

MANUSCRIPTS  
RETROSPECT

JoAnn Gocking

I love you  
I can say it now  
that you're no longer here  
But if I'd said it then  
You would have flown  
Or worse  
You would have stayed  
And laughed

Your gentleness was like a father  
Not a lover  
Your embrace was strong  
But in your heart you held her tight  
And when you smiled at me  
Her name was on your lips

But you never deceived me  
And I thank you for that  
The things I feel now  
Are no fault but my own  
For I knew all about her

But knowing doesn't stop my pain  
Or thinking of what might have been  
If I had known you  
in another place and time  
So leave me in my misery  
For a while  
And let me say I love you  
While I can

