  
You are my  
Ever after and everything more  
You are my  
Sun and moon  
You are my

## *Like a Budding Flower*

Day and night come soon  
You are my  
Longing I want for  
You are my  
Opening to my closed door  
You are my  
Ache inside my tooth  
You are my  
Proper to my uncouth.

### **Gone Too Long**

My heart does not long for you without end  
Though I always thought it should  
My thoughts are not consumed by you  
Though I always thought they would  
My body no longer aches for you  
Though I know it always could

You have been gone too long  
And somehow being without you  
Has taught me to be strong.

### **I Loved You**

You are like the innocence  
Before temptation and condemnation

You are like the baby's breath  
Before she grows up

You are like the ocean  
Just before the storm  
Resting in stillness  
Still knowing the harm

You are like the destination  
Before getting lost



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You are like an expensive gift  
Before knowing the cost

Before Adam's eyes fell on Eve  
There was you and there was me  
And how I loved you.

**Summer**

Tongue-tied you tried to slide  
Your hand down my thigh  
The warmth of the sun  
Kept me wanting  
Wanting your sun lotion  
Wanting you.

The sandy beach gave our towels  
Sand bumps we could never even out  
Leaving us smiling laughing  
Falling into each other's arms  
Until the bumps seemed to disappear  
Under us and our laughter.

That is when I needed you  
When you needed me  
When we needed each other  
So innocently like children do.

**Wildfire**

Brushfires quiver at the sounds of rain  
Storms beat reckless inside violent winds  
Waves die upon sandy shores  
But your love is restless  
Entrapping engulfing  
Engaging me forever

# *Like a Budding Flower*

Sounds of rain won't shake it  
Storms will not break it  
Death cannot take it

It will always be wildfire.

## **You Interrupt Me**

Sitting here at my  
Wood coffee table  
I am but sad  
I forget you.

Your intense eyes  
Your silly smile  
Your tender hands

Somehow they  
Interrupt me  
In my days  
In my nights

Reading my morning paper  
I remember your wet lips  
When they touched mine

How I longed for you so completely  
How I longed for you with no end  
How I long for you still.

You interrupt me  
Again and again  
Always  
But never do I mind.

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**If**

If I swam the English Channel  
If I climbed the Mount Everest high  
If I ran in Pamplona  
If I won the next bull fight

If I dance the endless routine  
If I sang the most melodious tune  
If I crossed the everglades barefoot  
If I changed the color of the moon

If I leaped the Grand Canyon  
If I rode Niagara Falls  
If I sailed to you from the Atlantic  
If I did it all

Could you feel my love?  
Could you hear my love?  
Could you be near my love?  
Would you be my love?

**Missing You**

Staring out my stained glass window  
The sun has gone down long ago  
The streets below are empty  
Of motion and life  
Like this room  
Like this heart  
Empty without you

*Missing you*

The bedroom is dark  
Sitting under a lightly lit lamp  
Reading all the letters

## *Like a Budding Flower*

That were meant to be sent  
I've memorized each crease fold  
Knowing all the words each letter holds  
Words longing to be said to you

*Missing you*

I play 'Human' by the Pretenders  
Like we used to listen to  
Trying to remind myself of me  
And reminding myself only of you  
Alone in this room  
I wait for you  
With every thought

*Missing you*

### **You Are**

You are a dangerous invitation  
To my heart at your bus station

You're a push and a pull  
To my wanting you

You are a longing deep inside  
To see what we will find

You are the answer to my question  
To ease my hardened tension

You are the silly song  
To a world that is glum

You are a warm wind  
To a storm that has begun

You are a soft caress  
To the day's hard press

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You are an angel and the devil  
To a bored town's carnival

You are my up and my down  
To a world that moves round

You are all and everything  
To my nothing and nowhere.

**Longing**

When the world is asleep  
I am longing for you  
With a memory stronger  
Than a lifetime's worth  
A longing stronger  
Than a thousand swords  
A longing that runs  
Too strong too long  
To care of anything but  
Of what is lacking  
Of you not being  
In my arms now.

What has God done to give such pain?

**If You Knew**

It hurts too much to see you  
And have you never know  
How much my longing  
Is for you as I watch you go  
How much I need you  
If you only knew  
Then you would believe  
This love is something true  
My arms beg me

## *Like a Budding Flower*

To let them hold you tight  
My body cries for you  
All day and all the night  
The mornings and evenings  
Even beckon me to you  
How our love could be  
If you only knew.

### **Kiss**

Deep  
Heavy breathing  
Choked up  
Tongue tied  
Needing you  
More  
Today than yesterday  
Laughing in my tears  
Falling in your arms  
Longing for you still  
After  
All this time has past  
Over me and over you  
And yet still together  
Like one long, long  
Kiss.

### **Lori I'm Sorry**

**(Inspired by Korea's motion picture soundtrack 'Who Are You')**

When your eyes ache  
When your breath shakes  
When your foot slips  
Out from under you  
Lori, I am sorry.

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When you want to tell me  
When I won't hear you  
When you need me more  
Than I can give  
Lori, I am sorry.

When this night ends  
When these stains lift  
When this pain takes  
Too long to heal  
Lori, I am sorry.

When my heart wants for  
When your heart gives in  
When nothing is ever enough  
To just live  
Lori, I am sorry.

**We Were in Love (Inspired by Pet Shop Boys London)**

We walked around the water well  
Whilst night fell upon us barefoot  
And begging  
We were in love  
And nothing could stop us.

We took the **midnight** flight  
Out of Detroit one way  
We wouldn't do it any other way  
We were in love  
And nothing could stop us.

I showed at your window  
You jumped from that two story wall  
Just to see me  
Because we were in love  
We were invincible

# *Like a Budding Flower*

And nothing could stop us.

## **A Confession**

There must be a confession  
To release from this pain  
A hold too tormenting  
A hold too strange

There must be a confession  
Between God and me  
There is no one else  
There never could be.

There must be a confession  
For when my eyes fall upon you  
There is no love more longing  
No love more true.

There must be a confession  
To release me from you  
A love in my passing  
A love to walk through.

## **Once Upon A Time**

Once upon a time  
Was a place we were  
Alone from the rest  
Of the world  
Nothing in the road  
Before us  
Nothing to hinder  
And hold us down  
We were so naïve  
So innocent  
Simple love  
In simple hands



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How we tried to never  
Let each other go  
I can never forget  
How we loved each other so  
You knew me better  
Then I knew myself  
I knew you too well  
And still time fell  
And then did we  
But when I think of you  
I think only of the time  
The once upon a time  
When we were.

**In The Darkest Of Grays**

I've seen you in the darkest of grays  
You'll know me in the mixes of shades  
I stand still with my heart on my sleeve  
Hoping still you will someday love me  
I've seen you in the places you will be  
I've known you all along inside me  
I wait for you far from the light  
Wandering the streets in the night  
I know you will be the darkest of colors  
For me there is no other  
I see you in the darkest of grays  
You will know me in the mixes of shades.

**Love Quake**

When my longing for you  
Is too much to bear

When it feels like my heart  
Will never stop aching  
When my tears plummet  
Like a faucet of falling water

# *Like a Budding Flower*

When the day is never  
Long enough with you

When my stillness is forever  
Dreaming of only you

When the lust of your lips  
Are not on only mine

When my heart leaps  
At the sight of you alone

When your slight touch  
Is suave and melodious

And I long for it so much more  
So much more than anything else

Could I want for you anymore?  
Could I ever know my love returned?

## **Can?**

Can love be put  
Back together  
When it has fallen apart?

Can love be  
Restored  
Like a fine art?

Once lost  
Can freedom from you  
Ever be enough?

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If I heal  
That feeling  
Will this be so rough?

Can the dish  
On our table  
That broke years ago

Be glued  
Back together  
For love to grow?

**Letting You Go**

Sitting lonely but remembering you  
Love is never too far but never quite true  
Here wishing for more from you  
But love is a strange thing and I only sit confused

The phone rings I jump up  
I hear your name my ears pop  
I see your face I want to stop  
Loving you is loving rough

Maybe tomorrow brings joy  
But today the pain is real  
And waiting for you to hear it  
Is more than I can deal

And so I have to let you go  
And put away the feelings I've known  
Feelings that I have long shown  
Feelings that have been long sown

## *Like a Budding Flower*

Tomorrow brings another day  
Perhaps I'll find another way  
To hide this hurt inside and pray  
Because my love is brushed away.

### **Love Like (Published in 'In Touch' VFC Newsletter Thailand 2004 issue)**

Love like the sun bursting above you  
Like an endless ocean pours into a choppy chalk cloud sky  
Love like erupting volcanoes  
Like **they're** pouring out their glory to the world  
Love like the bending winding rivers  
Like they flow into the quite stillness of scratchy sands  
Love like tomorrow may never begin  
Like today may never end  
Love like the gypsies whenever and wherever you can  
Like the melodious whispering winds  
Love like knowing today will soon become yesterday  
Like you want to with all you can

For life is too short and who knows when it ever began.

### **If Love Were Knowing**

**(Published in 'In Touch' VFC Newsletter Thailand 2005 issue)**

If love were knowing  
It would know its high cost  
Soaring high like an eagle  
Swaying like an ocean's toss

If love were a chirping bird  
It would sing a melodious song  
Among the spring trees  
And all that is wrong

If love were the moonlight  
It would dance below my feet  
Trickling down inside me  
Walking along the street

If love were a piano  
It would play an original score  
No one would have less  
No one would have more

If love were a heartbeat  
Rhyming in motion filled time  
It would fill your heartbeat  
And soon you would be mine.

**Where Boats Once Rowed**

To know his lips  
And know they're mine

The tender touch  
Hands intertwined

To know his heart  
It's beating rhyme

That grabs her soul  
Tears fall in time

A Christmas Eve  
And mistletoe

Emotion explodes  
A river flows

Hearts pound

# *Like a Budding Flower*

A trumpet blows

On the ice lake  
Where boats once rowed

Gentle whispers  
In careless tunes

Blue nights  
Light moons

Hazel eyes  
Pierce her room

And ask her heart  
If love is doomed

No voices needed  
She hears him

Under her sheets  
Where it begins

Longing lonely  
For this sin

Pushing pulling  
For love's win

Gifts exchanged  
A chocolate dove

Needing him  
It got tough

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Chocolate melts  
Edges rough

Needing this  
Needing love

**Something New**

Heart beats  
One on another  
Slowly moving  
With the  
Moving time  
My head  
Your lap  
Lights dark  
Blue pants  
Running fast  
Keeping up  
With my heart  
Its runs so far  
Away from me  
And back to you  
Love  
Me  
Are something new

**You Can Pull Me to You**

You can pull me to you  
And tell me it is enough  
You can hold me tight  
And never let me go

The wind is about us  
A sweet blanket of warmth  
The stars are a night face  
A dance of eyes

## *Like a Budding Flower*

Peering below and wishing  
To be more then peering     *alone*

To you I am to me you are  
The only star in the sky

This twilight  
The daylight  
Has brought a stronger  
Bond.

The birds sing  
The earth rejoices  
The night sleeps  
In our arms

Rocking her to sleep  
Rocking me rocking you  
In peace  
Silently and sleeping.

### **Letting You Go**

Sitting lonely but remembering you  
Love is never too far but never quite true  
Here wishing for more from you  
But love is a strange thing and I only sit confused

The phone rings I jump up  
I hear your name my ears prop  
I see your face I want to stop  
Loving you is loving rough

Maybe tomorrow brings joy  
But today the pain is real



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And waiting for you to hear it  
Is more than I can feel

And so I have to let you go  
And put away the feelings I've known  
Feelings that I have long shown  
Feelings that have long sown

Tomorrow brings another day  
Perhaps I'll find another way  
To hide this hurt inside and pray  
Because 'I love you' you can't say.

# *Like a Budding Flower*

## Human Conditions

### **She is to Envy**

Her hair is more brilliant shade of mine  
Should I try it? Could I dye it?  
Her lips softly carry a deeper red  
As she lays minuscule on her soft bed  
Her eyes light up when she speaks  
Before returning calls she waits weeks  
She is to envy.

Her smile wider and sweeter than mine  
Is her watch Prada or Calvin Klein?  
Her legs long and fashionably thin  
Speaking of her beauty one can't begin  
Her fire brighter than a starry night  
The men always over her fight  
She is to envy.

She glides softly when she walks  
She is always heard when she talks  
Her skin is new baby soft  
She is an unforgettable prop  
An impossible fable to live you to  
What are the rest of us girls to do?  
She is to envy.

### **Heart Bruise**

Torn estranged  
Something inside to rearrange  
Damage bruised  
Something inside feels used.

Ache cried  
Something else without the why

What can be done  
With this heart used?  
Will pain stop  
Will it die soon?  
What is to be done  
With this heart bruise?

**Manipulation**

Faking that smile  
Providing that pain  
Acting too good  
Evoking disdain  
Pretending to give  
Through the lying  
Emotions needed  
You're not supplying  
Manipulation is the game.  
Stealing my love  
No one will know  
How could you think this?  
How could you be so low?  
For all the wronged  
Holding someone else to blame  
For all that is lacking  
For the bruised and shamed  
Manipulation is the game.

**Dark and Dry**

Alone in a small dark space  
Where is it I will be going?

## *Like a Budding Flower*

A destination further  
A destination unknown

Into a wilderness  
A wild city  
Will I be walking it

*alone?*

The night brings loneliness too common  
Only memories of loves and friends

Of how they have passed through my life  
Of where they are now and where we've been

Sitting in a small space  
So dark and dry

In my mind wandering  
From here to there

In my mind I have been everywhere  
But in my space  
Alone I stare.

### **To Have Been Born Her**

Curly blond locks  
Reaching her breasts  
Deep ocean blue eyes  
That hit the sand crest

A picture perfect girl  
We all wanted to be  
She was the envy of her friends  
In the deepest parts of me  
I wanted to have been born her.

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Her clothes were always a name brand  
But she somehow maintained an eclectic style  
Driving at an early age  
The rest of us had to wait awhile

A perfect picture girl  
We all wanted to be  
She was the envy of her friends  
In the deepest parts of me  
I wanted to have been born her.

**Affair**

Hands hide your face  
Fingers glide through your hair  
You subtly slide your tongue across  
Your wet lips  
Wetting the silent words

Briskly but long enough  
To tantalize and tease  
And that is it for me  
I crave this moment like no other  
And forget that that is wrong

Think speak so delicately  
Always so composite and calm  
Smile (laugh) captivating  
Eyes sterling still  
And you long to say to me

Illustrating what you are to me  
With every moment  
With all your lack for words  
What we can never be

# *Like a Budding Flower*

And yet here we are

I feel your baby blues on me  
I see that wrinkle between your brows  
And that lets me know  
Like I have always known  
That you need to go.

**a cold metal bar**

holding tightly to the cold metal bar  
if not to the cage it won't take u far

never look back  
don't look at the trace

there is only a prison  
of what you can't face

steady you move quiet a mouse  
leaving no footprints in the house

taken by him  
your white ribbon of lace

leaving you vacant  
like you have no place

forgetting the anger -emotion displaced  
these mistakes you **cannot** erase

sitting still inside  
white walls encased

only cold metal bars  
now to embrace

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can years forget or misplace  
can forgiveness heal a life of waste?

**WALLS OF ASYLUM**

Confined  
Inside four walls

Chalk white  
Empty  
Alone, afraid

Deathly quiet  
Spaceless  
Stillness, beating

Four corners  
Of a room

Wreak dampness  
Illness  
Sadness, pain

Flooding memories  
Fleeting  
Gripping, escaping

A life  
Bottled away

**Time Slip**

Time slips away too soon

All the times I'd wished I'd said  
All the times I'd wished I'd done

All pass away too quickly

# *Like a Budding Flower*

Regrets and forgets  
Happiness and memories

All bottled up into one  
One moment a linear line no more

What is time that I should grasp it?  
When is time that it should pass?  
Where is this time I cannot feel it?  
Who is this time I see?

What does time do to you?

Can't stop it  
Can't make it  
Can't steal it  
Can't leave it

Understanding  
Confusion  
Madness  
Sanity

All this life contained in time

A fabric of fun  
A circle bottled up into One

Backwards forwards it moves  
Left right it chooses too

A thrashing wave hitting the shore  
Pulling back to push more time soon.

**A Sin Unbecoming**



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To become more  
You must become less  
You never knew this  
To pass this test

Your eyes were so deep  
Appearing so true  
But there is now deceit  
In these eyes of you

Do you not know  
The power these lies have  
Taking you prisoner  
Taking you bagged

Tearing at your heart  
While sleeping at night  
Tearing at your soul  
Maybe one day you might?

**Shivers of Life-**

Blotted out  
A Razor sharp edge  
Cut in-cut out  
Again and again  
Dulled to the pain  
Tingling remains

Too silent to feel  
Too quiet to hear

But you move in  
A star of light  
Soul to soul  
Breathing again  
I come to life

*Like a Budding Flower*

Trickles down my back

Shivers of laughter

Shivers of life.

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## Spiritual Spirals

### **Loving Hands**

**(Published in AIM magazine Korea 04/1/2002 issue)**

My heart is empty  
And ready to quit

Your heart is pure  
And compassionate

You lift, hold  
Listen, comfort

When I tremble  
Am foolish  
Doubtful  
Bruised

Your word endures forever  
Though of it we refuse

You are grace  
Mercy  
Faithful  
True

When we fall  
Are helpless  
Reckless  
And cruel

You hold us  
Love us  
Forgive

# *Like a Budding Flower*

And make new

And wait patiently

For us to reach our hands to you

## **Thank You Lord**

**(Published in 'In Touch' VFC Newsletter Thailand 2004 issue)**

Thank you Lord

For blessing

For forgiving

For making new.

Thank you Lord

For loving

For counsel

For caring like you do

Thank you Lord

For prayers

For friends

For all that is true.

Thank you Lord

With all my heart

Mind and soul

Thank you for being you.

## **Reborn**

**(Published in 'In Touch' VFC Newsletter Thailand 2004 issue)**

They will laugh and mock you away

But we have known you for too long to stray

When we have tired and finally given in

You will lift us up and make us new again

We will know we have been reborn then

From all you have created and meant with the first.

They will scorn you and not understand

But we will proudly say your name and stand

For we have heard you calling us

For yours is a kingdom that will become this land

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We will know we have been reborn then  
From all you have created and meant with the first.

**Faith**

**(Published in 'In Touch' VFC Newsletter Thailand 2004 issue)**

Faith is that journey taken  
Before you knew it was safe

Faith is the hand you hold  
Before you thought it might break

Faith is the believing  
Of what you are not seeing

Faith is the hug that shows care  
Though you have so much to **bear**

Faith is born in the heart  
And unto you it parts

Faith comes to us all  
For us to grab onto

But let go of too often  
From me and from you.

**Angels**

**(Published in 'In Touch' VFC Newsletter Thailand 2004 issue)**

Angels dancing  
When the world is asleep  
Upon our stars  
Upon our streets  
Angels dancing  
To twilight our nights  
Our heavenly skies  
Our heavenly lights

# *Like a Budding Flower*

Angels dancing  
Whenever they may  
Angels dancing  
And here to stay.

## **Drug Store Jesus (Written by Plumb-the soundtrack)**

Take the name  
Of saving lives  
You've got the sunset  
In your eyes  
And you've got glory  
On your mind  
Your good intentions  
Are hard to find

You're a drug store Jesus  
The miracle is gone  
You're a drug store Jesus  
A saint for everyone  
But you've thrown your soul away

All your gold  
Turns to dust  
All your masses  
Lose your trust  
This grand illusion  
This planned confusion  
This substitution  
This tainted life

You're a drug store Jesus  
The miracle is gone  
You're a drug store Jesus  
A saint for everyone  
But you've thrown your soul away

*Ami Rebecca Blackwelder*

In a world turned upside down  
Can the truth be turned around?  
In a world turned upside down  
Can the truth be turned around?

You're a drug store Jesus  
The miracle is gone  
You are drug store Jesus  
A saint for everyone  
But the world goes on.

**Complacent**

Complacently complicated coming unto church today  
Don't do too much don't feel the punch  
Waiting for someone else's truth  
To turn and come inside and untangle you

The Word shuffled under your feet  
The Lamp of Light you don't see yet  
Buried under a pile of pagan lies  
Rituals secrets and sins to hide

Don't get lost in a spider's web  
Turning away from Him angry again  
Wasting a soul that has been  
Uniquely created and called by Him.

Sometimes truth needs a little more freedom  
And seeking a little more room to breathe  
Than a ceiling and four walls can give  
Remember we have been called to live.

**Scarlet and Purple      Rev: 18**

Your heavy hand waves to us from up on high  
As if to tell us this wrong is somehow now made right  
Never knowing the pain you've caused

## *Like a Budding Flower*

From the scarlet purple of blood flooding  
Over the lives of those you damage

Glory and luxury you gave to yourself  
A maddening wine of adultery  
A thousand and seven hundred years of innocence  
Of having to bear your scars  
Of purple pains and garnet grief

Selling our way to heaven  
Buying our children's silence  
Silencing our women  
Keeping our women from our men  
Men imprisoned for scientific truth

The Messiah given a lesser name  
Holding onto its falsehood the same  
Erecting pagan trees for a pagan December birthday  
Clinging to a grave of only two nights old  
The truth you took and for lies has been sold

Wearing every color of sin:  
Gold silver pearl linen  
Wood Ivory Bronze iron  
Marble cinnamon spice incense  
Myrrh frankincense wine olive oil     Rev 18:12

Your merchants were the world's great men  
But The Light of the Lamp  
Will never shine in you again  
The voice of the bride and bridegroom  
Will never be heard in you again.     Rev 18:23



*Ami Rebecca Blackwelder*

**Creation**

**(Published in In Touch VFC Newsletter Thailand 2006 issue)**

Your boundless imagination  
Overflowing the heavens  
Overflowing it with dragonfly tails  
And a brilliant ball of bursting life resting still  
But moving in the darkness of this heaven night  
Life silently awakens and waits for the moment to erupt

Here we are restlessly counting days  
But in timelessness you forever remain  
How could we think to ever fully comprehend  
The life partaken by these God hands?

Opening buds for blossoming  
Singing birds and melodies

Flying fish fighting upstream  
Minds holding too many memories  
Yielding to your wisdom  
Shaped how they ought to be  
Creation from you flowing  
Growing, evolving into a glorious show

All a sweet symphony of singing  
In harmony according to your pleasures.

**Adoring**

Words cannot illustrate  
The life that has sprung true  
How marvelous you stay

Adoring your creation each day  
From the first to the last  
Your guiding hands the map

## *Like a Budding Flower*

Knowing beforehand nature's choosing  
Bringing to it harmony  
That alone it would have never known

So related intertwined interconnected  
Everything moving in rhyme  
Related to each other

Breathing by your breath  
Living by your life  
Everything varied everything the same.

### **Finding Following**

*Tragedy*

I do not know where anyone might be.

*Feeling weak*

I know where my heart has brought me.

*Calvary*

Love is wider than my need could ever be.

*Prophecy*

God is there beside me asking me.

*Gravity*

I'm falling as browned leaves.

*Reaching*

I am asking what is asked of me.

*Faithfully*

Following as asked of me.

### **Healing Me**

Laying with the Lamb

You know how I feel

I come with a shield

But you come with Zeal

*Healing me*

*Healing me.*

Touching the Robe  
Eyes brilliant gold red  
I do not see His head  
But His words I am fed

*Healing me*  
*Healing me.*

Calling out the Name  
In you I put trust  
I bring words of fuss  
But you know how to address

*Healing me*  
*Healing me.*

Reaching to the throne  
Of a spirit filled land  
I need a friend  
And you reach your hand

*Healing me*  
*Healing me.*

**Is The Sky Falling?**  
Is the sky falling?  
Is the end near?  
Is the trumpet sounding?  
Is the harvest ripe?

With wonderment and marvel  
Here we are like still doves  
Waiting and hoping  
But where is the love?

## *Like a Budding Flower*

Is not our time better spent  
In songs of worship and of lent?  
Not in this world of mess  
Tired and toiled and offering less?

Think to that which is eternal  
For the finest hour will be here  
Blossoming before us  
Like a tender flower.

### **I am Special**

**(Published in 'In Touch VFC Newsletter Thailand 2005 issue)**

I am special  
In each and every way  
God looked inside me  
Made me special one special day  
He knows my weakness  
He knows my strength  
He has endowed me  
With something no one can take  
If you look at you  
Then look at me  
We are different for God's glory  
Special is something we will always be.

### **God Is There**

**(Published in 'In Touch VFC Newsletter Thailand 2005 issue)**

In times of trouble  
In times of fear  
When your sorrow has doubled  
When no friend is near

There is a light  
Shining through the midst of tears  
Even unto the midnight  
It will fill your heart with cheer.

*Ami Rebecca Blackwelder*

For he is the one  
Who cares for you  
Sacrificing His own Son  
Because his love is true.

The blood of the Lamb  
Washing clean your sins away  
Flooding atonement over this land  
And over your lives every day.

Give praises to the Holy King  
From now on we walk together  
He will make your heart sing  
And stay with you forever.

**So I Praise You Lord**

**(Published in 'In Touch VFC Newsletter Thailand 2005 issue)**

When my heart aches with pains  
Your heart fills me with abiding love.

When life is a chaotic roller coaster  
You are peace within the storm.

When noise fills the skies  
You are quiet and stillness.

When darkness closes in  
You are the light of the world.

So I praise you, Lord. You are my hope.

When loneliness surrounds like encompassing soldiers  
You are a friend indeed.

When I am troubled

## *Like a Budding Flower*

You are the great counselor.

When I am weak  
You are the strength.

When I want to give up  
You lift me and hold me up.

So I praise you, Lord. You are my hope.

### **I Learned**

**(Published in 'In Touch' VFC Newsletter Thailand 2004 issue)**

I was strong  
And did not need anyone  
You gave me weakness  
It is better to walk with someone.

I was rich  
And could have anything  
You gave me poverty  
And I learned  
That to have you is all I need.

I was proud  
I thought I knew everything  
You gave me humility  
And I learned  
There is always room to grow.

I was full  
Food was my counsel  
You gave me hunger  
And I learned  
You are the great counsel.

*Ami Rebecca Blackwelder*

I was selfish  
I had everything  
You took it all away  
And I learned  
It is better to be generous.

I was apathetic  
Did not let myself feel  
You gave me pain  
And I learned  
It is better to love.

I am here  
Always growing  
You are there  
Always teaching  
We are always learning.

**The Will of God**

**(Published in 'In Touch VFC Newsletter Thailand 2005 issue)**

The Will of God  
Will never take you  
Where the grace of God  
Cannot keep you  
Where the arms of God  
Cannot support you  
Where the power of God  
Cannot endow you  
Where the riches of God  
Cannot supply your needs

The Will of God  
Will never take you  
Where the Spirit of God  
Cannot work through you  
Where the wisdom of God

## *Like a Budding Flower*

Cannot teach you  
Where the army of God  
Cannot protect you  
Where the hands of God  
Cannot mold you

The Will of God  
Will never take you  
Where the love of God  
Cannot reach you  
Where the mercies of God  
Cannot sustain you  
Where the peace of God  
Cannot calm you  
Where the authority of God  
Cannot help you

The Will of God  
Will never take you  
Where the comfort of God  
Cannot dry your tears  
Where Word of God  
Cannot feed you  
Where the miracles of God  
Cannot be done for you  
Where the presence of God  
Cannot find you

Because wherever you are  
He is there.



*Ami Rebecca Blackwelder*

## The Social Inquisition

### **Obscure Thailand**

Silence pierces my window  
Than a deafening thump thump  
Telling the city to wake up  
Wake up and start the fun

Longing needing  
Everyone pushes and pulls  
Hopeless to falling  
Music hopping drowns need out

Mother's eyes dedicated  
Tainted skin darkened by sun  
Orange leaves brown trees  
Strong heat humidity

Begging straining  
Everyone wants in  
Obscure Thailand  
Land of living sin.

### **Bruise**

You left a bruise when you left  
A part of you you should take back

I did not ask for you to come  
And leave a print of your thumb

So close to me you push pull tear  
As if I would not be aware

## *Like a Budding Flower*

You walked away with nothing said  
I said nothing when I should have

You left a bruise when you left  
A part of you you should take back.

### **Under A Thai Sky**

Childless  
Hopeless without a dream  
Penniless  
Senseless he will scream

A pair of charcoal eyes too deep with pain  
Under the sky of a heated drowning rain

A pair of legs so sore with fear  
They do not move here or there

An action so thoughtless in care  
Will scar the child or make him tear.

### **Kill Joy**

There lies no joy here-  
No nights to call a midnight clear  
No lives wanting to be steered  
No hearts full of pride  
No hidden deep inside  
No passion wanting to be found  
No sun wind water ground  
There lies no joy here-  
No voice that is my own  
No promises carved in stone  
No chances to be taking  
No boundaries to be breaking  
No feelings left to linger  
No rings around my finger

*Ami Rebecca Blackwelder*

There lies no joy here-

**Lady Stray**

**(Inspired in Thailand/published in Expat Thailand 12/2004 issue)**

Stained sheets keep her warm in the cold nights  
Brown bags hold years of her life  
Haunting hazel eyes tear into your soul  
They don't look when they walk by

She is content with her bare bruised feet  
Taking her from her sidewalk  
To the other side of the street  
Beige spotted watch dog keeps her safe

As she watches the unconcerned  
Passing her in her black silk garb  
That she has spun around herself so delicately  
Like she is about to go off to a fancy dance.

**Baby's Eyes (Inspired in Korea)**

The morning called you and your mother to the street  
Your long lean bodies and dirty clothes  
Selling peas lettuce broccoli greens  
While others passed by quickly  
Swiftly with their heads up  
They did not want to see your eyes  
They were too good for you to see there  
You kept your heads low sitting on the ground  
Pulling peas from their pods contently.

**Borders**

**(Inspired in Cambodia/published in Expat Thailand 12/1/2004 issue)**

A tear falls  
A child holds  
A baby  
From the ground

# *Like a Budding Flower*

On the borders of Cambodia  
Care is never found

Like flocks of seagulls  
Surrounding  
A foreigner's face  
Hopes

To take these scars  
Take this child  
Away from this  
God-forsaken place.

## **A Country (Inspired by the Afghan woman's plight)**

A robe -a body scorned  
A mask -voices not heard

A rule –freedoms stolen  
What is there left to take?

A woman –something to hide  
A pain –without the why

A song –something not sung  
How does life go on?

A hand –holds us down  
A choice –is not around

A world –we do not belong  
A country –trembling for love.

**Unwanted (Inspired by the homeless children of Brazil)**

My heart breaks  
My heart aches  
Tears try to hide  
But they fall  
Brushed aside  
Pushed to the ground  
Missing in the night  
Hidden from sight  
Where have the children gone?

The music dies  
At the sounds of guns  
Screams falling  
Frantically to the ground  
Fear is an emotion  
Too often found  
Till there is nothing  
Nothing here hanging around  
Where have the children gone?

**A Crowded World**

Something is mumbled under a breath  
Discarded disrupted not meant to be left

Someone is left with no time at all  
Stumbling rushing to remain tall

Someone is running to anywhere  
Escaping to make it somewhere

Something inside is tired of waiting  
Patience is fragile about to be breaking

Someone eventually is going to give  
Trouble is something that won't let you live

## *Like a Budding Flower*

Someone is shouting from deep within  
Struggling for the life she wants to begin

Something makes it easy to end  
Timing becomes a question of when

Someone is learning what it means to betray  
Not knowing the harm that brings him one day

Someone is longing for forbidden fruit  
Keeping him from enjoying what is true

Sometimes this is a crowded world  
You me and everyone in between.

### **Jaded-**

No more tears will fall  
For this man and his crooked life  
Leaving us empty and penniless

He will say he is a saint  
Giving away money for all the poor  
But somehow now we know better

Than to wait with our open arms  
To listen with our open ears  
And know he is not coming back

This world has made a jaded man  
Out of cold steel and hard stone.

### **On the Credit Card Offices of the World**

They fly like the vultures  
Swooping down upon the almost dead  
Swimming like the sharks

# *Ami Rebecca Blackwelder*

Endlessly circling their prey

They tear and they bite  
Like the lion and tigers

Chewing like crocodiles  
Ruthless and unforgiving  
Living like the piranha  
For a flesh feeding frenzy

And never tell you  
“Buyer beware.”

## **Hackers of the World Unite**

Big brother’s not playing fair  
Not a surprise but does anyone care?  
Phone lines thumbprints everything belongs to them

They don’t share with the other kids  
Like school kids under ten  
Passwords security lines it’s all highly classified

Is there anything this brother doesn’t hide?  
They don’t trust us. Who can trust them?  
When hackers of the world unite

We may see why on CNN.

## **Celebrity Gaga**

We are an advanced world now gaga is spreading quickly I found  
Celebrity gaga for everyone now celebrity babies celebrity towns.  
Celebrity gaga sums up the lives of generation x husbands and wives  
Generation x daughters and sons will be weaned on television  
Nothing will be more fun.

## *Like a Budding Flower*

Our favorite stars shoot like comets across the heavenliest blue skies  
Across box office successes we envy to try shining in coveted living and  
unparalleled lives. Our stars live in dimensions floating by into worlds still  
young and universes untried. We live our own lives in delicate stride and  
celebrity gaga bathes in a bath of expensive celebrity pride.

It's Celebrity gaga because there is nothing more. Nothing more is needed to  
cure the world of its idled and bored. Celebrity gaga is on all day and all  
night; to tell us what to **think**, **believe**, to do and be. Don't get upset; don't  
get uptight to think for **yourself cannot** be right. To think it started so  
innocently from a man and his box he called TV.

### **To Do Without (Inspired in Thailand)**

Somewhere there is a world  
That could give us more

But here no laughter  
Pours from our lips

No lights shine upon  
Our naked souls

No riches find their way  
To our quiet homes

Empty remains our  
Calloused and chipped Hands

We have done without so much for so long  
I guess it taught us to be strong?

There is no one to understand  
What life is like in this land



*Ami Rebecca Blackwelder*

Maybe someday we will have  
Something more than what we have

No songs of glee to sing  
No dreams to dream

Nameless streets  
Nameless names

We have done without so much for so long  
Perhaps it has taught us to be strong?

**A Breath of Freedom**

A breath of freedom is what we wanted to see  
All we wanted to know when we wanted to be free  
We were the cook, the mother, the nurse and maid  
The face no one knew, the face of shame

Away from the vote from the land  
We made our way; we made our stand  
We fought hard sacrificing all we knew  
Fighting for what we knew was truth

No longer living in captivity  
Searching for what we call equality  
Yet here we still struggle like before  
Of a different mask but of the same scars

Still searching for a breath of freedom.

**On the Fence (inspired in the Military)**

A twisted soul  
A shriveled heart  
A tainted dream  
Eating mashed potatoes and green beans  
Another solitude

# *Like a Budding Flower*

Another fortress  
Another emptiness  
Waiting alone here on the fence  
A recurring nightmare  
A careful day  
A dangerous ground  
Lives lost and never found.

## **Before we were Soldiers**

Before we were soldiers  
We were so many things  
A father a brother  
A life we could dream  
A day shift a night shift  
We were working so hard  
Before we were soldiers  
Before we were scarred

Before we were soldiers  
We tried so many things  
Hang-gliding play fighting  
Speeding scuba diving  
Anything we would try  
Adventurous spirits were we  
Before we were soldiers  
Before we knew what war could be

Before we were soldiers  
We once never knew  
The blade comes for anyone  
Coming for me and for you  
No one is innocent in these killing fields  
Death knows no boundary here  
Before we were soldiers  
Before we knew fear.

*Ami Rebecca Blackwelder*

## A Reflective Particle

*Dedicated to Maria Blackwelder Grandma. One of my memories of her is of her sitting on her sofa, reading this poem on a loose paper before it was published, telling me how she loved the last line.*

### **Reflections**

A mirror holds a hundred faces of growing up growing away  
It holds a hundred lives of yesterday and today

It holds thousands of changes forgotten and anew  
Everything that has made and is making you of you  
Mirrors reflect the pieces to the puzzles we hide  
To look at and remember who we are inside

When you look into the mirror glass  
And see the puzzle in the reflection pass

Reflecting faces forgotten and anew  
They tell you all you've done and are about to do

They reflect what was, was not, what could have been  
What is may be and shouldn't have

They reflect the torn healed changed  
Scared blossomed and which remained the same

In the reflection you are the many faces staring back at you  
Reminding yourself what is inside and what is true

You may be many questions to answers you cannot find  
Searching endlessly you could become entwined

## *Like a Budding Flower*

Maybe you are the strength you cannot see  
Maybe you are the weakness you are about to leave  
Maybe you are the youth or the aged  
Maybe many answers to a different page

Maybe we all are many answers.

### **With All My Dreams**

Whispers under my ears  
Pictures of all those years  
Dripping like a faucet of tears  
With smells reminding me of all my dreams  
Stories fall from lips like streams  
Streams of rushing water  
Nothing is as it seems  
Hidden deep inside of me  
Is another place I long to be  
With sunflowers and a cup of tea  
Letting go of everything so recklessly  
For something greater than what is seen  
Someday that is where I'll be  
With all my dreams  
With all my dreams.

### **So Far Away**

Under the same sky  
We are so far away

My hands caress the bare glass  
Of the closed window pane  
Fogged up from last night's deep rain

I leave my handprint and wonder  
If you are feeling me the same  
Across the world is so far

*Ami Rebecca Blackwelder*

Wishing I had stayed  
I imagine what you are doing  
If you are curled in bed like me

When I think, I think of you  
Near you is where I want to be  
Loving you a million miles away.

**Must Be Human**

I strain to keep myself up  
I have yet another workday  
Left here with a bruised heart

Bleeding away  
Bleeding away  
I must be something human today.

I cry knowing it won't help  
No one can hear this pain  
Hidden so well under all these stains

Bleeding away  
Bleeding away  
I must be something human today

Letting go of ambition  
Answers seem to stray  
So far from me and now just

Bleeding away  
Bleeding away  
I must be something human today.

## *Like a Budding Flower*

### **No Place Alone**

When you stand and you are alone  
You've found no place called home  
The day falls on you like a rock  
You don't want to wake up  
You are not alone

The alarm clock tells you to get up  
You stumble for the door  
Taxis have all disappeared  
You are late again for work  
You are not alone

Your friends too busy to hear you cry  
Your lover too far away to even try  
Alone in bed you wonder why  
Nothing ever goes your way  
You are not alone.

### **All Dried Up**

An

Apricot sits  
On an empty table  
Waiting to be eaten  
Waiting to be tried  
Tasty tantalizing  
Conveniently  
All mine.

### **Sometimes It Burns**

Sometimes it burns like wilderness burnt down by violent fire  
Like the good men you wish you had gotten to know better  
Like the cigar put out against your body and its discolored mark  
Before you realized you could leave him and finally did

*Ami Rebecca Blackwelder*

Sometimes it burns like fire that spreads across carpet  
Like the dreams that never had much tending to  
Like those vulgar words he yells at you  
Before you slap him across the face

Sometimes it burns like coals after a match has struck them lit  
Like the places you never could afford to go to  
Like the words of promise and I love you  
Before you were betrayed by them

Sometimes inside it only burns.

**So Much More**

Push shove  
Always more to do  
It never is easy  
Though you wish it to.

Breathless frantic  
Someone has left you  
Never did he see  
You deserve more too.

You are pretty and wanting  
A voice that always is erased  
And someone else here always  
Has a more attractive face.

You have given too much of yourself  
To simply be replaced  
Sometimes all you do feels  
Like it is done in waste

Someone is prettier less wanting  
And can somehow do

## *Like a Budding Flower*

Everything better  
Better than you.

So you push shove  
Trying for something better too  
Never knowing you are  
So much more

Than he will ever know.

### **Good Byes**

Hands open  
Black velvet  
Hiding your eyes  
From this world  
Feet wet  
Don't stop yet  
Don't take the poison  
From the bottle  
Blue eyes  
Shy sometimes  
Open your eyes  
Nothing to lose  
Feel the breath  
On your neck  
Don't say your goodbyes  
There is more happy news.

### **Beautiful Boy**

Everything comes to you so easily  
You understand everything so carefully  
Without you there could never be  
Beautiful boy

Then this world came crashing in  
You didn't know where to begin



*Ami Rebecca Blackwelder*

Putting all the pieces together again  
Beautiful boy

As you look at life with innocent eyes  
Holding on with your life  
Hold on strong hold on tight  
Beautiful boy.

# *Like a Budding Flower*

## Frivolity and Felicity

### **Mulder (inspired by the X-files)**

Mulder

You are green blue eyes

Dark brown hair

Investigating

Telling jokes

An unmatched smile

Unmatched ways

And you have something to say

You know how to say it

You are the words the script

Synthesized memorized

Utilized to tantalize

You are Mulder

A special agent

Behind a desk

Climbing out of a ditch

Jumping onto a passing train

Chasing a man **who** knows

Where to find the truth

A man trying to twist the truth

A man **who** knows

Where to find your sister

You give pitches to Skinner

To the FBI

To all the bureaucrats

They never believe you

But all is fair

Because you never

Believe them either

You are disheveled hair

Cool sunglasses

*Ami Rebecca Blackwelder*

A high quality trench coat  
And a miniaturized  
Black cell phone  
We all wish we had  
You wait to hear from Scully  
Who is waiting to hear from you  
So the two of you can solve the mystery  
And I can be in bed at ten o'clock.

**China's Sea**

Left standing alone on an empty land  
The wind blows hard  
I see monsters ahead  
Where am I?  
Where am I?  
Alone I stand  
The sky darkens  
No one is outside  
No one cares to be  
Standing in the cold  
Standing alone  
On China's sea.

**Till Morning**

Sleep sleep  
Still and silently meek  
All the morning and night is yours alone  
Wrap yourself up in her sweet hours  
Fleeting slowly as you dream  
Dream dream  
Dear one and darling  
The night gives her silence  
And the morning her glow  
Fleeting slowly as you wake up  
Wake up wake up  
Full of wonder and woe

## *Like a Budding Flower*

Making wishes to the morning  
The night will envy to know  
Till morning  
Till morning.

### **Sleeping**

I sleep  
In the night  
Tossing  
Turning  
Bad dreams  
I fight  
My hands  
Swaying in the air  
I open my eyes  
Climb out of bed  
Cross the carpet  
Crawl to the den  
The den is quiet  
The den is dark  
Behind the walls  
The monsters wake up  
Ghosts  
Goblins  
Fly over me  
I fall to the floor  
Don't know what I see  
Covering my eyes  
I want to flee  
Then I open them up  
To my surprise  
I am in bed curled up.

*Ami Rebecca Blackwelder*

**Waiting For the Sun (Ode to Emily)**

Where is the sun I waited for?  
Instead of warmth a slamming door.  
She shone not for me.

Instead I awoke to find myself  
In the midst of a cold dark breeze  
Under a blue sky I waited  
While waiting patiently

I fell into a slumber  
The blue sky turned into a storm  
A storm that swallowed me.

***Ghost***

*I see a ghost*  
Over my head  
Over these white sheets  
Over this hard bed  
What else can I see?  
What else can be said?

*I see a ghost*  
A collection of light  
Her hair auburn brown  
Her outline so bright  
Is she terribly sad?  
Is she confused or mad?

*I see a ghost*  
How can she be?  
So I close my eyes  
She is so close to me.  
Does she disappear?  
Does she want to be here?

## *Like a Budding Flower*

### *I see a ghost*

Who is not here to scare  
But she is a ghost  
And she wants to tear  
From her world and into my own  
For she is a ghost who isn't quite home.

### **So Young**

The world is our oyster  
Caviar and wine  
Dancing under the neon light  
With ballroom couples  
Telling themselves they will never grow old  
Glittered gold polished toe nails and hand nails  
Frivolous sparkly maroon dresses  
Spinning circles in this twinkling room  
We are so young  
Bodies never tiring to do the jig and jive  
Lips telling stories of how life will be  
Dining in and out hopelessly  
Laughing carelessly  
Recklessly abandoning inhibitions  
Pondering nothing beyond this moment  
With wine glasses in our hands  
Smiles on our faces that will not end  
We are so young.

### **Hungry**

I am hungry for what is sweet  
Tender fruit peeled open  
A virgin first kiss treat  
Swiss chocolate from Belgium  
Fresh **barley** and heavy wheat  
A ruthless foe I am  
Timeless tunes in my timeless mind  
I am hungry like desire

*Ami Rebecca Blackwelder*

For a forbidden fruit hung high  
Waiting for my mouth to savor  
What it longs for in the night.

**Time-**

Time where did you go?  
Where did you run to?

I've been waiting  
Thought you were behind

But in the mirror  
I see clearer

That you have run ahead  
And left me behind

I'm getting smaller  
This world is bigger

Thought I'd have more  
Then lost time

So I hold to your fabric  
I hold to your thread

Embracing your everything  
That you left for me.

**Michael Scolfield**

Crashing in  
Is a world around you  
But you remain  
-Collected  
Speeding in cars  
Under stars

# *Like a Budding Flower*

Taking you far  
-Away  
From all of this  
And all of that  
You find it all so  
-Reckless  
A Hand to trust  
Stretching out for you  
'It's real to me'  
-Sarah  
Finding her is finding yourself  
While running  
You can finally stand  
-Still  
Holding on to her  
Holding on to him  
A brother of a different  
-Name  
But he carries the same heart  
And you've gone too far  
To turn back  
-Now  
After all the conspiracies  
You have found  
You will never stop  
-Running  
Until you stop them  
The Company  
The card holders  
-Dead  
Or they will stop you  
And will die trying  
Catching up  
-Quietly  
Killing all off  
They never stop



*Ami Rebecca Blackwelder*

Catch your breath  
-Breathe  
Is it real  
Is it a dream  
Doesn't matter now  
In Sarah's arms is  
-Peace.

# *Like a Budding Flower*

Ami Blackwelder is a teacher and a writer. She has written three religious books and three creative collections (short stories, poetry, children stories). She is currently involved in finishing her Guardians saga and promoting her first historical fiction: *The Day the Flowers Died*.

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*Author's Note:*

Thank you to all my supporters, family, friends and fans for keeping me encouraged and look for my new sci-fi romance novel *The Hunted of 2060*.

*Ami Rebecca Blackwelder*