

## **Forgetting to Forget**

I forgot to keep track of the days of my life, make endless lists of new year's resolutions, take the shopping list from the refrigerator door, take the chicken out of the freezer, make unfulfillable promises, remember the unnecessary things, read about the adverse effects of memory medications before taking them, that I am a hypochondriac, sing love songs, pray, go to funerals, laugh out loud, remember you, walk on a tightrope to cross a cliff, dance naked in the rain, look for a rainbow when the rain stops, jump on one leg over the broken tiles of the sidewalk, go into the forest at dusk to listen to the hooting of owls, walk aimlessly, visit New Orleans during Mardi Gras, visit Venice during Carnival, build sand castles with my bare hands, eat raw oysters, climb the highest mountain to see the world from up there, be anonymous, feel sorrow, brush my teeth in the morning, look at myself in the mirror, burn my ships.

I forgot to tell you that I love you, throw stones on the surface of a lake, count sheep while sleeping, feel cold in winter, run down the hill with my Labrador retriever, challenge death to a poker game, feel pain, wallow in the grass, eat raw oysters, check my horoscope, travel to the moon to be closer to the stars, get drunk on Saturday nights, clap my hands, break the ice, dance by moonlight, go to the doctor, leave a light on to sleep, pay my bills, go to the bank to ask for a loan to pay my debts, mortgage my house, give alms, go on a hunger strike, say goodbye, kiss you on your eyelids, caress your soft cheeks, feel butterflies fluttering in my stomach, have a gin and tonic in a bar about to close, pour milk in my coffee,

make a wish when I see a shooting star, whistle a tango, buy you a precious gift, smoke underwater, jump out of a plane without a parachute, serve the sentence of having loved you so much.

I forgot to observe ants carrying bits of leaves to their nest, draw moustaches on the portraits, paint the sidewalks with chalk, draw graffiti on the neighborhood walls, run away from problems, give you kisses and caresses, walk barefoot on the sand of the beach at dusk, write the saddest verses in a pentagrammed notebook, hold my breath underwater, go on a drifting raft, dream of you every night, daydream about you, paint the ceiling, write rhyming poems, love, lie, love you desperately, tell secrets to my pillow, bring people to my bed, fly with crystal wings, kiss a toad, sing out of tune, toast with a glass of wine, dive into the ocean waves on a summer day, tie a yellow ribbon 'round the old oak tree, see just a yellow lemon tree, write a book, have a child and watch him grow, plant a tree and watch it grow, fly kites, curse, knock on your door again hoping that you'll let me back into your life.

I forgot to lock your memories away, ask permission, tell my withered neurons that you're no longer by my side, search for you in endless labyrinths, recognize your face in every face in the crowd, write your name in the sky, build a hut on a desert island, pat a dog, feed the pigeons in the park, believe in ghosts and magical beings, shout that I'm alive, borrow, be afraid to go into a dark alley, shiver with cold in winter, give thanks, cast spells, make excuses for everything, curl up in front of the fireplace in winter, marvel at the iridescent flight of a hummingbird, live in the alley, solve riddles, flip a coin, sweep the floor, iron my shirts, go down a slide, plant lemon trees in the garden, tell silly jokes, put flowers in the vases, take pictures of you smiling at me, write a message in a bottle, chase Moby Dick, buy another pillow, mend my broken heart, raise the flag of surrender, call for a cease-fire.

I forgot to have a cup of hot chocolate, go on a diet, dip a finger in the meringue of the cake, smear paint on my fingers, dress up as a clown, raise my middle finger to tell the world

to go to hell, smell the scent of flowers, learn to bark like a dog, crow like a rooster, sharpen my pencils, read that book I never got around to reading and that I've had on my bedside table for so long I've forgotten when I placed it there, put on perfume before leaving home, cry for pain, sing lullabies, get angry, ask for forgiveness, run my hand over velvet, bite a peach with the skin on, let the wind tangle in my hair, run for shelter, knock on heaven's door, play hide-and-seek, cry for joy, celebrate my birthday, yawn from boredom, feel the sun on my skin, try to read your thoughts, read your lips when you told me I love you, drive a pink Cadillac, hug you before you left, ask you to come back, travel to faraway places.

I forgot to speak in foreign languages, play Russian roulette, throw spit in the wind, go to church, spread butter on toast, look deep into your eyes, build bridges, protest, stick a dagger in your back, work all day only to rest for a few hours, reupholster the furniture, clean the windows, burn all your photos, mend my broken heart, clean up my mistakes, moan like a stray dog, picture myself in a boat on a river with Lucy in the sky with diamonds, go on vacation to Hong Kong, that one and one and one is three, look for the eye of the storm to lie down and rest and not think about you anymore, John Lennon singing about yellow matter custard dripping from a dead dog's eye, Neil Young singing about a dead man lying by the side of the road with the daylight in his eyes, shelter from the storm with Bob Dylan, travel to the north country fair, look for a memory of you that I lost long ago, get your name tattooed on my arms.

I forgot to wipe your lipstick smudges off my favorite mug.

I forgot to die.

I forgot to live.

That's why I want to forget everything I forgot about and go back to being myself again.