

Poetry Series

Chris Embrick
- poems -

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Chris Embrick(3/27/1952)

Retired high school science teacher. 35 trapped in a 66 year old body.

Hobbies/interests: writing poetry, song lyrics, hiking, gardening, oil and acrylic painting.

50 Fathoms To Death Send

Send death to 50 fathoms
wind and waves, lightning, thunder
torrents falling, seas churning
marauding pirates stealing, killing
sailors drunken, unsuspecting
none spared that night deadly
few praying, the horrified Heaven cursing
gold, Inca's treasures plundered
spilled blood
justice
blood spilled
plundered treasures, Inca's gold
cursing Heaven the horrified, praying few
deadly night that spared none
unsuspecting drunken sailors
killing, stealing, pirates marauding
churning seas, falling torrents
thunder, lightning, waves and wind
fathoms 50 to death send.

Chris Embrick

A Brief Pause

Over time hurt from love withdraws
From loneliness sometimes a pause
A wound cut deep covered with gauze
Bleeds fresh again
As soon as the memories thaw
The tears begin.

Chris Embrick

A Chance Encounter

Through dappled light the forest stroll
A chance encounter with a friend
Fond memories revived again
Walking among the aspens gold.

Ahead the flowers, grassy knoll
The beauty of the day transcends
Through dappled light the forest stroll
A chance encounter with a friend.

The secrets of our hearts unfold
Not knowing how the day will end
Heart's quaking in October's wind
Love gently brushes hungry souls
Through dappled light the forest stroll.

Chris Embrick

A Choice Of Brides(An Irish Verse)

A kind heart will not requite
One who's tongue is quick to bite
Though your venom's filled with spite
You take revenge to new heights
Over his love, I'll not fight
Though with him, there's much delight
Between the two, he'll decide
Who'll be the bride, wear the white.

Chris Embrick

A Cook's Rhyme

Churn, churn, churn the milk
fresh from the udder
If you let it sit too long
You'll have biscuits without butter.

Stir, stir, stir the rice
don't get in a hurry
If you have to cook it twice
don't bother with the curry.

Sip, sip, sip the wine
you add to your dishes
Your guests may choke when they dine
but you'll think the meal's delicious.

Chris Embrick

A Dream Of Dazzling Light

I dreamed a dream of dazzling light
Nothing in the universe so bright
And through the halo saw the center
And there a door that I could enter
Angelic voices far and near
Pulsated through the atmosphere
Word were spoken without speaking
Revealed to my soul what I was seeking
No fantasy of make-believe
I longed to stay and never leave
Hours passed or so it seemed
But by the clock a minute's dream
The angst of life has never ceased
But now I sleep with perfect peace
This my prayer has been each night
To dream the dream of dazzling light.

Chris Embrick

A Few Days Without You

The tinder of my heart was dry
Your leaving caused my heart to break
There's no good time to say goodbye
The nights alone were hard to take

I've not forgotten our first kiss
From youth our lives were entwined
As we grew older love refined
And brought this life of happiness

Though but few days, it's much too long
The thoughts of you are beautiful
We left no room for other love
My heart's been lonely here alone

The wick of love needs but a spark
To start a wildfire in my heart.

Chris Embrick

A Fighter's Heart

At birth they said she'd not live long
Each day she needed special care
In weakness born, while others strong
She never thought of God unfair
She spent her youth inside, alone
Her simple tasks were magnified
Ten times she failed, eleven tried
Determined to be on her own
A cripple with a fighter's heart
From inner strength, she found the means
To not relinquish future dreams
Though life gave others a headstart

She beat the odds with faith and pride
She never let doubt slow down her stride.

Chris Embrick

A Friend Who Changed My Life (A Minute Poem)

Unlike the rest you saw my pain
my friendship gained
abused, no smile
my life a trial

A crippled bird I left the nest
found happiness
love for my pain
how times have changed

You kept your promise all these years
and now the tears
you've come again
my faithful friend.

Chris Embrick

A Greater Captain(A Terzanelle Poem)

Beyond this life there's an uncharted realm
to journey on requires higher wisdom
To a Greater Captain I give the helm
to yield the ship is my own decision
For sound advice I have no objection
to journey on requires higher wisdom
I dare not set sail without direction
I follow the moral compass of my heart
for sound advice I have no objection
When into unknown seas my ship embarks
I'll not trust winds of chance for tomorrow
I follow the compass of my heart
This earthly ship for a time I borrowed
whatever Port of Call waits at life's ending
I'll not trust winds of chance for tomorrow
I'll not go through life with thoughts unbending
Beyond this life there's an uncharted realm
whatever Port of Call waits at life's ending
To a Greater Captain I give the helm.

Chris Embrick

A Hard Lesson From Love

With loneliness each night I sleep
No love to lay beside my heart
A fool I lost the better part
The one I loved; I could not keep
The wounds of heartache cut too deep
The river dry, the dreams all wilt
My heart is riddled with the guilt
The mountain between us too steep
In youth I took love for granted
From love's far shore I have been blown
Now time gives me no advantage
The seeds of love have never grown
The lesson hard that life's planted
My heart must reap the hurt it's sown.

Chris Embrick

A Late Garden

I just harvested a crop of poems
That I planted from thought seeds
Careful to water each one
And hoe out all the weeds
And thankful for the fertile soil
And fruit upon the vine
I had enough and more to share
So I thought to rest my mind
But from the roots growing deep
New thoughts would sprout each day
And so I must keep my baskets full
And give what I don't need away
So this year I'll plant a Fall garden
And have a second crop to reap
Then let my mind rest for a time
When the Fall harvest is complete.

Chris Embrick

A Lonely Day When No Tears Fell

A lonely day when no tears fell
With little comfort but her own
Outside the rose buds soon would swell
A lonely day when no tears fell
On memories her heart now dwells
The grave covered, her husband gone
A lonely day when no tears fell
With little comfort but her own.

Chris Embrick

A Man's True Worth

A man's worth's no greater than his word
His steadfast answer sets him apart
With and honest man truth's never blurred
His conscience guiding, leads his heart

His steadfast answer sets him apart
From wisdom his wealth for life is gleaned
His conscience guiding, leads his heart
There's right and wrong no inbetween

From wisdom his wealth for life is gleaned
He never gives less than he takes
There's right and wrong no inbetween
His covenant of honor none can break

He never gives less than he takes
He lives peaceful, avoiding strife
His covenant of honor none can break
Out of his heart flow the issues of life

He lives peaceful, avoiding strife
With and honest man truth's never blurred
Out of his heart flow the issues of life
A man's worth's no greater than his word.

Chris Embrick

A Moment Of Truth(An Ovillejo Poem)

It hurts to know you feel this way
That's what you say
Am I the one you're thinking of
with thoughts of love?
You use my heart like a turnstile
you seldom smile.
Was it hard walking down the aisle?
What good are vows when love is gone?
You come and go, I'm here alone.
You say you want love, seldom smile.

Chris Embrick

A Mother's Relief

On the first of four grave stones:

Here lies my Polly
the first to wed
with love she kept
my heart well fed

On the second:

Here lies dear Ann
deep in her box
wed but a year
she died of pox

On the third:

Here lies my Bess
none so sweet
of three she had
the warmest feet

On the forth:

Here lies old Bob
good and dead
One by one
my daughters wed
Thank God his life
is finally o'er
I would have murdered him
had he courted four.

Chris Embrick

A Night Of Rest(A Nocturna Poem)

The honeymoon a tempest rare
no tender words to soothe the heart
no night perfume to fill the air
no bed for love, no pillow soft
when love's first headache has its start
all my heart's good intentions scoffed
no peace tonight, within the nest
with cold tinder, best save the spark
give dreams of love a night of rest.

Chris Embrick

A Parable: The Athlete And The Crippled Man

There was a young athletic man
Who let no challenge go to waste
His father hung his head in shame
If he came in second place
One day he climbed the mountain
Near his father's estate
He said: 'I'll prove to my father
That his son is no light weight'
And so began his obsession
To never settle for second best
He would prove to the world
He was ahead of the rest
Then one day on a higher mountain
Moving at a snails pace
He met a crippled man on the trail
With a smile upon his face
And thought to himself:
What's a crippled man doing here
What's he trying to prove
He should be in a convalescent home
Why he can barely move
If he makes it to the top
He'll probably never get back down

A few hours later, the athlete
Joined his friends at the pub in town
And so mountain after mountain
Each one higher than the one before
He pushed his body to the limits
Never satisfied, always needing more
On and on he pushed himself
Until in the middle of middle age
He finally conquered Mount Everest
To his friends cheers and accolades
The he thought to himself one day
I've climbed the highest mountain there is to climb
What else is there for a man like me
What will I do with all my time
And so after a few months of elation

He sank into a deep depression
His ego wanting more
He drove his body stiff and sore
To the clinic and his therapy session
And passing by a restaurant
Recognized the crippled man
Surrounded by a group of happy friends
Filling the air with laughter, sharing smiles

And for a moment wished he could exchange
Places for just a little while
Then thought how foolish it would be
For a man of his status to associate with such
And so he arrived at the clinic
Paid the doctor to sit and listen for an hour
Made a new appointment leaving
None the better, none the worse
His ego driving the man
Still obsessed with being first
This man never learned
How to live without strife
And how to recognize and enjoy
The simple pleasures of this life
Or how to use his talents on things that really matter
He only thought how important he was
And made his ego fatter

And still clinging to his trophies
Empty and alone
Sank deeper into bitterness in a world of his own
With pride on one shoulder
On the other deep depression
He never learned from the crippled man
Life's simple lesson
You see to the crippled man
The mountain that he climbed
Was every bit as high as Everest
But he didn't have to prove a thing
He only had to do his best
The crippled man learned from experience
That you can be happy just by trying
That first place is not always so grand

It's not how tall you are
But how tall you stand
It's staying in the race that matters
Even when you stumble
The biggest winners in this life
Are those whose hearts are humble.

Chris Embrick

A Parable: What The Aliens Saw

An alien space craft
on a voyage across the Milky Way
decided to visit the third planet
from a rather small star
in an average size solar system
But far from this beautiful, sapphire sphere
with scattered clouds and pristine
snow capped poles
they decided to look for a secluded place to land
To their horror
they saw buildings, neglected, rusting, crumbling
painted with strange art and language
Away from the cities
the countryside was littered by non organic objects
and even whole mountain tops were covered
with graffiti
Their intergalactic travel brochure showed
a completely different world
The photographs taken only a hundred years ago
The atmosphere showed signs of high radiation
and so a decision was made not to land
Having come from such a beautiful world
where nature is respected and nurtured
they could not understand
how a civilization
could mar such beauty
and so decided that the inhabitants
must indeed be barbaric
And so passed by the Earth to visit
a nearby planet
unknown to the Earth inhabitants
and spend time in paradise before going home.

Chris Embrick

A Passing Storm

Alone at dusk, the twilight hour
From my window watched the storm
A surreal landscape, slowly fading
Bathed in sepia; haunting, warm
The sound of raindrops from the showers
Soft and muffled by the tin
The leaves of Autumn just now changing
As I sat and listened to the wind
Overhead the storm passing
Outside the twilight world serene
I listened on through the darkness
The hours before me like a dream
And there observing Nature's beauty
Found a place of peace and quiet
And so I lingered, meditating
As the storm passed in the night
In the storm no lightning, thunder
No high winds that day forwarned
I did not long to see the sunrise
But found my solace in the storm.

Chris Embrick

A Poem Is A Highway

A poem is a highway
A road map for dreams to ride
It may travel to the familiar
Or to a treasure chest inside
It's lanes may lead to mysteries
Or to a journey's end
Become a one way street for love
Rekindle thoughts of family, friends
Some poems tour a broken heart
Some follow tears of sorrow
Some guide to places beautiful
And give hope for tomorrow
Indeed a poem's a highway
The best take you to the soul
They never by-pass the heart
But let you travel streets of gold.

Chris Embrick

A Poet Hunts

What challenge to be bewildered
To prowl the jungle of the mind
Fresh adrenaline for the unfamiliar
To hunt the future, leave the past behind
I've been the prey, now I'm the Tiger
More deadly now, that I'm no younger
Life has fine turned every fiber
The scent of knowledge drives my hunger
With patience peruse the unsuspecting
Those who come to safely drink
I leave the weak, the strong selecting
Only those who dare to think
I prowl the jungle full well knowing
I set the trap but with no violence
With fresh blood my pen is overflowing
Words speak loudly in the silence.

Chris Embrick

A Poet's Apology

The poet's reprimand was sharp and quick
When I mistook light verse for limerick
I learned from the Master
To get ahead faster
Even an old poet can learn new tricks.

Chris Embrick

A Poet's Crown

At last the poet's earned his crown
when wealth becomes a shared treasure
We honor poets of renown
Time reveals a poem's measure

When wealth becomes a shared treasure
expressions from the heart and soul
Time reveals a poem's measure
When gems are added to the gold

Expressions from the heart and soul
Poems share beauty, labored thoughts
When gems are added to the gold
the poem's essence has been wrought

Poems share beauty, labored thoughts
when words become a work of art
The poem's essence has been wrought
when it resonates with the heart

When words become a work of art
we honor poets of renown
When it resonates with the heart
at last the poet's earned his crown.

Chris Embrick

A Poet's Key

A poet's key opens many doors
a passing thought, a whim of pleasure
ponders love, the heart's strange ways
casts the poet onto uncharted shores
there to find life's greatest treasures
invites us in with prose and rhyme
into the poem we're swept away
to places never been before
in the poet find the measure
to gather strength for many days
for works of art, no writer's ease
oft times with much labor wrought
with heart full will turn the key
open the door to higher thoughts.

Chris Embrick

A Really Bad Doggerel

My backyard was filled with song
But nowhere near I saw the singer
None but the wren and raucous crow
I counted on my frost bitten fingers
So whistled I a tender melody
To lure the maestro near
From deep within the forest trees
The echo came back to my ear
It was so cold and I was chilled
By the winter wind and snow
But my curiosity was thrilled
I could not leave but had to know
So for hours stood there still
Until I caught pneumonia
The doctor frowned upon my foolishness
And said to inhale ammonia
With dawn's new light and a splitting migraine
Again outside the singing heard
I threw my shoe and broke the window
And scared away the Mockingbird.

Epilogue:

Some mock at bad poetry
and all for good reason
I suspect that every poet
good or bad
Has his or her off season.

Chris Embrick

A Seed Of Doubt

Once trust is spoken
true forgiveness takes strong will
a heart remembers
with every promise broken
bitter roots are hard to kill

Chris Embrick

A Selfish Soul

How wrong to leave the heartsick lonely
How sad the soul that turns the head
It's your heart you think of only
While you keep your friends well fed.

How sad the soul that turns the head
To those in need, not share a crumb
While you keep your friends well fed
Your soul and callus heart are numb.

To those in need, not share a crumb
While others hunger, you have plenty
Your soul and callus heart are numb
True friends are few, pretenders many.

To those in need, not share a crumb
It's your heart you think of only
True friends are few, pretenders many
How wrong to leave the heartsick lonely.

Chris Embrick

A Sight From Space

Gazing from hostile sands
Ruins of some ancient race
Sculpted by a master's hand
Or just a wind blown chiseled face
Rivers eons dried to bone
Life's elixir could not last
Are you just protruding stone
Or an icon from our past
As we we search among the stars
Photograph the planet, Mars
What wonders will we one day find
To stretch the theories in our minds
Maybe someday in our craft
We'll visit what we photograph.

Chris Embrick

A Silent Day

A silent day to rest and dream
No March wind to sweep the gloom away
Weeping clouds keep the sun at bay
A silent day to rest and dream

No March wind to sweep the gloom away
Dew clings to every leaf and blade
Fog drifts and swirls across the glade
No March wind to sweep the gloom away

Dew clings to every leaf and blade
A steady drip from tender leaves
Ghostly shadows the forest trees
Dew clings to every leaf and blade

A steady drip from tender leaves
Above the clouds dawn's golden glow
A melancholy morn below
A steady drip from tender leaves

Cloaked the beauty of the Spring
A silent day to rest and dream
A silent day when no birds sing
Cloaked the beauty of the Spring

A silent day to rest and dream
No March wind to sweep the gloom away
Weeping clouds keep the sun at bay
A silent day to rest and dream.

Chris Embrick

A Silly Poem And It's Kennings Equivalent

Milk cows
chew the cud
rest in the shade
while milk is made
when the farmer calls
head for the barn stalls
for the farmer's sweet feed
gives what the farmer needs
from a full udder
gives rich milk and creamy butter.

Milk mamas
grazing grass grinders
bovine day dreamers
process raw moo juice
until the hay cutter calls
move to the cattle stalls
for sweet dairy chow
yield to the tit drainer
from the bulging cow container
whole milk and cow caviar.

Chris Embrick

A Slower Pace For Life

Take no more than you can carry
Life's burdens always take a toll
Use wisdom wisely growing old
For free advice always be wary
Plan carefully your future goals
Take no more than you can carry
Life's burdens always take a toll
Avoid things not necessary
Instead of running learn to stroll
Over life master self-control
Take no more than you can carry
Life's burdens always take a toll
Use wisdom wisely growing old.

Chris Embrick

A Smile Sincere

A smile sincere
can bring back memories that you miss
A smile sincere
can ease the pain of lonely years
when broken, often remind us
there's love in a stranger's kindness;
A smile sincere.

Chris Embrick

A Sobering Discovery

Betsy thought her friend's advice was bunk
In her eyes, he was every bit the hunk
Awakening she screamed
She wished it was all a dream
Last night she eloped twice with the same drunk.

Chris Embrick

A Summer Storm

Storm clouds billow filled with thunder
Lofty towers; boiling, growing
Against the sunset, surreal glowing
Storm clouds billow filled with thunder

Lofty towers; boiling, growing
Through the heat ice pellets plummet
Streaking from the mushroom's summit
Lofty towers, boiling, growing

Through the heat ice pellets plummet
The ground obscured, ice melts below
High overhead the fierce winds blow
Through the heat ice pellets plummet

Air masses clash, torrents flowing
Storm clouds billow filled with thunder
Lightning flashes, Nature's wonder
Air masses clash, torrents flowing

Storm clouds billow filled with thunder
Lofty towers; boiling, growing
Against the sunset, surreal glowing
Storm clouds billow filled with thunder.

Chris Embrick

A Thousand Kisses

With a thousand kisses
You've offered your sweet nectar
sometimes forceful
sometimes tenderly
but always with passion
until my lips were numb

With a thousand melodies
You came with your night songs
always beautiful
always haunting
leaving me gently singing
the lyrics of your love

With a thousand dreams
You've kept loneliness away
asking nothing
always giving
the love I never had in life
I lost my innocence
many dreams ago

Chris Embrick

A Time Of Beauty

From early storms days of snowing
The season's changing, bitter cold
Swift and icy cascades flowing
Through the valley's aspen gold
Soon the mountains will be glowing
A time of beauty for the soul
Soft morning colors paint the snow
And again at sunset Aspenglow.

Chris Embrick

A Time When Love Was Love

Enduring love
an old cliché'
A fairy tale
from yesterday
Love unraveled
at the seams
On the auction block
your dreams
Have we become
robotic fools
To need a handbook
with the rules
Old fashion love
now in the past
Too many broken hearts
for love to last
Gone the romance
and the thrill
For pleasure now
just pop a pill
The times have changed
for all of us
There was a time
when love was love.

Chris Embrick

A Walk In Familiar Woods

Early I walked deep into familiar woods
To satisfy my childhood notions
Fresh air always seems to do me good
And nature best at calming my emotions
The forest a respite for my soul
A place to steal away from life's commotions
So today, I took a longer stroll
Despite the morning fog and rain
Anything to hinder growing old
And take my mind off these aches and pains
Oh, to be a child again, only if I could
But to be born again I know would be vain
It seems like only yesterday, these memories of childhood
When I played among the trees in these familiar woods.

Chris Embrick

A Well Balanced Soul

A well balanced soul enjoys lasting pleasure
irregardless of the whims of the weather
Daily searching for life's most precious treasure
you'll encounter both joy and love together
Atmospheric pressure may be low or high
and still peace with happiness will be tethered
Good fortune's not dependent upon the sky
don't trust your heart with things prone to slip away
With life's wisdom always give your heart's reply

Be prepared to smile even when clouds are gray
A well balanced soul stores strength for every day.

Chris Embrick

A Well Flavored Kiss

I've done a lot of things in life
that were really dumb
Entering a kissing contest
stands out as number one
much to my chagrin
the same girl came back again
Not for a second kiss
but to give me back my bubble gum.

Lesson:

If you're intent on kissing
with some mouthwash do some swishing
then pucker up, the lip lock savor
leave the heart to add the flavor.

Chris Embrick

A Well Rested Soul

Too much thought with little leisure
surely dulls one's mind from its best
A full life needs ample pleasure
from life's demands take welcomed rest
Listen to what your heart suggests
With confidence, the stress release
A rested soul gains strength with peace.

Chris Embrick

A Wizard's Tale

The fledgling was confused
Picking up the wrong cruse
Changing the Wizard's love spell
The odorous potion
Caused quite a commotion
Dropping a royal bombshell
A little in the grog
Changed the heir into a frog
Silencing the wedding bells
Much to his advantage
The wise Wizard vanished
And blame on the novice fell
To the unhappy king
The Princess gave the ring
That day her broken heart quelled
She drank the bitter grog
Slipped off her ruby clogs
And joined her Prince in the well.

Epilogue:

They spent their wedding night
Croaking in the moonlight
At least that's the Wizard's tale.

Chris Embrick

A Wonder In Wonderland (Limerick)

Tom fell into the rabbit hole
his rump tightly fitted
The residents breathed a sigh
that his briefs were so well-knitted
All Wonderland had no peace
Until Tom's rear was released
Then, they put a sign at the door
NO UNKNOWN ARSE ADMITTED.

Chris Embrick

A Writer's Secret

Crowned the king of modern romance
He lived his dream writing free lance
His name well known
For timeless tales of happenstance
But not his own.

Each novella extracted tears
His journey through the heartache years
Each page a clue
The love he longed for, never near
And no one knew.

Chris Embrick

Acquitting Alice(Any Laugh Is A Good Laugh)

Poor Alice lost her shoe and stumbled
Backwards fell with a great plop
All Wonderland felt the rumble
When her rear the entrance stopped
The King's men pushed with all their might
But could not move her rosy cheeks
She plugged the rabbit hole too tight
They feared she could be stuck for weeks
The Queen of Hearts said to behead her
But all Wonderland declined
Some agreed mushrooms must be fed her
To get a grasp on her behind
The Hatter's plan was less than smart
He said poor Alice needed wind
The thrust provided by some tarts
And all could safely breathe again
But in Wonderland too much pretending
In a state of panic some recalled
Rumors of a foul blast sending
Humpty Dumpty off the wall
How the shock wave shook the palace
Left in it's wake two brothers stunned
They said, "we must arrest this Alice"
For accosting Tweedledee and Tweedledum
But came forward the only witness
Known to all, the Cheshire Cat
Claimed bad ale caused the Tweedle's sickness
When a frog fell in the vat
Those testifying seemed dim-witted
Their royal honor to defend
But the jury agreed Alice's rump
should be acquitted
So all went home with much chagrin.

Epilogue:

Through the village the news spread fast
How a brave farmer heard her screams
With horse and rope rescued the lass

The truth left out of Alice's dream.

Chris Embrick

Advice To Avoid

Two wayward cousins:Gossip and Tattle
Prone to cause many calm nerves to rattle
They'll talk for hours nonsensical prattle
With liberal advice
They freely cause strife
So just smile politely and go on with your life.

Chris Embrick

After The Storm

A towering storm
With menacing, boiling clouds
Beautiful, haunting
Deep within thunder rumbles
Lightning streaks the sky
Underneath the darkness gathers
Drenching torrents fall
Nature's fury at sunset
Leaves a rainbow in its wake.

Chris Embrick

All But My Soul

No more the man, here but a shell
You've vanquished all my hope
My future plans you circumvent
What love began is now all spent
All but my soul your evil gropes
And leaves behind a misanthrope
And still not quenched pursues the rest
Demon lurking, evil working
Is there no end to your quest
Alas, take what you have and flee
No more you hear no more of me.

No more of me merciless spirit
Never once my peace restored
You asked my time, you stole my fortune
Left behind a hapless orphan
All but my soul you've bound with cord
Against my very life you've roared
Is there no end to misery
Demon daunting, evil taunting
I like not the man that others see
No more you hear, no more of me.

No more the man I use to be
Have you not tortured me enough
With what you have now be content
You've taken everything but life
Any more would be torment
Must you foment greater strife
My hope, my peace I've given up
Everything but my soul
And even love had to part
When you stole it from my heart
Now, I'll have no more of this
Demon seeking, Evil reeking
Retreat into your dark abyss
My soul and I agree
No more you here, no more of me.

All In Good Time(A Magic Poem)

In youth my heart was made of glass
So deep the wounds, that I bled well
With age my lot with lover's passed
From married friends, gained sound advice
For lonely nights, no empty flask
I had fair time to prove them wrong
With wisdom a strong heart was cast
No longer under heartache's spell
She'll have her wedding ring at last.

Chris Embrick

Alone

Love cut my heart, the healing slow
the pain too deep to let her go
no warning time the fatal blow
her life is gone
bleeding fresh the memories flow
I'm so alone.

Chris Embrick

Always Read The Label (Limerick)

Kate and her husband both woke up ill
She had hot flashes; Ted's bladder filled
At the breakfast table
They read the labels
She took his Viagra; he took her water pill.

Chris Embrick

Always Stop And Smell The Flowers

Always take some time to stop and smell the flowers
Don't hurry past the things that make life beautiful
Before your life runs down to a few precious hours
Remember to share life with the people you love
There's always someone special, watching how you live
So with those around you, be sure to share your time
There's always someone needing what you have to give
You're sure to be remembered by the love you leave behind.

Note: This poem was inspired by a mother dying of cancer
While she was physically able, she always took
her daughter for a little girl loved
flowers. The mother always stopped to let her daughter
swell the flowers, a memory that will last for a life
time.

Chris Embrick

Amazing Space

Amazing space how great the span
Measured here to there in light
Your galaxies bedazzle man
As we gaze the wonders of the night.
Measured here to there in light
Take photographs of deepest space
As we gaze the wonders of the night
Dream of another cosmic race.
Take photographs of deepest space
Amazed we travel back in time
Dream of another cosmic race
We search the heavens for a sign
Amazed we travel back in time
Your galaxies bedazzle man
We search the heavens for a sign
Amazing space how great the span.

Chris Embrick

Annie's Quilt

Annie had a room at the end of the hall
She had no family left and friends she could call
Just a few photographs and an antique clock
A rainbow of rags in an old cardboard box
Baby blue and pink from her children's clothes
A square in each corner with a lavender rose.

Three yards of blue satin and a stranger's warm smile
Was all it took for Annie to invite me in for a while
I'd sit for hours just watching her work
Making beautiful art from old aprons and shirts
Each piece a treasure from experience and dreams
Annie recorded her life in stitches and seams.

White Sunday satin, curtains and lace
Each piece crafted and in the right place
She blended circles and squares, some faded some bright
Her hands worked for hours stitching her pieces of life
Neatly placed memories from cotton and silk
Annie sewed them together in a beautiful quilt.

Silver and gold on colorful spools
A needle and thread were her only tools
Careful to place each piece by the years
Some pieces brought smiles, some patterns brought tears
Annie talked and she listened as we soon became friends
I'd always leave with a promise to come back again.

I came by to visit after a long business trip
I wondered if Annie ever finished her quilt
But her room was empty at the end of the hall
The nurse said Annie died last week when she took a bad fall
Then she handed me a box with a hand written note
I read over and over the words Annie wrote

To my dearest John, how sweet you've been
Thank you for being here when I needed a friend
I know it's not much just old rags and yarn

But when the weather turns cold it'll keep you warm.

I spread Annie's quilt on my bed that night
I knew I'd dream about her when I turned out the lights
How she sewed a patchwork of memories from the people she'd known
Some pieces borrowed, some of them her own
A master work of art from rags old and new
And surrounding them all, a satin border of blue.

Chris Embrick

Antagonists (Modified Terzanelle Poem)

The man who thinks he knows it all
Usually has the most to learn
Over truth, he's sure to fall
Quick with tongue to mock and spurn
Doubt always leaves the mind confused
And prideful men refuse to learn
The humble know the path to choose
But to the blind, truth's not seen
Wisdom leaves us many clues
That life is much more than a dream
Our spirit lives beyond the mind
Life is more than chance and genes
Those in darkness remain confused
The truth has never set them free
Our spirit lives beyond the mind
Life's much more than what we see
The truth has never set them free
The man who thinks he knows it all
Over truth, is sure to fall.

Chris Embrick

Anything But Quiet

Anything but quiet, my heart
when you're the one I'm thinking of
A restless night to be apart
Anything but quiet, my heart
Desire holds on, ignites the spark
when every thought is ripe with love
Anything but quiet, my heart
when you're the one I'm thinking of.

Chris Embrick

As Beauty Fades(A Huitain Poem)

Beauty captivates the senses
an English rose, a Lady fair
Against such, a heart's defenseless
to fill the eyes, or smell the air
A poet's pen will oft compare
the beauty of the sky at dawn
With passing time is made aware
that all too soon, the beauty's gone.

Chris Embrick

Ask For Wisdom

The wise eat from the wise man's table
Refuses all but the choicest wine
Seeks the truth, avoids the fable
With those successful often dine

Refuses all but the choicest wine
Seeks what can't be bartered, bought
With those successful often dine
Adds to his mind the lessons taught

Seeks what can't be bartered, bought
Asks for wisdom, understanding
Adds to his mind the lessons taught
Assumes the task more demanding

Seeks what can't be bartered, bought
Seeks the truth, avoids the fable
Assumes the task more demanding
The wise eat from the wise man's table.

Chris Embrick

Aspenglow

October snow, Aspenglow
From the valley looks surreal
The Arctic front has brought it's chill
Autumn's rains have turned to snow
The warm days hang on below
Fall colors swirl from golden hills
October snow, Aspenglow
From the valley looks surreal
Elk migrate to Fall meadows
From the snow melt water spills
Down the mountains; cascades, rills
In the storm's wake cold winds blow
Nature's beauty, Aspenglow.

Chris Embrick

Aspens

The beauty of Aspens against a cobalt sky
In lush meadows where the eagles fly
In brilliant sun, deep blue and bright
Their golden crowns shimmer in the morning light
When autumn days turn crisp and dry.

Along the streams their boughs rise
Their trunks scarred with tale-tale eyes
As snow dusts the Rockies high
Aspens quake against the sky.

Stately tall for their size
Seasons come and go, their beauty never dies
Ghostly trunks against the night
Their dark eyes like tattoos etched in white
Among the trees, few immortalized
Aspens against a cobalt sky.

Chris Embrick

Aspiring Poets

A poet's heart is bound to ink
and gives life to the words he thinks
Nurtured with the utmost care
a poem's a special gift to share
If a poet, then you know well
you live your life under a spell
the urge to rest, your passion quells
If in your blood, then write you must
You'll not leave long the page to dust.

Chris Embrick

Autumn's Palette

Purple asters on the palette
Sprinkled in yellow fields
Autumn's flowers by the roadside
Gum drop colors on the hills
The grass is dry, the leaves falling
Reflections mirrored in the lake
Overhead the geese are calling
Leaving Summer in their wake
Nature's colors move in cycles
Palettes soft and palettes bright
Of all the seasons beauty rivaled
None like Autumn brings delight.

Chris Embrick

Balancing Life With Love

For hearts to balance life with love
Love must be given unconditional
On the road of life that we travel
Too often love comes unraveled
Each day love must be replenished
Keep hearts full from start to finish
Love must be given unconditional
For hearts to balance life with love.

Chris Embrick

Be Gentle With My Heart Tonight

Be gentle with my heart tonight
Only I know how much it hurts
I'll let you know when love is right
Be gentle with my heart tonight
I need someone to hold me tight
When I let you get close enough
Be gentle with my heart tonight
Only I know how much it hurts.

Chris Embrick

Beauty's Web

He was captivated by her beauty
Much like Rubens to a romantic scene
But she wanted none of a wife's duties
She thought his manners a bit too green
Well versed the nuances of love's routine
Still he met her coolness with persistence
His heart broke through with little resistance
She became such an adorable wife
As his wealth grew yearly with consistence
She increased the insurance on his life.

Chris Embrick

Because You Hide Behind No Mask

Because you hide behind no mask
you live your life for all to see
of your intentions none need ask

To win your love's no easy task
you see a heart's duplicity
because you hide behind no mask

With dreams of love you often bask
your mind and heart always agree
of your intentions none need ask

There's no heartache in your past
you've kept your heart from jealousy
because you hide behind no mask

You drink love from a golden flask
find joy in life's simplicity
of your intentions none need ask

For your love many lots were cast
while broken hearts looked with envy
because you hide behind no mask
of your intentions none need ask.

Chris Embrick

Before Time Was (A Antimetabole Poem)

There was a time before time was
When I existed but a soul
Before time was there was a time
When no one dreamed of growing old
Among the stars I learned to dance
My conscience lived within the Light
I lived and danced among the stars
With mankind destined to unite
From timeless space I entered time
Called to Earth to live a man
I entered time from timeless space
My soul part of a higher plan
This flesh recycled at life's ending
With the Light I traveled far
Before time was there was a time
I lived and danced among the stars.

Chris Embrick

Behind Gray Walls

Monday's just another Tuesday
push the replay
life's so mundane
I play their games

Some days they strap my body down
I hear strange sounds
inside my head
I wet the bed

Each week the doctor's shock my brain
I feel no pain
I'm Mama's child
she never smiled.

Chris Embrick

Behind The Veil

Her eyes were a dark abyss
Her skin a ghostly moonlight pale
The sting of death was in her kiss
She had frozen tears behind the veil
She was not ready for love's night
Down the aisle of bliss to stroll
I saw the groom a fearful sight
Behind his smile a darkened soul
I wondered how it came to be
This union doomed to misery
They had their future on display
From the mannequins I walked away.

Chris Embrick

Being Myself

At twenty my tenor voice
Was nothing short of frightening
The doctor's prognosis
My vocal cords needed tightening
So I took lessons for a year
Then proudly gave my first audition
But all the sounds stuck in my throat
I couldn't hit a single note
All the Broadway lights went out
With my singing ambitions.

At thirty I decided
My hidden talent was to act
If Forrest Gump could do it
Surely I had the knack
But an amateur off the street
Got the leading part
So I went to acting school
And graduated college
Surely I had star potential now
Gaining all that knowledge
But the casting director said he needed
Someone skilled in the martial arts.

At fifty I decided
My career must be in flight
I practiced climbing on the roof
To get over my fear of heights
If I couldn't make it low
My destiny must be high
But every flight instructor
Turned me down
I never got my feet off the ground
I guess I never should have asked them
Why we needed air to fly.

I'm a young eighty now
Working hard and going strong
I wrote a best seller about success

Now, I'm working from my home
All those singing, acting, flying
Books are on the shelf
Self-examination made it clearer
I found the answer in the mirror
I found my greatest talent all this time
Was just being myself.

Chris Embrick

Below The Stars (A Modified Rubaiyat)

No shafts of light, no golden rays
The canvas primed with pale chartreuse
No wind to sail soft clouds away
Ribbons of orange and peach sorbet
Below the stars, a purple hue
A hint of blue spread inbetween
Stretched the beauty of the view
The whole aglow with light infused
The rainbow colors of a dream
A masterpiece of Autumn days
Below the layers of yellow cream
The buttered tops of evergreens
The sun an orb of butterscotch
I could not help but stop and watch.

Chris Embrick

Beneath The Willow

Beneath the willow by the river's edge
distraught my thoughts lazily drifted
Between our lives an unmovable wedge
with my heart alone, could not be lifted
Through memories of love slowly sifted
Perhaps to find one fault not forgiven
reason for the breach between love driven
Beneath the willow I took my cover
the truth exposed, leaving my heart riven
Once my best friend, now he's your lover.

Chris Embrick

Beside His Love's Grave (Modified Rubaiyat)

Her grave neglected, overgrown
high on the hilltop all alone
one Cherub with a broken wing
now watches o'er her resting bones

Love buried deep a hundred years
the epitaph brought stinging tears
words of sadness etched in stone
to my own grief brought sorrow near

His words of love left me weeping
"Rest on my love, gently sleeping
My dearest love, oh how death stings!
Your love God's now, safely keeping"

Death's common bond, new sorrow brings
by his love's grave my heart now clings
His words to her much like my own
My dearest love, oh how death stings!

Chris Embrick

Between The Seasons(An Interlocking Rubaiyat)

Between the seasons, Nature's storms
too soon for Spring the days are warmed
the sleeper's restless in their dens
until the earth is green adorned
Impatient now for Winter's end
migrating flocks fly south again
while tender buds still hold their leaves
late snow arrives on blustery winds
More storm days 'till April's breeze
when emerald crowns adorn the trees
across the meadows flowers bloom
from bright cups invite the bees
The air is filled with sweet perfume
new life abounds from Nature's womb
behind us days of Winter's gloom
behind us days of Winter's gloom.

Chris Embrick

Beyond What Man Can See

Because of electromagnetic waves
you can use your phone, get X-rays,
cook food, watch TV,
all produced by things you can't see
Yet, you believe

Because of gravity, an apple drops,
objects attract, planets orbit around the sun
Out in space we compensate; here below, it
measures weight
An invisible reality
Yet, you believe

Because of the wind
waves form, clouds move, leaves rustle
you know when it's near
it circulates the atmosphere
No one has ever seen the wind,
Yet, you believe

The universe is filled with mysteries
The mind contains possibilities
beyond what mortal man can see

How readily you dismiss
the very idea that God exists
Yet, you easily believe the existence
of invisible realities.

Chris Embrick

Big Dreams

Wisdom never fails the wise
Big dreams come with confidence
The wise are skilled in common sense
Wisdom never fails the wise

Big dreams come with confidence
Determination leads to success
With all you do, give life your best
Big dreams come with confidence

Determination leads to success
With hard work success begins
Confidence comes from within
Determination leads to success

With perseverance turn the key
Make sure advice is always sound
Go up the ladder, never down
With perseverance turn the key

Wisdom never fails the wise
Big dreams come with confidence
The wise are skilled in common sense
Wisdom never fails the wise.

Chris Embrick

Body Language

The language of love needs few words
More adjectives than nouns or verbs
A kiss, a tender touch affords
the love we seek
When passion binds our hearts with cord
our bodies speak.

Chris Embrick

Borrowed Love

I borrowed love from many others
through dreams escaped reality
with memories fresh, each night another
brush with love, duplicity

The leading man in plots of pleasure
through worn pages spared no tears
and so on other's love depended
to fill my broken heart for years

The changes slow, incremental
hardness chiseled down with time
my heart became more sentimental
intrigued by love, my life confined

Youthful years spent bitter-hearted
through other lives found saving grace
the sadness from my heart departed
until love found a gentler place

Still here alone but never lonely
still wheel-chair bound behind the stage
I borrow love from many others
my life I live between each page.

Chris Embrick

Borrowed Thoughts

Disappearing
within my oasis of serenity
emerging into the dappled light
of a timeless dream
through polished passageways
of yesteryear
I borrow thoughts
the elixir of love and life and beauty
keepsake memories
ageless wisdom
borrowed thoughts
that later will be sown
and within my heart nurtured
until their truth becomes my own.

Chris Embrick

Breaking Wind (A Limerick)

I met a man with flatulence
a sign of too much ale
The cops refused to pick him up
and sleep it off in jail
He staggered home drunk
Followed by a line of skunks
He tried to hide the wind he broke
but couldn't hide the smell.

Chris Embrick

Brotherly Love

I've found you brother
No one sent me your picture
I've never met you
But one day I'll see your face
We'll smile and share a long talk
Love grows this strong tree
It's roots cannot be destroyed
It's no earthly tree
It's growing in God's garden
The tree of brotherly love.

Chris Embrick

Business Savvy

To judge a man use truthfulness
On promises dare not invest
Look for laurels of success
Quick dividends
Good intentions are valueless
when the money ends.

Chris Embrick

But For Love

Sometimes each heart must take a risk
but for love how lonely, gray
the world outside would be each day
a smile, a touch, a tender kiss
back up with love the words you say
sometimes each heart must take a risk
but for love how lonely, gray
to those around us we're remiss
from those in need we often stray
reach out before time drifts away
sometimes each heart must take a risk
but for love how lonely, gray
the world outside would be each day.

Chris Embrick

Butterflies

Butterflies

Emerge in Spring

And seek out sumptuous flowers

Drift upon the slightest breeze

Sip nectar between showers

Dance around on fragile wings

Sail about and flutter

Until love's aphrodisiac

Draws them to each other

And following nature's way

Weave cocoons suspended

Inside the grand design

Repeated, painted, splendid

Safe haven from winters chill

Awaits the warmth of Spring

When bluebird songs fill the air

And happy sparrows sing

When flower buds again unfurl

And paint the canvas of the world

Then once again before our eyes

We watch the dance of butterflies.

Chris Embrick

Capturing A Moment Of Eternity

Unaware of the past
the future still a breath away
time is frozen
in the silence of now.

Chris Embrick

Catching Yourself

Sometimes the biggest fish
May already be hooked
You may find the biggest flounder
in the mirror when you look
If you baited the hook with:
Arrogance
Greed
Pride
Jealousy
Anger
When things don't go your way
If all you want is bragging rights
And a trophy for display
Then when you reel in the line
You may be the one shocked to find
That you're the fish on the hook
The biggest catch of the day.

Moral: A humble man goes through life's paces
And won't allow his head to swell
A proud man has many faces
But he can never hide the smell.

Chris Embrick

Caught Between Life And Death

The sting of tears, sorrow's flow
Anguish with no where to go
From all solace now withdrawn
The heartache mine to bear alone
Hurt too deep to vocalize
Sad and haunting, lonely eyes
My soul was watching over death
Waiting for one final breath
With the sunrise, her last smile
In her arms our only child
Love caught between death and life
My son lives on, but not my wife.

Chris Embrick

Chasing Light

The years were few that I could see
I saw at ten the beauty flee
Darkness came so gradually
Short days, long nights
Blindness could not take joy from me
Only my sight

The memories are vivid still
Of butterflies and Autumn hills
The green of Spring and daffodils
The dreams so bright
My world of fantasy now filled
With chasing light.

Chris Embrick

Close To All Yet Nearer No One

A child alone with hidden scars
I felt each arrow pierce my heart
Too young to know why I was shunned
Close to all yet nearer no one.
Life patterns set where cultures clash
Greater hopes and dreams others dashed
I kept my fears from everyone
Close to all yet nearer no one
My social life behind closed doors
I never grasped what love was for
Each love failed to be the right one
Close to all yet nearer no one
Through middle age a slower pace
Stronger with each trial I faced
With friends to call when I need one
Close to all yet nearer no one
An introvert, a social ghost
Still I love people, that I boast
Not finished yet the race I've run
Close to all yet nearer no one
When dying write my epitaph
To those I love on my behalf
No need to weep what I've become
Close to all yet nearer no one.

Chris Embrick

Clouds Of Blue (India Sunrise)

Windswept across the morning sky
Above the sunrise clouds of blue
The birds still roost with sleepy eyes
The grass still wet with clinging dew
From eastern lands the sun draws nigh
The stars now shrouded by the view
The golden rays reach wide and high
Between the land and sky infused
Bright, liquid colors synthesized
Below the clouds the golden hues
Windswept across the morning sky
Above the sunrise clouds of blue.

Chris Embrick

Cocoon

Cradle

Silken womb

Clinging, wrapping, hiding

A beautiful flying rainbow

Cocoon

Chris Embrick

Cold

The North wind howls, the snow piles high
On every heart a frosty glaze
The harshness of these winter days
Another night of starless skies
The birds shiver too cold to fly
No song to greet the morning rays
Against the wind, the snow piles high
On every heart a frosty glaze
For the weak, hungry ravens cry
The mountains, canyons all a maze
The meadow white where elk once grazed
The dead stare with their frozen eyes
Against the wind, the snow piles high
On every heart a frosty glaze.

Chris Embrick

Cold Silence

When a heart kills love with silence
it makes no place for compliance
When there's no evidence of theft
Cold silence is the kiss of death
One look can stop all future plans
when love withholds the heart's demands
When love has but one final breath
Cold silence is the kiss of death
Often first love can steal a life
when she becomes another's wife
When love gives all and nothing's left
Cold silence is the kiss of death
When a heart kills love with silence
Cold silence is the kiss of death.

Chris Embrick

Common Ground For Love

You need me as much as
I need you today
For a few hours
let us slip away
into a dream
a future memory
of our own.

Chris Embrick

Completeness

Two
become
united
embracing trust
only together is our love fulfilled.

Chris Embrick

Confident Choices

Confident choices trumps guessing
Wise thinking fills many coffers
Don't play chess with a piece missing
Confident choices trumps guessing
Don't waste your precious time wishing
Pursue the best life can offer
Confident choices trumps guessing
Wise thinking fills many coffers.

Chris Embrick

Consider Words Carefully

Consider words carefully

While some speak clearly, others mutter
Some tongues get tangled, only sputter
Over luscious words we stop, we linger, mull
Some speakers are charismatic, others dull
Some people will give you more than an earful
Those who speak well, avoid the clutter
You're at the helm. control the rudder
Consider words carefully.

Chris Embrick

Covetousness

We knew how to share
You built a wall between friends
Bringing jealous thoughts
Now we pass without a word
Love keeps silent when you call.

Chris Embrick

Critics Be Kind

Does the poet bare his soul
For critics words to scar and flay
Though quatrain reach lofty goal
Some dragons only come to slay
And brush the poet's words away
And never hear the things they say
Use their pen a bloody saber
Taste the cake and miss its flavor.

For those who pick clean other's thoughts
With quill ready, full of hemlock
It's only fair the truth be sought
For those too quick to judge and mock
Some poems have secrets to unlock
Some reminisce, turn back the clock
Must not be tossed and go to waste
Some poems are worth more than a taste.

Not Shakespeare to be honest, fair
Some poems indeed need a punch
Some critics leave no room to spare
Dissect a poem, desire too much
Some pride their vitriolic touch
Compare to Shelley, Keats, and such
Refuse to give a second look
The poem at last its pages rooked.

Chris Embrick

Crocodile Tears

Death summons the unlikely heirs
those who loved him, those never there
but now they've come to claim a share
the lawyer near
he strikes the names of all who wear
crocodile tears.

Chris Embrick

Cuckoo

With duplicity you survive
From others take to stay alive
With duplicity you survive
Danger looms near when you arrive
You have no pleasant song to sing
You have no pleasant song to sing
You're often heard but seldom seen
Your appetite leaves others lean
Among your kin a paradox
You live alone and shun the flock
Among your kin a paradox
No song of love, your life's a ruse
No song of love, your life's a ruse
Our child will never be like you.

Chris Embrick

Daddy's Girl(Monotetra Poem)

She ran laughing through the meadow
trying to catch the cloud's shadow
she caught fireflies, watched them glow
then let them go, then let them go.

She watched new kittens, eyes-wide
discovered where baby birds hide
chased butterflies, brought frogs inside
life was her guide, life was her guide.

Her ballerina photographs
her birthday, hugging her giraffe
some make me cry, some make me laugh
how time has passed, how time has passed.

Not long ago, my little child
today I'll cry, today I'll smile
seems she was mine but for a while
we'll walk the aisle, we'll walk the aisle.

Chris Embrick

Dance Of Love

In the darkness only shadows
Nothing but their true love matters
The dream tonight so beautiful
Tonight, they'll dance their dance of love
Together share their innocence
And taste the pleasure on their lips
Love's passion uncontrollable
Tonight, they'll dance their dance of love
The cock's foretaste, love assuring
The dove's embrace, love alluring
Intoxicating, his beloved
Tonight, they'll dance their dance of love
In the darkness only shadows
Nothing but their true love matters.

Chris Embrick

Dark Side Of The Soul

Oh, wretched man here to ponder
If good and evil make the whole
In my body spirit battered
The sting of death to foment strife
It's poison meant to take my life
Keep those I love far and scattered
Foil today, circumvent my goals
What sinister plot's still unfolding
On the dark side of the soul.

What hardship sears now my conscience
What bitterness has taken hold
No place for hearts to safely roam
Dwell in darkness, evil follows
Sweeps the soul and makes it hollow
Too much time in the catacombs
Leaves less and less self-control
What part of man wants to linger
On the dark side of the soul.

Death seeks those who least expect it
Until at last the truth unfolds
The question men have asked for ages
Still no closer to the answer
Evil spreads now like a cancer
Death's epitaph, its final pages
With final breath their Maker scold
Bury deep their hidden secrets
On the dark side of the soul.

Oh, wretched man here to ponder
If good and evil make the whole
In my mind two nature's battle
One for darkness, one for light
I must choose the one to vanquish
The one I follow ends the fight
Man's will holds the final answer
The heart will reap what man extols
Decide that day who owns the soul.

At the crossroads of eternity
Choose carefully the one to stroll
Fair warning to all who linger
On the dark side of the soul.

Chris Embrick

Days Like This

Thoughts like molasses flow on days like this
Time always passes slow on days like this
Melancholy memories, wet and gray
Seem to arrive on rainy days, days like this
Between the cold rain, intermittent snow
I crave the warmth of love on days like this
After the holiday, the children gone
Their gifts little comfort, on days like this
It's the warmest memories that I miss
My husband left his love, for days like this.

Chris Embrick

Days Of Beauty

Immortal rose of love ephemeral
For another season, time
Fleeting memories; soft, subliminal
Of the fragrance left behind
With patience, watch the seasons changing
As tender buds grow and swell
Anticipating days of beauty
Spring's air heavy with the smell
For solace now, only memories
Until the melting of the snow
And in the gentle breeze of Springtime
Outside my window blooms the rose.

Chris Embrick

Deadly By Design

The seamstress web outside my window
Ethereal in the morning glow
Dew drops cling to threads of silver
In each drop a tiny rainbow
No weaver's beam, no loom's shuttle
Each silken thread with care aligned
Human webs are much more subtle
But just as deadly by design.

Chris Embrick

Death Could Not Wait

The day began sunny, bright
My dream was gentle in the night
I kissed my love then drove away
The memory stayed with me all day
She called at lunch to talk awhile
To hear her voice brought me a smile
But oh, how cruel the winds of fate
For my true love, death could not wait
I got the call no heart can take
Two years have passed but not the ache
The dreams they never go away
I live and die again each day.

Chris Embrick

Death Must Wait

To death I will not answer
although it knocks loud at my door
As long as one breath remains
I'll not concede this life is over
No, I will not wave the white flag
although the enemy's within sight
Death must wait to claim the prize
until I've had my share of life.

Chris Embrick

Death's Soft Bed

Sleep now my love on death's soft bed
Fate rolled the dice, I did not choose
Which one to love, which one to lose
Within my heart my blood runs red
No warmth in yours now cold and blue
Sleep now my love on death's soft bed
Fate rolled the dice, I did not choose
What more of love is to be said
My heart was torn between the two
One final kiss, one final view
Sleep on my love on death's soft bed
Fate rolled the dice, I did not choose
Which one to love, which one to lose.

Chris Embrick

Death's Table

Nine cold crows perched on the farmer's fence
Shivering in December's wind
Contemplate who's the weakest
Watch over death's table
Know that a warm meal
I waiting near
One feeds all
Winter's
Kill

Chris Embrick

Defriending Myself

Big Brother is so asinine
To think he can change my mind
He never stops these foolish traps
Anything to load more Aps

Twice a cookie reminded me
that I've been defriended thrice
Thrice! I shouted Thrice!
Why I've never had more
than two friends in my life
Woe is me, if three friends left
I must have hit the wrong key
and defriended myself.

End Note:

Their lies are real
Their talk is cheap
Don't make a deal
Just hit delete.

Chris Embrick

Desire For Spring

Long waited days the coming Spring
the meadows filled with bright flowers
to hear old friends begin to sing
Long waited days the coming Spring
soon green again the trees budding
warmed beneath the gentle showers
Long waited days the coming Spring
the meadow filled with bright flowers.

Chris Embrick

Detecting Love

Your question is strange
Only your heart can answer
But there's a good clue
Look in the mirror for love
It's real if your heart smiles back.

Chris Embrick

Determination

There's no place in life for excuses
The loser walks away without trying
Everyone encounters bumps and bruises
Slothfulness is never edifying
Without motivation there's no progress
No matter how late in the race you start
Winners pursue life with a fighter's heart
Their determination leads to success.

Chris Embrick

Discourse On Love

How long is a kiss
As long as a breath
Do all lovers act like this
My heart doesn't follow logic
Just sit and hold hands
Love is more than words
Keep silent more than they speak
Your gentle touch says enough
How do you know I'm the one
We'll find that out together.

Chris Embrick

Do Unto Others(Gwawdodynpoem)

Little things often make life worthwhile
we all need comfort through life's trials
to show you're caring, take time sharing
with a stranger, your heart-warming smile.

Chris Embrick

Dominance

Though she likes his tail feathers
a wise bird will not
flirt with another cock's hen
Only one rooster can strut
near a peaceful nest.

Chris Embrick

Don't Leave Your Dreams

The rule of thumb is never quit
So if you fail, get over it
Listen to what wise men said
Don't leave your dreams asleep in bed.
Think long and hard before you act
Always be truthful with the facts
Keep focused on the road ahead
Don't leave your dreams asleep in bed.
Always do what the boss expects
Treat others with the same respect
Take chances where most dare not tread
Don't leave your dreams asleep in bed.
Learn from those who've been successful
Enjoy work, avoid the stressful
Above all keep a level head
Don't leave your dreams asleep in bed.
When you're the boss, keep a long fuse
Know once you wore your worker's shoes
Teach them what you've learned instead
Don't leave your dreams asleep in bed.

Chris Embrick

Down Different Roads

Ten years ago we were high school sweethearts
Nine years ago we went our separate ways
Eight years ago I enlisted to get away from life
Seven years ago you became my best friends wife
Six years ago I came home from Vietnam
Five years ago you were divorced, a single mom
Four years ago you finished college, moved away
Three years ago rehab occupied my days
Two years ago I couldn't shake the post war stress
One year ago I was at my worst, you were at your best

Two days ago circumstance crossed our lives again
We spent the day talking about old times and friends
Life took us down different roads than we had planned
You helped put my wheel chair back in the van

Two days ago I never let you see the tears
My heart's held on to love through all these years

Last night you and I were king and queen of the prom
My island of peace between the demons and napalm.

Chris Embrick

Dragon Spirit

Fearless his spirit
raw passion; fiery, restless
guarding his heart's gate
his courage goes unchallenged
death will be his greatest foe.

Chris Embrick

Dream Dancing (A Fantasy Of Love)

Mom read me Cinderella
Time and again
It helped ease the pain
When she tucked me in
It's still in my thoughts
When I'm here alone
Each night the memories
Bring back our love song
And
I'm still dancing
Still romancing
I know it's a dream
When I hold you tight
But you feel so real
In my arms tonight
And
I'm dream dancing
Love's enchanting
I'm dream dancing
with Cinderella tonight.

I know it's a dream
And your not really mine
Our love's separated
By pages of time
But I'm dream dancing
Still romancing
I'm dream dancing
with Cinderella tonight

I'm your Prince Charming
Not able to dance
Your beauty each night
Puts my heart in a trance
I'm in this wheel chair
And your on my mind
I was born crippled
Speechless and blind
But

I'm still dancing
Still romancing
I know it's a dream
When I hold you tight
But you feel so real
In my arms tonight
And
I'm dream dancing
Love's enchanting
I'm dream dancing
With Cinderella tonight.

One day I'll leave
This wheel chair behind
And see all the beauty
I missed being blind
I'll waltz through the heavens
Sing with the stars
And hold Cinderella
Close in my arms

And
We'll have our wedding
You'll be my Queen
But this time we'll dance
Outside the dream
And we'll dance
We'll dance
Outside the dream
And we'll dance
We'll dance
Outside the dream.

Chris Embrick

Dream Flowers

Each night she walks among the shadows
There picks dream flowers from the hills
In her heart's the secret no one knows
Scattered thoughts of Spring, in Winter's chill.

Forbidden love would go uncovered
Though not wed, they were soon to marry
War took from life her only lover
Now in memories past, she carries

Her parents can't explain her sadness
Why in life's prime, she's so bereft
Some say she caught a touch of madness
With news about her young soldier's death

No one suspects her darkest secret
On the hill beneath the Winter snow
It's love that keeps her heart in weakness
Why with Spring, her sorrow overflows

Alone she wanders in the meadow
There picks dream flowers from the hills
In every season her heartache shows
Hidden well, the secret no one knows
The tiny grave of stones near the rill
Covered each Spring with yellow daffodils.

Chris Embrick

Dream Kisses

Was that your first kiss?
Last night I practiced dream kisses
Did you enjoy it?
Your cheeks seem a little blushed
Was it what you expected?
Yes, my only kiss
Did you have to practice long?
Did I have this smile?
I too practiced in my dreams
And your cheeks turned rosy red.

Chris Embrick

Dream Of A Life Time

Still in love with my first love, growing old
Every dream ending with a dream come true
Slowly like a flower our love unfolds
Eternity would be empty without you
Embracing the passion of our youthfulness
Our dance of love has never missed a step
The romance of life was not left behind
Our dream of love will last a life-time.

Chris Embrick

Dreaming

Were those your soft lips
That just brushed against my cheek
If you're still asleep
Then surely I was dreaming
That we were still making love.

Chris Embrick

Drip

Drip, drip, drip
Run out the clock
Kaleidoscope dreams
When the pressure drops
By invitation only
Tears declined
Just a few homeless friends
And this angel of mine.
Prodigal child
Disconnected man
Mama breast fed me
With a whip in her hand
Cold dark eyes
Ruby red lips
Mind phantoms linger
In this drip, drip, drip.
Progressive insanity
Gutter rat dreams
No more rehab
To silence the screams
I drugged my ambitions
On a cocaine trip
Now all I can hear
Is this drip, drip, drip.
No more resurrection
Life by a thread
Somebody's praying
Like I'm already dead
My hands are cold
And my heart is numb
Where was love
When I needed some?
Moral relativity
Truth denied
I heard about another man
They crucified
There's a stranger beside me
With scars from a whip
He's watching the clock

And this drip, drip, drip.
Drip, drip, drip
Run out the clock
Kaleidoscope dreams
When the pressure drops
By invitation only
Tears declined
Just a few homeless friends
And this angel of mine.

Chris Embrick

Eagle

The wind lifts me up
beyond the lofty mountains
my shadow descends
spiraling swiftly to earth
my talons never dull.

Chris Embrick

Evidence

Wisdom never walks the fence
Truth always follows evidence
Where water falls there's gravity
Near a fire there's flame
Death ends life's longevity
A waxing moon soon wanes
Light produces rainbow colors
Ocean waves need wind
A sail boat needs a rudder
A tender reed will bend
Sunset always follows dawn
Time's a memory when it's gone
Wisdom never walks the fence
Truth always follows evidence.

Chris Embrick

Exaggeration: Haiku

Exaggeration

Embellished simplicity

Saying less with more

Chris Embrick

Faeries And Butterflies

Woodland faeries and butterflies
From Winter's rest awakening
Sail, gliding through bright sunny skies
Woodland faeries and butterflies
With meadow flowers fill their eyes
Now celebrate the days of Spring
Woodland faeries and butterflies
From Winter's rest awakening.

Chris Embrick

Fairy Lights

Thick clouds obscured the Harvest moon
Caused us to take the wrong way home
We smelled the ogre's foul cologne
Thick clouds obscured the Harvest moon
Caused us to take the wrong way home
We saw the Fairy lights ahead
Not knowing where the pathway led
Caused us to take the wrong way home
We saw the Fairy lights ahead
They summoned us to follow near
While danger gripped our hearts with fear
We saw the Fairy lights ahead
Soon crossed the bridge over the rill
Thick clouds obscured the Harvest moon
We saw the warning of the runes
On sacred ground no blood must spill
Thick clouds obscured the Harvest moon
Caused us to take the wrong way home
The Fairy lights led us safely on
Thick clouds obscured the Harvest moon.

Chris Embrick

Fallen Crowns

Severed from life's flow
golden leaves, bright scarlet leaves
fall
drifting downward
leave behind bare Autumn trees
their glory on the ground.

Chris Embrick

Family Ties

My mother never took kindly to my wife
I think they are really very much alike
Seven days a week I must endure the strife
Good reason to go to the pub for a hike
Although mother's cooking is made to relish
My dear wife's cuisine borders on the hellish
Oh wretched man ordained to rule this temple
Before mother moved in, life was so simple.

Chris Embrick

Fasting

For renewal, we choose to fast
Afflict the flesh 'till hunger's past
With peace in mind, our noble task
when all is quiet
Deep within the soul's beauty bask
in wisdom's light.

Chris Embrick

Feigned Love

Guard well your heart make no mistake
'till true love knocks, withhold the key
Guard well your heart make no mistake
Feigned love's caused many hearts to break
There's more to love than what you see
True love caresses tenderly
Guard well your heart, make no mistake
Feigned love's caused many hearts to break
With patience test love's sweet allure
Time is a heartache's only cure
'till love knocks, withhold the key
It's hard to keep virginity
Don't hurry love for your hearts sake
Feigned love's caused many hearts to break.

Chris Embrick

Finding Love

Slowly emerging
from my protective cocoon
lured outside by love

Chris Embrick

Finding The Answer

I never knew my father
or why my mother never wed
until I was sorting her things
a few days after her death
And found the obituary
neatly folded in a drawer
and in a small wooden box
the ring she never wore
And in an envelope this note
" Dearest, please forgive me
it was selfish on my part
but now you know your father
the man who stole my heart
You were my only reason for living
Now, you know everything
the day you were born
his wife gave me this ring."

Chris Embrick

Fireflies After Sunset

Fireflies busy after sunset
Signal their romantic notions
Dance in sync, a glowing vignette
Fireflies busy after sunset
The brightest tails get Juliet
Seductive light their love potion
Fireflies busy after sunset
Signal their romantic notions.

Chris Embrick

First Snow

Outside my window seasons change
the snow arrived after the rain
gray eddies swirl, caught in the breeze
like gosling down clings to the trees
last Summer hung around too long
this Fall seemed short now that it's gone
anticipated with delight
this Winterscape of purest white
despite the cold, my heart is warmed
by the beauty of this Winter storm
just weeks from now I'll long for change
look forward to the warmth of Spring
the flowers, birds, and butterflies
and leave behind these cold, gray skies
until once more in seasons flow
I long again for Winter's snow.

Chris Embrick

Following Love

Bondage to love follows life's storms-freedom chooses love wisely.

Chris Embrick

Following Nature's Way

Following nature's way, the young male,
enamored by the vixen, found her coupled
with an older male
Each attempt at romance lead to bitter disappointment,
as each vixen chose looks over love
Still the solitary fox searched for a companion
Finally, the wounded fox encountered a female
more comely than himself, but she too
wanted none of his love
Rejected time and again, he lived the rest
of his life a lonely fox
Finally he died in a nursing home, his life of heartaches
the legacy of a thousand dreams.

Epilogue: Human lives often parallel the natural world.

Chris Embrick

For Love Alone Be Proud In Dying

For love alone be proud in dying
You've earned jewels for many crowns
The life you've lived's too great for crying
You gave more love than most have found

Love freely from your heart was spoken
Now those you loved stand by your side
You lived your life out in the open
Charity's gift was your source of pride

Good deeds speak well there's no denying
You lived beyond the dreams that failed
When hope seemed lost you kept on trying
Against all odds your heart prevailed

Alone on death's bed many cower
Inside the heart show little gain
With peace you've kept life's final hour
Your unselfish love never feigned

For love alone be proud in dying
We've come old friend to say goodbye
The life you lived's too great for crying
Today, you taught us how to die.

Chris Embrick

Forgetting One To Love Another(An Ovillejo Poem)

Before marriage, have this mindset
Never forget
Which dreams are unforgettable?
Your first love
Don't repeat what you had before
Love your second more
Love's memories are never over
Not every rose has the same smell
On love alone, your heart must dwell
Never forget your first love, love your second more.

Chris Embrick

Fresh Oil

With fresh oil I am anointed
For the labor life demands
To complete the task appointed
With fresh oil I am anointed
It's the Spirit, not the ointment
Who gives strength to willing hands
With fresh oil I am anointed
For the labor life demands.

Chris Embrick

Fret Not

Fret not the coming of old age
the fairest rose in time will fade
the beauty you see daily passing
in my heart is everlasting
think not that someday I'll part
when silver hair days are nearer
let my heart be the mirror
through my love you'll see clearer
that to my heart you're all the dearer
I've kept the beauty in my heart
fret not the coming of old age
the fairest rose in time will fade
the beauty you see daily passing
in my heart is everlasting.

Chris Embrick

Friends For Life

Friendship's built on love and trust
We cherish friends both near and far
And those who gather little rust
Know the best just who we are

Other's of your friendship boast
Are friends for a convenient time
They leave you when you need them most
In hardship seldom stay behind

When on a friend's love you must depend
When reaching out's a scarifice
No matter what life has to send
True friend's will be there all your life.

Chris Embrick

Friendship

Friendship

loyal, stable

caring, sharing, willing

to share each other's emotions

Closeness

Chris Embrick

From Nature Gleaning(Modified Terza Rima)

Among the aspens, golden hills
the life I live; I left behind
to walk among the mountain rills

beneath the coolness of the trees
not knowing next what I would find
I took rest in the Autumn breeze

the mountains high, the sky so blue
displaying Nature's grand design
I watched the ever changing sights

the beaver's splash, the eagle's dive
the spotted fawn within the blind
a time to cherish, feel alive

some beauty lasts but for a day
leaves drop before their falling time
a flower's fragrance drifts away
but days like these, in mem'ry stay

from Nature's offering I gleaned
a thousand nights of peaceful dreams.

Chris Embrick

Garden Woes

Alas, should Mother Nature be so caring
Nurture my Spring garden lush and green
I stand among the cucumbers despairing
Looking over shriveled squash and beans
No rain clouds to rescue thirsty May flowers
The corn drooping, no plump kernels seen
If nature could have mercy but an hour
I'd be content for one pepper I could grope
Stop hourly checking on the sky for showers
How sad not one turnip to lift a man's hope
How sad no reaping, what sight a grown man weeping
His last tears given for a cantaloupe.

Chris Embrick

Gems (Inspired By Kumarmani Mahakul

I was mining yesterday
and deep into the mind shaft
followed a vein of thoughts
even deeper
into my heart and soul
searching for precious gems
special words and phrases
to express my heart's language
syllables more precious than silver
more durable than refiner's gold
some sapphire similes I thought
or fiery ruby rhymes
I dug deepest for the diamonds
to make the poem shine
I sifted through the metaphors
removing gravel, sand
until only the finest gem stones
remained in my imaginary pen
and satisfied my work now done
with the gems I found
Tonight I'll open the treasure chest
and give the king his crown.

Chris Embrick

Gestures Of Love

Gestures of love make life worthwhile
Increases pleasures, happiness
The full heart always has a smile
Saves the memory of each kiss

Increases pleasures, happiness
Gives all the love one's asking for
Saves the memory of each kiss
The heart in love makes room for more

Gives all the love one's asking for
Gives unselfishly, overflows
The heart in love makes room for more
The treasure inside always shows

Gives all the love one's asking for
The full heart always has a smile
The treasure inside always shows
Gestures of love make life worthwhile.

Chris Embrick

Gleanings Of Love

If my love only comes in a dream
If no one answers my heart's call
From life to death the droppings glean
Better what's left than none at all
Happiness I will not deny
In hours of sleep be satisfied
If life never reveals my dove
I'll find her in my dreams of love.

Chris Embrick

Gnomeland

Beyond the shores of Lonely Island
Through Shadow Land's forest soul
By Willow Lake the hobbit's haven
Haunt of phantom, banshee, trolls
Across the moors of heath and heather
Hoarfrost clings to stem and blade
Dwarfs and hobbits scurry homeward
Before the glow of sunset fades
Beneath the ice of High Cliff river
Beneath the cold of Mirror Lake
Until winter's rusty chains are broken
The Heart of Spring remains encased.

Winter's heart as cold as evil
Northeastern gales that silence mirth
Warrior spirits chained to darkness
Restless souls of Middle Earth
Gargoyles frown to warn intruders
Thieves and beggars come to steal
Ravens sleep with one eye open
Already taste their next warm meal
On dusty bookshelves, legends crumble
Soon forgotten, ancient kings
Their treasure hoards of gold and silver
Where ancient folk forged magic rings.

In the cauldron of creation
Where nothingness still has no name
Dark Lords strategize their evil
Cross Gnomelands border, lights domain
In sight of Gnomelands spires and castles
No army yet to breach the walls
Battles fought through endless ages
Sculpted heroes line the halls
Through Seer's eyes the storm approaching
Days of gloom and death forwarned
Gone the years of herb and plenty
One to gather, five to mourn.

In the pot old toad spittle
Dragon dung to seal the spell
Wizards chant their incantations
Intoxicated by the smell
In the labyrinth of Fire Mountain
Within its lair the Ancient wakes
With fire and smoke and lust for battle
Cause Gnomelands deadly foes to quake
The Wizard's spells in time now waning
Caught off guard the Dragon stalled
Dark Lords march to kill and plunder
Cheered on by the Dragons fall.

The winds of change sweep clean the carnage
Brave Knights of Valor draw their swords
Sworn to death against the darkness
With Gnomelands Prince allegiance forged
By hobbit's lamp the legend written
In Elfin tongue, the Wizard's rhyme
How light and darkness clashed in Gnomeland
Long before recorded time
Now Spring Fairies sleep, unencumbered
By badger breath, blink and yawn
Kingdoms rise to mold and crumble
While Gnomeland greets another dawn.

Chris Embrick

God's Love Language

One
poem
one
quatrain
one
line
one
thought
that can touch a heart
bring a smile in sadness
dry a tear in sorrow
bring hope for tomorrow
in prose or with rhyme
a memory caught in time
from the poet's heart
time and time again
God's expresses his love language
through the poet's pen.

Chris Embrick

Grandma's Wedding

Grandma was perplexed
When she couldn't find the groom
When he saw the pistol in her purse
Old Jim ran from the room
Everybody knew old Jim
But seems nobody told him
That husbands two, three, and four
All died on their honeymoon.

Chris Embrick

Great Men

Ghandi spoke
the world heard
men were freed

Martin preached
thousands marched
hearts were changed

Jesus taught
souls followed
after love

Today men
cry for peace
but kill the
messenger.

End Note:

Violence is never the answer.
Peace will only come through love.
Love only comes when hearts are changed.

Chris Embrick

Guard Your Heart

Guard your heart with the candle burning
Immerse your soul in Heaven's Light
With all diligence, discerning
Guard your heart with the candle burning
Each day to God's love returning
You'll find the way increasingly bright
If you want to keep the candle burning
Immerse your soul in Heaven's Light.

Chris Embrick

Guardians Of The Tomb

Guardians of the tomb
No artifacts have been exhumed
Beyond the vault the winding maze
A dozen dead end passageways
To keep the secret of the room.

Beneath desert sands darkness looms
Death lingers in the heavy gloom
Around the coffin, statue's gaze
Guardians of the tomb.

The work complete, the workers doomed
The sands of time have filled the plume
No light inside since Pharaoh's days
To keep intruders from the womb
Guardians of the tomb.

Chris Embrick

Guilty Of Neglecting Love

Guilty of neglecting your love
Expecting more than love demands
Not knowing when I had enough
Guilty of neglecting your love
When drinking life from the same cup
Love can't survive on shifting sand
Guilty of neglecting your love
Expecting more than love demands.

Chris Embrick

Haiku: The Palette Of Life

Infinite colors
Oil for imagination
The palette of life

Chris Embrick

Haiku: The Waiting

Billowing storm clouds
collapse in the Summer heat
thirsty frogs wait

Chris Embrick

Haiku: Waiting On My Heart

Waiting on my heart
I must pause to chart my course
My sails need more thoughts

Chris Embrick

Hamlet Revisited (All's Fair In Love And Life

Alas, poor Cedric, I knew well
He needs no shovel there in Hell
A good-for-nothing reprobate
Unlikable, but hard to hate
Witty yes, but knowledge dull
Too large a head for his tiny skull
No stranger to a quarrelsome life
He stole my dog and then my wife
Both drank the same poisoned cup
And now she lies beside her love
Hard labor for a ring of gold
I've dug into their resting hole
Partner's once this rogue and I
Such a shame, so young, he had to die
I would not have spiked the mug of grog
Had he taken my Bess and left the dog
Ah, but all's fair in love and life
Tomorrow, I'll wed my second wife
Watch her smile, take her hand
And slide on Bess's wedding band.

Chris Embrick

Hands Of Mercy

An old lady walking down the street
stopped and wrapped me in her shawl
Her only words were "Bless you child"
then she limped around the wall

A stranger and yet so kind
to the ragamuffins on the street
That night it turned bitter cold
and I was thankful for the heat

With dawn I saw the flashing lights
a common sight most any day
I shivered there and watched the sight
as Medics carried her body away

I realized what she had done
when she left her shawl behind
Her hands of mercy, love was real
when she gave her life for mine.

Chris Embrick

Happenstance

If you wait long on happenstance
You'll only dream of love, romance
With your heart's love, play not roulette
Be not so coy, live with regrets
Often the flower fades that's shy
Love seldom falls out of the sky
Sometimes you must become the spark
To put the flame in someone's heart
You'll only dream of love, romance
If you wait long on happenstance.

Chris Embrick

Happy Bee

I spent the day
avoiding birds
Until I felt
a hormone surge
Then followed love
from flower to flower
To Nature's urge
gave all my power
With my Queen
shared honey dew
Into the sky
love pursued
Life was short
what I could see
But alas, I died
a happy bee.

Chris Embrick

Harmony

You
swing left
I swing right
together we're
a pendulum balancing life with love.

Chris Embrick

Harvesting The Heart

Sometimes true love comes from a late harvest
Through lonely years the poet kept his heart
Memories floating down the river of time
From love's cistern he drew little water
Then he discovered the poetess' thoughts
Her poems filled with flowers of beauty

In memories she's stored years of beauty
From ripe fields of thought, she took a harvest
Season after season, she gathered thoughts
Reflections of the beauty in her heart
She's thirsty for the cistern's pure water
She'll draw from life's well, the river of time

His lonely heart's all but lost track of time
He fills his heart with all life's beauty
His soul's thirsty for the cistern's water
His heart is ripe to pick for the harvest
Each night his dreams accompany his heart
Love travels the river, follows this thoughts

Each restless night love takes over her thoughts
Within her soul flows the river of time
Each night alone, she sails with her heart
She searches each oasis for beauty
She picks bright dream flowers from the harvest
She scatters petals over the water

He sees her reflection in the water
Floating, each petal carries fragrant thoughts
He'll reap beauty all night from the harvest
His heart's followed love to this dream in time
Longing for her love, to touch her beauty
The cistern's water overflows his heart

Both are ready to surrender their hearts
Her love spills over into the water
With each thought of love, he sees her beauty
Their passionate poems share the same thoughts

Together now on the river of time
They gathered dream flowers from the harvest

The harvest of love fills life with beauty
Love binds their two hearts, sharing tender thoughts
Now they can drink of love for a life-time.

Chris Embrick

Have No Fear Of Dying

Be brave, have no fear of dying
With peace accept what lies ahead
Leave a smile to those now crying
Be brave, have no fear of dying
What gain is there, death defying
Why waste one thought, the journey dread
Be brave, have no fear of dying
With peace accept what lies ahead.

Chris Embrick

Heartsong(A Sequidilla Poem)

The music slowly ended
only one couple
still remained on the dance floor
everyone watching
whispering softly
many wishing they too could
fall in love again.

Chris Embrick

Her Dying Day

Each day Molly would sit on the porch
and watch the sunrise, smell her favorite
roses and watch the Summer butterflies.
She never wasted words, especially as her
dying day drew near. She said all I needed
with her gentle smile and tender eyes.

Even dying, she always tried to get me to
laugh, as we talked about our life together
and all the crazy things we'd done.

After her death, I retreated into my lonely
space for a few weeks, cried all the tears I
never let her see.

But today, I climbed the grassy hill to the
plot with the grand view, the one she picked out,
the grave that would always face the morning sunrise.
Today, I brought her favorite roses, just like the
ones that grow by the porch. I tossed the old ones,
already faded and replaced them with a pink bouquet
with just a hint of red.

I sat here on the grass and talked to Molly as if she
could hear every word. Even when she died I could never
let her go.

I talked about work and how much I miss our times together.
I told her about the butterflies I saw this morning
and how sweet the roses smelled.

As I drove home, I knew we'd meet again in another place
and time. I pictured Molly on the porch, sitting in the
rocker beside her favorite rose bush, watching Summer
butterflies dance around the garden flowers.

These days I don't do much crying; Molly taught me to
be strong. She taught me how to live and showed me how
to die. I don't go to the hill as often, only when I'm
a touch melancholy. I stop and buy her roses, sit on the
grass beside her and let my mind wander for an hour or so.
Even when it's cloudy I still see the sunrise.

Even before they bloom I still smell the roses.

And in my dreams, I still chase Summer butterflies across
the yard with my Molly, just like we use to do
before her dying day.

Chris Embrick

Her Last Poem

To her life he left no happy ending
Heartbroken; spent, she lay her pen aside
Her soul wounded too deep for mending
Her heart was not prepared to be denied
Shattered her dreams of becoming his bride
Tender words she longed for never spoken
Though he never wanted her heart broken
Other lips would drink first his wedding cup
Despite her unquestionable devotion
From her hearts pleading, he withheld his love.

Chris Embrick

Hidden Treasure

People almost always
want what they need most
But many times they don't need
what they want most
Not understanding
the most precious things in life
cannot be bought
always looking for hidden treasure
so they can live a carefree life
hardly ever finding
what's right under their nose
that love and happiness
are things sought
and must be nourished each day
and even when in short supply
must be given away
the treasure is not cryptic
the directions point
straight to the heart.

Chris Embrick

His Letter Home

Two strangers fighting side by side
For freedom's cause both served with pride
One separated from his bride
A tearful ride, a tearful ride.

The sounds of war, the rockets whine
Ahead they crawl, leave death behind
At Normandy they crossed the line
A fearful time, a fearful time.

Days in the trench, a weary fight
The dying there, a haunting sight
He had so little time to write
Our darkest night, our darkest night.

Now with the wounded, going home
I could not tell her on the phone
To save my life, he gave this own
He must have known, he must have known.

Chris Embrick

His Paintings Of Love

The old artist went out to paint today
the same old tree
But he found the meadow filled with flowers
sweet memories
He lay back to relax his mind and rest
against the oak
The wild flowers brought back sweeter years
their beauty spoke
Leaving his canvas to chase butterflies
with his young wife
So enchanting beneath the Summer sky
her joy of life
He paints the beauty that each season brings
life he recalls
Every masterpiece, his labor of love
she's in them all
His plein air paintings each a lovely scene
He's captured her beauty in a thousand dreams.

Chris Embrick

Holy Ground

Death went down into Elisha's grave
When flesh touched bone new life was raised
In brittle bones God's power was found
Wherever God's tread there's Holy ground

Behind the coffin Nain's women wailed
For the Mother's son life had failed
One touch of love turned the sadness round
Wherever God's tread there's Holy ground

A lone burning bush drew Moses near
Out from the flames the voice was clear
Moses was obedient to the sound
Wherever God's tread there's Holy ground

Taken from the cross three days alone
His dead body lay behind the stone
Death's tomb couldn't keep the body down
Wherever God's tread there's Holy ground

To those who ask there's a guiding light
The path follows peace, the way is bright
There's a fountain of love where grace abounds
Wherever God's tread there's Holy ground.

Chris Embrick

How Far This Night (Golden Shovel Poem)

Take heart my dove, we'll know the when and how
Love will guide us, show what we must do
Of love you know no more than I
How far this night dare we take our love
True love has brought my heart to thee
Constrain my heart, I'll go no farther than you let
I'll give all and more you ask of me
Time flames the passion, makes long the count
Oh desire, desire how I hunger for the
Night when we embrace to count the ways.

Credit given: Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Sonnet 43 "How do I love thee? let me count the ways."

Chris Embrick

How Gently Night Has Fallen

How gently night has fallen
How serene the day's end
After the summer tempest
And fury of the wind
How soft the twilight colors
In the storm's afterglow
How sweet the smell of freshness
From the torrents flow
How gently night has fallen
On the distant hills
And through the balm of summer
Sound of whippoorwills.

Chris Embrick

I Thought I Knew

I thought I knew what hurting meant
until I saw the scars
of so many young amputees
returning home from war

I thought I knew true loneliness
and a heart slow to mend
until I met a widow
who lost
her soul mate and only friend

I thought I knew what love meant
until I met a selfless soul
who gave her last piece of bread
to a homeless man out in the cold

Each time I thought I knew my heart
my soul put my heart in check
and showed me a hurting world
of suffering and neglect

It's been a humble lesson
but now I understand
that on the shores of human misery
I'm just a grain of sand.

Chris Embrick

I Was No Stranger

I was no stranger to your love
I could not give you worldly fame
For you my love was not enough
You left true love all for a name
I could not give you worldly fame
With wealth you found no happiness
You left true love all for a name
Now both of us must live like this
With wealth you found no happiness
For you my love was not enough
Now both of us must live like this
I was no stranger to your love.

Epilogue:

How callus the fickle heart
For fame, a name could not resist
One left her true love behind
Caused both to lose their happiness.

Chris Embrick

If I Promise My Love

If I promise my love tonight
Will you return what's only fair
Let my lips linger at your cup
If I promise my love tonight
Mend the hurt that's come between us
Will you agree to meet me there
If I promise my love tonight
Will you return what's only fair.

Chris Embrick

If Life Lasted But One Day

If life was given one day's time
Then love must have the greater part
Each rose must bloom soon after dawn
It's beauty share in mornings light
Be plucked and loved before the night
Make haste to live before life's gone
With love's sweet nectar fill each heart
Leave fragrance for the rose behind.

Chris Embrick

If Looks Could Kill

You wanted roses, satin red
He brought a dozen daffodils
He smiled and handed you the bill
A bomb went off inside your head

The conservation stopped love dead
Suddenly love lost all its thrill
You wanted roses, satin red
He brought a dozen daffodils

He said you gave his heart cold chills
He's be dead now if looks could kill
You wanted roses, satin red.

Chris Embrick

If Stars Were Priceless Jewels

If stars were priceless jewels
Each night I'd pluck one from the sky
Add love's sparkle to the sapphire pools
The timeless beauty of your eyes
Enough to fill the seven seas
I'd add the moon to show my love
If stars were priceless jewels
I'd give you all the stars above.

Chris Embrick

I'm Only Lonely When She's Here

I'm only lonely when she's here
She wakes my heart from night's silence
And leaves behind lingering tears
I'm only lonely when she's here
When sweet dreams of our love draw near
I'm left on this lonely island
I'm only lonely when she's here
She wakes my heart from night's silence.

Chris Embrick

Imagination's Stream

When thought becomes the thing intended
the future becomes time in a dream
we enter imagination's stream
when thought becomes the thing intended
the future becomes time in a dream
if the mind controls what will exist
life's possibilities are limitless
the future becomes time in a dream
if the mind controls what will exist
then who exists to control the mind
if to this world thoughts are confined
if the mind controls what will exist
can mind over matter reset the clock
when thought becomes the thing intended
can longer life be apprehended
are there repercussions, aftershocks
when thought becomes the thing intended
the future becomes time in a dream
we enter imagination's stream
when thought becomes the thing intended.

Chris Embrick

In A Lonely Place

I'm not lonely.

But today, I need to be in a lonely place.

As far away from others as I dare to go.

I've found the most revealing revelations come the deeper I go into the green zone, away from family and friends and yes, even love.

I'll take the silence with me and listen only to the forest sounds.

It's only when I need the most profound soul searching, that I go this deep into the unfamiliar, go this far into the mountains to find a lonely place.

I've brought my heartaches here before, to this very spot and stayed until the ache was gone.

Beside the waterfall, I've added my own tears to the stream and watched them drown in forgetfulness. Hurtful memories seem to fade into nothingness in these mountains; their beauty gives me a new perspective on what's really important.

Anyway, I'm here today to leave a part of me behind, a load I've carried much too long.

Near sundown I'll walk back the way I came and linger in the aspens, daydream one last time under their golden, quaking leaves.

When I return home, I'll not be the same man who came today to this lonely place to find his life again.

Chris Embrick

In Every Heart A Place For Love

In every heart a place for love
Share what you have for more each day
Nothing in life's more beautiful
In every heart a place for love
Life's treasure from a heart that's full
The greatest gift to give away
In every heart a place for love
Share what you have for more each day.

Chris Embrick

In Search Of Peace

Can humanity have peace without love?

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Whenever you are confronted with an opponent, conquer them with love."

Man invents medicines and machines to ease mankind's suffering, but at the same time creates new weapons of mass destruction.

Desmond Tutu said, "If you want peace, you don't talk to your friend, you talk to your enemy."

Can humanity have peace without love?

Universal human values used to be:

a strong family unit

a loving home

respect for parents; others

honesty

respect for life

hard work and sharing

Now in Post Modernism, we have:

single parent homes

fewer male role models

less love, more selfishness

little respect for others

stealing instead of sharing

lying for convenience

little respect for life

What determines humanity?

Is it our collective intelligence or morality?

Can humanity have peace without love?

Dr Martin Luther King Jr. is quoted as saying,

"Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Mother Teresa once said, "If we have no peace

it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."

What determines our humanity?

Surely not our intelligence alone.

Peace cannot last in a world of moral chaos.

Can humanity have peace in a world without love?

Nelson Mandela is quoted as saying, "Courageous people do not fear forgiving, for the sake of peace."

Many have given their lives for peace; many have failed in their efforts; but yes, peace is still possible in this world of multi-cultures and multi-colors.

To quote Buddha, "Peace comes from within, do not seek it without."

To paraphrase Jesus Christ: "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone." "Love your neighbor as yourself." and "Seek

peace and pursue it."

Can humanity have peace without love?

Peace will never last in a world where evil exists.

You can silence love, but rarely do you exterminate: greed, pride, war, lust for money and power.

Unless there is a change in men's hearts and peace within we cannot have peace without love in the world.

Without love there can be no lasting peace.

Can humanity have peace without love?

SEARCH FIRST FOR LOVE- -PEACE WILL FOLLOW.

Chris Embrick

In The Garden

Though flesh be weak, yet spirit strong
No friend awake to watch and pray
Bid weary souls now rest, sleep on
Though flesh be weak, yet spirit strong
Sorrowful soul, God's Son alone
Refused to turn the cup away
Though flesh be weak, yet spirit strong
No friend awake to watch and pray.

Chris Embrick

In The Wild

Through the forest vine and tangle
Briers and thickets block the way
I've wandered off course for hours
To places few others dare to stray.

The deer path took me to the meadow
Just as the birds were greeting dawn
And at the edge the dew soaked flowers
Chanced upon a spotted fawn.

I filled my soul with the chorus
As the bird songs filled the air
I followed sunbeams through the forest
In the beauty, lingered there.

I heard the gurgle of the water
Deep in the woodland the owls call
Beside the cascades through the laurel
I searched to find the waterfall.

Rising high the mountain splendor
To take in all the valley sight
I stayed as long as the sunset
To catch the first stars of the night.

Here in the wild I'm not the master
All around me life unfolds
In the quietness I'm reminded
I'm but a part of the greater whole.

I come back to visit often
To linger with my soul a while
My home's down in the concrete valley
But I Keep my heart here in the wild.

Chris Embrick

Indulged With Self

Vertical pupils
guide the gray figure
silently through the wet grass
inching ever closer to the barnyard edge
the cock, self-indulged in crowing
gave no warning of danger
until
the farmer's prize hen
disappeared into the morning fog.

Chris Embrick

Injustice

Rage against self-serving pride
Rage against men and women who misguide
Against corrupt jurisprudence, I chide
The politicians whose rhetoric divides
Dying, a nation's freedom tried
Of times, a time when thoughts collide
The fools and madmen have allied
Light, righteous light, turn the tide.

Credit given: Dylan Thomas

Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night

"Rage, rage against the dying of the light."

Chris Embrick

Inspiration

Between the night and day begins
A time of shadows in the trees
Nature's offering now transcends
More beauty than the eye can see
Deep in the forest dappled light
Uplifting clouds the morning mist
The swirling fog, like dreams adrift
Until the sun has greater height
The budding trees unfold to Spring
Bright meadow flowers dot the hills
Swift waters tumble down the rill
From every perch the birds now sing

Quills dipped in honey, nature's pen
It's nature's gift to write again.

Chris Embrick

Inspiration's Well

Poets ponder, mysteries delve
Search for rare pearls outside the shell
In the subconscious often dwell
From the unconscious fill their flask
Draw deep from inspiration's well
Refill the pen, complete the task.

Chris Embrick

Instinct

Instinct
subliminal
overrides common sense
when time demands the answer now
when every second counts for survival
and life is hanging by a thread
when you're at the cliff's edge
best rely on
instinct

Chris Embrick

Is There No More To Love Than This

Unforgivable, the sweetness of your kiss
Trusting you with love was my first mistake
Unforgivable, is there no more to love than this
Will the hurt follow me keep my heart from bliss
How fragile the emotions that cause a heart to break
Unforgivable, the sweetness of your kiss
You're in her arms tonight just like I don't exist
Was my love just another trophy to take
Unforgivable, is there no more to love than this
You promised me forever, a life of happiness
These wounds of betrayal oh, the heartache
Unforgivable, the sweetness of your kiss
Should you ever want me back, I'll not take the risk
Better to live a lonely life, with no hope of escape
Unforgivable, is there no more to love than this
Blinded by first love, not to see the signs I missed
My heart denied the truth all for loves sake
Unforgivable, the sweetness of your kiss
Unforgivable, is there no more to love than this.

Chris Embrick

It's Never Too Late To Dream

It's never too late
In life to start dreaming
Just start where you are
And give life new meaning
You've still got time
If you're still breathing
Dreams that go somewhere
Start with believing
Don't start a fire
With pages of doubt
And don't let discouragement
Put the fire out
Success may come fast
Success may come slow
Just keep positive thoughts
Hope never says no
Make time for family
Find time for laughter
Seek help from friends
For what your heart's after
Remember
Those who stumble
Often get in a hurry
On the river of life
Leave out the worry
Before the deep currents
Spend time in the stream
Beginning
or
Ending
or
Somewhere inbetween
It's never too late
to dream
It's never too late
to dream.

Chris Embrick

I've Kept Your Smile (A Minute Poem)

The first to laugh the last to cry
your eyes were dry
you did your part
you touched my heart

While others thought the sky was gray
you brought a ray
a ray of hope
with death to cope

Most of all I remember you
when days are blue
In mem'rys file
I've kept your smile.

Chris Embrick

I've Never Seen The Wind

I've never seen the wind
But I can feel the wind
I can hear the wind
And I know where it's been
By what it leaves behind
I've never seen God
But I can feel his Presence
I can hear when He speaks
And I know where He's been
By what He leaves behind
Peace
Love
Joy
Gentleness
Kindness
Tolerance
Yes, in our reality
God is an invisible Spirit
But his workmanship is everywhere
And like the fragrance of a flower
Unmistakable, intoxicating
You know when He's near
He never leaves without a sign
Not by what He takes
But what He's left behind.

Chris Embrick

Jack

Mama had a lover with a cold, dark heart
He locked me in a cage and kept me in the dark
His cigarette burns made a cross on my back
He said: I've read all your signs in the zodiac
If you grow up, you'll be no good Jack
If you grow up, you'll be no good Jack.

Every time Billy hurt Mama she'd fly into a rage
With a demon in her eyes, she'd drag me from the cage
I can still feel the sting and hear the whip crack
She said: you grow up and be a good boy Jack
You grow up and be a good boy Jack.

Mama Od'd on meth and her third six pack
They found Billy in bed with a knife in his back
They found me in a cage behind the coat rack
Saying: Don't hurt me Mama; I won't fall through the cracks
I'll grow up and be your good boy Jack
I'll grow up and be your good boy Jack.

Just skin and bones, I could barely speak
I had nothing for days but the roaches to eat
They said: he's so withdrawn, he doesn't know how to act
He just sits in the corner afraid they'll come back
Singing: Someday you'll be a good boy Jack
Someday you'll be a good boy Jack.

I've spent fifty years behind these white walls
Afraid of the dark and the voices that call
I still feel the sting and hear the whip crack
Afraid of the demons and another attack
With Mama calling me from the railroad shack
Saying: Don't be like your Mama, don't fall through the cracks
You grow up and be a good boy Jack
You grow up and be a good boy Jack.

Time's running out; I'm staring at the clock
The doctor said: It's over he can't take another shock
Drip, drip, drip from the bag on the rack

There's another man here with scars on his back
He said: I'm coming today to take you home Jack
You're not like your Mama
You're a good boy Jack
You're not like your Mama
You're a good boy Jack.

Chris Embrick

Jealousy (A Dodoitsu Poem)

Jealousy's a subtle thief
It often hides among friends
It is very fond of love
Always another's.

Chris Embrick

Jesus Exiled(A Prophet's Vision)

The old Prophet sat in Central Park
surrounded by a world of violence
It was then he looked up
as sirens blasted through the silence
He saw missiles streaking through the sky
chaos erupting on every street
While just yesterday, a few blocks away
men were negotiating peace

A labyrinth of lawlessness
the church doors padlocked by decree
A time of terror, little rest
Jesus exiled from the land of the free
For power, greed and Stock Market gold
For pleasure men auction off their souls
No place left for love and tolerance
when men who hate God take control

The Prophet saw man's final hours
on that dark, predestined dawn
when Post Modern Priests worship the mind's power
He looked into the future
and saw the time when love was gone
For centuries of decline
men refused the truth, ignored the signs
Exalting man, became reprobates
leaving God behind.

Chris Embrick

Jewels Of Love

Jewels of love, nights of pleasure
More priceless since our love began
Ruby lips with eyes of azure
Jewels of love, nights of pleasure
With your heart hidden treasure
The love you gave no other man
Jewels of love, nights of pleasure
More priceless since our love began.

Chris Embrick

Joy Of Love

The dreams of night spilled into day
I had to call you one more time
My heart has so much more to say
I could not leave the dream behind
Your love still intoxicates my mind
Had I had then the joy I know
I would have loved you long ago.

Chris Embrick

Joy's Renewal(A Roundabout Poem)

While dreamers yawn in hidden dens
the early birds now sing
the warm sunrise
paints golden skies
the early birds now sing

Throughout the woodland echoes ring
awakens sleepy eyes
the meadow lark
the foxes bark
awakens sleepy eyes

Across the pond the wood duck flies
the red-tail soon embarks
above the glen
catches the wind
the red-tail soon embarks

The morning sun in April's arc
renews life's joy again
fair days of Spring
bright flowers bring
renews life's joy again.

Chris Embrick

Key To Love 1

Have you come again
Before bed, I locked the door
Not to keep you out
I've been waiting here for you
You have the key to my dreams

Chris Embrick

Key To Love 2

I heard you knocking
gently on my heart tonight
You came tenderly
slipped beneath the satin sheets
cuddled warm against my skin

I came to love you
You were already dreaming
You whispered my name
I entered your dream of love
We left innocence behind

Chris Embrick

King Of Hearts (A Terzanelle Poem)

Note the man who loses all
His downfall vanity and pride
Note the man who loses all
His happy home, his loving bride
The King of Hearts has been dethroned
His downfall vanity and pride
His work kept him away from home
He married grand the perfect mate
The King of Hearts has been dethroned
She played her hand and cast the bait
He stacked the deck; she hid the ace
He married grand the perfect mate
She met his vixen face to face
She found him cuddled with the fox
He stacked the deck; she hid the ace
She caught him wearing only socks
She found him cuddled with the fox
Note the man who loses all
Note the man who loses all.

Chris Embrick

Kings Without Crowns

Between Autumn and Winter's breeze
Naked 'till Spring the forest trees
Brittle and dry the fallen leaves
Russet on the ground
Stately and gray, majestic these
Kings without crowns.

Chris Embrick

Learning About Life

The young girl ran playfully through the meadow,
always laughing
Today, she walks among the faded flowers
wiping the tears
She's too young to understand why the butterflies
have left her.

Chris Embrick

Learning From Life

This life's not what I had in mind
I've learned to leave some plans behind
On dead-end roads I've wasted time
Spurned good advice
Failed on mountains too hard to climb
I paid the price

Sometimes lucky, I'm in control
Sometimes circumstance steers my soul
On some days I feel less than bold
Life's ebb and flow
Those times when dreams are hard to hold
I let them go.

Note: Some days ignoring your own advice is the best and listen to m is a stream with many tributaries.

Chris Embrick

Legacy

Time never slows; time never stalls
Someday the knock, death comes to call
The wise prepare for what befalls
Have peace of mind
They've read the writing on the wall
Leave love behind.

Chris Embrick

Lesson From A Fledgling

A fledgling fell from it's nest
And I could not pass it by
I thought it needed but a little rest
Until it's wing's had strength to fly
So I tucked it back in its home
And continued my way down the street
But tomorrow passed the same tree
And found it cold and ruffled at my feet
And wondered why it didn't stay
But tried again to fly away
And so I thought the same with us
We try to grow up in a rush
And like this young bird leave the nest
Long before we're at our best
As stubborn fledglings in denial
We're deaf to those who've faced life's trials
And much older now, with wiser eyes
With crippled wings some learn to fly
How true the proverb's wisdom still
From those who've succeeded drink your fill
Though short cuts in life may be tempting
The wise man's cup is seldom empty.

Chris Embrick

Lesson From A Rose

I closed my eyes
to smell a rose
and sniffed a bug
right up my nose
I blew and sneezed
with all my might
afraid it soon
would take a bite
and when expelled
I breathed a sigh
trapped in the drool
a tiny fly
I'll not forget
my rose of May
and how I blew
it's petals all away.

Wise advice: A flower's fragrance is nature's bait
a lure to those who pollinate
Next time you're tempted to inhale
Remember to look before you smell.

Chris Embrick

Life After Love (A Carpe Diem Sonnet)

What better day to be alive
To search for treasure in the heart
Why with heartache's memory strive
If Cupid's arrow missed the mark
Time never waits for sorrow's grave
Or asks the rain to take a pause
Not every road through life is paved
Kept manicured to hide the flaws
Dare not allow failed love to anchor
Kept in harbor, dreams unfulfilled
Refuse all thoughts prone to rancor
Press through each day with stronger will
Time's too precious for deep sorrow
Live for today, dream tomorrow.

Chris Embrick

Life Without Time

In this mechanical universe
in our bodies we're confined
from birth 'till death
we watch the clock
a prisoner of time
what wondrous possibilities
when we're not constrained
it's only then
freedom begins
when the clock no longer chimes

There's no yesterday to ponder
when Father Time is left behind
as strange as it may seem
it's a minor technicality
when the clock runs out of time
there's no paradox to unravel
there's no need for time travel
someday a new door will be opened
the time Keeper holds the key
we haven't changed reality
only enhanced the consciousness
already in our minds

Time gone in a picosecond
we know not when or how
we only know that without time
the only time is here and now
what wonders in the universe
to be free among the stars
to move with the speed of light
and still be where we are
freed from our limitations
when the last tick stops
Oh, what joy, what joy sublime
in a world without clocks.

Chris Embrick

Life's Treasure

Beware the flower's fragrance
intoxicating to the soul
Beauty's a wise betrayer
sweet, alluring to behold
Outside the heart, one's pleasure
eyes often miss what endures
Inside the heart, life's treasure
seek love there for heartache's cure.

Chris Embrick

Limerick: The Inebriated Monk

To all the village
He was their favorite monk
But when old Thomas died
They found the bottles in his trunk
The bells he forgot to ring
And never was in tune to sing
They thought old Thomas feeble
But he was always drunk.

Chris Embrick

Lonely Half-A -Day

I'm not lonely here
concentrating on my work
it's good for a time
but forgetting's not easy
when every dream breaks my heart.

Chris Embrick

Lonely Has A Look

Lonely has a look
Like none other recognized
A look of despair
Eyes that can't hold back the tears
When a stranger comes to call.

Chris Embrick

Long Gone Blues

I can't love nobody when you get me down
I can't love nobody when you get me down
You've been long gone
But the mem'rys still around

You caught me out cattin last Saturday night
You caught me out catiin last Saturday night
Said a cheatin man
Ain't worth a good fight

Found me another woman but she's done gone
Found me another woman but she's done gone
She said she couldn't love a man
Who'd do her wrong

Had to learn my lesson livin here alone
Had to learn my lesson livin here alone
A good woman won't leave
if you keep love home.

Epilogue:

Keep your eyes on the prize
And keep your love at home
Word gets around fast
When you treat a woman wrong.

Chris Embrick

Longing

His poem of love, his heart did steer
He could not speak; he could not hear
But when he wrote, he left a tear
His heart's sadness
He brushed her lips, her fragrance near
She still resists.

Chris Embrick

Lords Of Survival(Modified Rondeau)

Lords of survival stalk the night
Phantoms beneath the Northern Lights
Hungry, restless the hunt begins
Bonds renewed, they circle downwind
Across the tundra snowy white
Lords of survival stalk the night

Weary elk press on with fright
The pristine forest in their sights
The hungry wolves closing in
Lords of survival stalk the night

Overhead the moon and stars bright
The weary bull too weak to fight
The saga of life played again
On strength and cunning life depends
The distance closed, howls pierce the quiet
Lords of survival stalk the night.

Chris Embrick

Losing My Way

Blue skies gave way to hues of gold
As I surveyed the forest deep
Well beyond my intended stroll

Ahead I heard the river's sound
And knowing I had lost my way
Well past the time to turn around

The fears of life my mind restrained
No hurry yet, to leave such peace
For life's direction to regain

From Nature's bounty peace borrowed
Along the path hardships strewn
New hope, new strength, for tomorrow

Above the trees a dim half-moon
I lost desire to get home soon.

Chris Embrick

Losing Our Child

Holding her tightly
each tear stole time from my heart
Her silence cried out
but I could only hear the
sobbing echoes of my heart.

Chris Embrick

Lotus Dawn

Drifting among the Lotus flowers
The dawn air heavy with sweet fragrance
Surreal the image, much like dreaming
We held each other our hearts dancing
On her lips a smile so beautiful
Her silence mingled with my heart's love

No longer could I resist her love
The sun's kiss awakens the flowers
Each virgin blossom so beautiful
Each breeze a breath of love's fragrance
On the water my Lotus dancing
A sea of flowers in our dreaming

Our passion planted seeds for dreaming
Memories for eternal love
We joined the chorus, Nature dancing
The forest filled with Summer flowers
Love saturated with sweet fragrance
No morning of love so beautiful

In her eyes the Lotus beautiful
In life's memories, dreams for dreaming
So overpowering dawn's fragrance
Releasing the purity of love
Our love sent ripples through the flowers
The Lotus closed, our hearts still dancing

Love's song for a life time of dancing
The melody of love rich, beautiful
Exhausted there among the flowers
We drifted on the water dreaming
All time forgotten, dancing with love
Our bed perfumed with love's sweet fragrance

Intoxicated by the fragrance
All through the night in our dreams dancing
Hearts coupled following our song of love
Drifting among our thoughts beautiful

Until the Lotus opens, dreaming
Beside the pond of sacred flowers

Dawn's flowers breathing lasting fragrance
Cause dreaming hearts to start dancing
Each day beautiful, filled with our love.

Chris Embrick

Love At The Wrong Times

My heart was not ready
when you needed love
When you walked away
it was not anger
but hurt I saw in your eyes
No words were spoken
I only heard the silence
of your broken heart

It was not rejection
that day
when you needed love
I was afraid to risk
being hurt again so soon
I needed your love
as much as you needed mine
When I turned to walk away
You didn't see the tears in my eyes
You never heard the silence
of my broken heart.

Chris Embrick

Love Brushes Gently

Love brushes gently
Against shattered hopes and dreams
A heartache passing
Leaving behind memories
That I must forget again.

Chris Embrick

Love Builds A Wall

The wall of friendship
fellowship
always begins with
the cornerstone
To endure life's storms
you cannot build it alone
You need the love of others
with the love of your own
and add the mortar
to each stone
Only then will it be strong enough
to keep out
bigotry
prejudice
hatred
jealously
pride
and make a place
where love abides
When each stone is carefully placed
Genuine love
never goes to waste
It will protect you
time and time again
when you've built a wall
around yourself with friends.

Chris Embrick

Love For All

I tried to give my love to one
but from my heart she would take none
At last I settled down in life
Most satisfied without a wife
When friends and family come to call
I find that I have love for all.

Chris Embrick

Love It Must(Modified Triolet)

The heart betrayed is slow to trust
Wary of love, but love it must
Or happiness is slowly drained
To keep the mem'ry nothing's gained
A wound that's deep keeps pleasure chained
The heart betrayed is slow to trust
Wary of love, but love it must.

Chris Embrick

Love Kept Me Alive

I was born a tiny flower
with no power
right from the start
my life was marked

Through the years my family's changed
with different names
but special care
was always there

Now middle-aged with Down's Syndrome
I'm not alone
I still survive
Love' still alive

Epilogue:

My sister was born in 1962 with Down's my parents died
Janet spent the next ten years in a Care Home. When the home closed,
one of the Caregivers wanted Janet to come and live with her family.
She was readily and lovingly the world today, those with the slightest
abnormality are often deemed never kills
the love is unconditional.

Chris Embrick

Love Me For Who I Am

You must love me for who I am
Not for who I was or what I'll be
Love's natural flow must not be dammed
You must love me for who I am
My heart's not a sacrificial lamb
My love's much more than what you see
You must love me for who I am
Not for who I was or what I'll be.

Chris Embrick

Love Moves Mountains

Love moves mountains
that seem impossible to climb
Love moves mountains
makes sweet again bitter fountains
gives to the heart, is gentle, kind
leaves stubborn heartaches far behind
Love Moves Mountains.

Chris Embrick

Love Needs An Answer

Yesterday
I would not
answer you

Today
your silence
answers me

Tomorrow
the heartache
will be mine.

Chris Embrick

Love Rewards The Liberal Soul

Love rewards the liberal soul
Always gives the greater portion
Repays the heart, will not withhold
Love rewards the liberal soul
For acts of kindness never told
Rare treasure from the heart's fortune
Love rewards the liberal soul
Always gives the greater portion.

Chris Embrick

Love's Reflections

Love's reflections come from the heart
Life's beauty from a restful soul
Joy, peace, love, only God imparts
Love's reflections come from the heart
Where no love is, the mirror's dark
Gentleness, kindness, self-control
Love's reflections come from the heart
Life's beauty from a restful soul.

Chris Embrick

Loves Regrets

How often you remember love
the beauty of
the one you miss
her tender kiss

Her pleading kept outside your heart
she had to part
you can't forget
your heart's regrets

So lonely now, your heart still yearns
there's no return
you're here alone
her love's moved on.

Chris Embrick

Lullaby For Laura

While my heart alone with sorrow
I wrote this lullaby for Laura.

Laura, Laura sweetest dove
You've never once wasted love
No greater love than yours and mine
We'll meet again somewhere in time
Where flowers smell of myrrh and cloves
I'll meet you there my fairest rose
Don't be afraid my gentle dove
Dream softly now, sweet dreams of love.

Rest my love in peaceful sleep
I'll soon enough have time to weep
But for now I must be strong
Guide my Laura gently home
In my voice restrain my sorrow
As I sing these words to Laura.

Laura, Laura sweetest dove
You've never once wasted love
No greater love than yours and mine
We'll meet again somewhere in time
Where flowers smell like myrrh and cloves
I'll meet you there my fairest rose
Don't be afraid my gentle dove
Dream softly now, sweet dreams of love.

Her hand I'll hold with tenderness
Leave on her cheek one final kiss
Watch her smile one last time
Save the memories, love sublime
It's only when she's gone I'll cry
And sing again, this lullaby.

Laura, Laura sweetest dove
You've never once wasted love
No greater love than yours and mine
We'll meet again somewhere in time

Where flowers smell like myrrh and cloves
I'll meet you there my fairest rose
Don't be afraid, my gentle dove
Dream softly now, sweet dreams of love
Dream softly now, sweet dreams of love.

Chris Embrick

Lullaby Of Love

Dream softly now, your dreams of love
Of how love is and use to be
Dream softly now, your dreams of love
Of when you fell in love with me.

Dream softly now
Your dreams of love
Sweet memories
For both of us
Of how love is
and how love was
Dream softly now
Your dreams of love

Dream softly how, we fell in love
And in your dreams call out my name
Dream softly how, we fell in love
And tonight, I'll do the same.

Dream softly now
Your dreams of love
Sweet memories
For both of us
Of how love is
And how love was
Dream softly now
Your dreams of love.

Tonight, I'll meet you in my heart
We'll dream of love and never part
Of how love is and how it was
Dream softly now, your dreams of love.

Chris Embrick

Macaque

The group one fewer
danger never far away
still nervous today
we approach the calm pond's edge
my mother's blood stains the grass.

Chris Embrick

Made In The Dreamer's Image

Who's at the helm; who's in control
if I'm but part of a larger dream
who determines how the plot unfolds
as I travel life's conscious stream

The fact that I can dream at all
really doesn't seem that odd
I was made in the Dreamer's image
all the proof I need that there's a God

In this life I share His dream
and weave it's threads into my own
and in His light my soul's aware
that in the dream, I'm not alone

When life from this body flows
into the depths of wisdom's stream
with greater life my soul abounds
when I meet the Dreamer who first dreamed.

Chris Embrick

Making Pearls

Agitation, irritation
Just a grain of sand
But once inside the oyster's shell
More than it can stand
So around each grain of sand
That intrudes into it's world
The oyster takes the intruder
And makes a precious pearl.

Consternation, bad relations
Common stress to man
But once inside the heart and soul
Ruins our peaceful plans
So negative the thoughts they bring
Dark shadows in our world
It's only with the light of love
We change them into pearls.

Chris Embrick

Making Your Own Sunshine

Sometimes happiness means making your own sunshine
Don't be discouraged if the sky turns gray
Just take a breather and let life unwind
Keep enough smiles to chase the blues away
When your brain's in the clouds, let your heart be the guide

If foul weather's got you trapped all day inside
If you've struggled through the week and work's been a grind
Take tomorrow's worries one day at a time
Just for a day, act like a spoiled child
Just look in the mirror and crack a big smile
Nip all those frowns quickly in the bud
And leave all your complaining at the stop sign
This life's much too short for the mulligrubs
Sometimes happiness means making your own sunshine.

Chris Embrick

Man To Man

I want no other man
He knows my deepest thoughts
We live soul to soul
His devotion can't be bought
He never once broke my heart
Although his was often broken
To others pain was not revealed
The heartaches left unspoken
When I cry, I see his tears
When he smiles, I smile along
We've shared an intimate life thus far
Apart, we'd have nowhere to belong.

De hombre a hombre
He's closer than a brother
The more I get to know him
I'd never want another
He's never let me hurt alone
Our dreams are one and the same
Through all our failures
We equally share the blame
When I laugh, I hear his laughter
His emotions are reliable
I'll not live without him
His love is undeniable.

We're growing old together
we've faced life man to man
The reason behind my every flaw
He clearly understands
When I wrote this poem
He consented to each line
He understands the mystery
Of just what I had in mind.

Love is transparent
Love speaks for itself
How can I love others
If I don't love myself.

Who is this man I love?
The answer should be clearer
He smiles back at me
When I look in the mirror.

Chris Embrick

Manna

Manna on the ground from Heaven
From bare rocks a flowing river
Honey wafers without leaven
Manna on the ground from Heaven
Six days to gather, rest on seven
On the Sabbath heed the Giver
Manna on the ground from Heaven
From bare rocks a flowing river.

Chris Embrick

Man's Greatest Challenge

The greatest challenge facing man
will never be to conquer space
We've fought wars for millennia
the clock ticking on the human race

Until mankind rules with the heart
there's little valuable to gain
What good is there in leaving earth
until the peace down here remains

Light years away on virgin soil
unless we change, we'll still need laws
We've overcome earth's gravity
but left behind our human flaws

The Watchers of the Milky Way
look on our progress without fear
Soon gone from their galactic charts
the planet, earth we love so dear.

Chris Embrick

Many Crowns

Adorned, the trees wear many crowns
On every branch the garland clings
Flowers bright, the jewels of Spring
Sweet fragrance fills the air around
The warmth the days of April bring
Adorned, the trees wear many crowns
On every branch the garland clings
From diadems gold dust falls down
Offerings from the forest kings
Soon to follow new crowns of green
Adorned, the trees wear many crowns
On every branch the garland clings
Flowers bright, the jewels of Spring.

Chris Embrick

Memories From Childhood

Fearing the future, hiding his heart's pain
He endured their daily taunting, wishing
For just one kind soul, a friend he could claim
He grew up, a part of childhood missing
They came like vipers surrounding, hissing
His heart stinging from the verbal arrows
He had no armor for resisting
He just withdrew like a broken sparrow
Rejection, the physical scars of shame
Behind the man, the memories remain.

Chris Embrick

Merciful Father, Heaven's Light

God eternal, never turning
Merciful Father, Glory bright
For your presence we are yearning
Let us come nearer, Heaven's light
Breathe on us renewing power
Restore our hearts, body and soul
Rain on us a healing shower
Thy tender mercies make us whole
With our prayers now confessing
Forgive today, our sinful deeds
Be Thou swift to bring the blessing
Thy grace sufficient for our needs
For the answer, we now praise Thee
Thy kingdom come from high above
We cry Holy, bow before Thee
With humble hearts bring all our love.

Chris Embrick

Migration

Migrating through the Autumn sky
Following Nature's ebb and flow
Overhead the geese southward fly
Ahead of Winter's cold and snow
To come, the chill the season brings
Relentless winds and bitter nights
The landscape covered purest white
Until the geese fly north in Spring.

Chris Embrick

Millie The Duck

Millie was our barn yard duck
But she couldn't find her nest
So we put her eggs under the goose
And let nature do the rest
But the goose ran away confused
When the eggs began to crack
She was listening for a honk, honk, honk
But only got a quack.

Chris Embrick

Mind Games

Deception's a ruse
Personality a game
I'm who I want to be
The rest is just a name
So use your psycho babble
To profile who you see
Use all your fancy gizmos
To get inside of me
Observe all my mannerisms
Compare me to the average
You'll never find out who I am
Be it saint or savage
I'll have some more
Truth serum please
With a little more vanilla
And could you turn the voltage up
Like you did that other fellow
I'll play your cat and mouse games
And leave behind a trail of clues
But when I come out of the maze
You'll be the one confused.

Chris Embrick

Mindful Thoughts

Hope leaves an unanswered question

Faith reveals the answer before the question is asked.

Hope leaves open the possibility of failure.

Faith only sees success.

Hope walks slowly around the mountain.

Faith moves the mountain.

Chris Embrick

Mining The Impossible(Terzanelle Poem)

Mining the impossible from the womb of dreams
Imagination's lens exposes the unseen
Metaphysical thoughts transcend space and time
Doubt is non-existent in the Quantum mind

Within the boundaries of man's creations
Formulas and theories are a means to an end
Despite careful scientific investigations
All for a Nobel Prize, men play roulette again

Undiscovered wisdom must be carefully mined
Supernatural explanations not dismissed
Sometimes the conventional must be left behind
Often those with clever minds really don't exist.

Chris Embrick

Missing Tom (A Clogyranch Poem)

Tom's little lass is Bonnie fair
Soon she'll have her ring to wear
Kindle flame and fire the log
Pass the mug, the merry grog
Dance the clog, ye maidens who despair.

Tom's ready for his wedding night
His friends are here with faces bright
Somewhat a rogue, no Galahad
He took his time, for sure the Lad
His parents glad, that Bonnie
tamed the wayward knight.

The bridemaids will cry for a while
When Tom and Bonnie walk the aisle
Each dreamed of wedding bells
All knew Tom extremely well
None dared tell, but looked on with phony smiles.

Chris Embrick

Mistaken Identity

Call me a poet
a mistaken identity
I invite you
inside my psyche
to see facets
of who I am
But be warned
You'll only read
what I've been thinking
What I've imagined
What I saw in my dreams
True, you'll get a glimpse
now and then of my soul
maybe a line or two
that peers into my heart
but never will you enter
my inner sanctum
the place where I'm renewed
Here my mentor
my conscience guide
often transports me
into the supernatural
Conscious
sub-conscious
unconscious
I never look for signs
posted on the door
I simply follow wisdom
down the corridors of time
into the secret chambers
of my soul
Call me a poet
but I'm not in every poem
Often I stray from reality
Look into the mirror
and see reflected back
my mistaken identity
Most often
it's his thoughts

that
begin and end the poem.

Chris Embrick

More Than A Promise

More than a promise, all your love
such tenderness your loving care
no selfish thoughts come between us
More than a promise, all your love
with my heart you have been faithful
such gentleness, compassion rare
More than a promise, all your love
such tenderness your loving care.

Chris Embrick

Morning Glory

How delicate the flower's cup
Purest white blushed with pink
Saucer-shaped and opened up
Inviting bees to take a drink
In it's funnel violet beauty
Reaching out the pollen crown
Dreamy flowers slightly ruffled
Among the emerald leaves are found
Moon glow captured in it's petals
Brushed by nature with a kiss
Dew drops cling like tears on satin
Resplendent glory, Nature's gift.

Chris Embrick

Morning Song

Returning to Nature's clock
may restore happiness in life
awakening at sunrise-
becoming more restful after sunset
maybe then we too can
join the birds with a morning song.

Chris Embrick

Mother Knows Best

You sought happiness, so you wed
Your Mother-in-Law paid the bill
Now your dreams of love are dead
She's beautiful but too strong willed
The days ahead have lost their thrill
Your goose is cooked; your nerves are whacked
Her Mother smiles, won't take her back.

Chris Embrick

Mother's Day

I read a poem that made me cry
about a poet's mother
And thinking of my own shed a tear
followed by another
A love so deeply woven
expressed within his sadness
How he longed to be loved again
rescued from days of melancholy madness
Afraid to live, afraid to die
I felt his heart bleeding
So great the grief and pain
I could not go on reading
And so I put his poem away
to take my thoughts elsewhere
My grief alone, enough to bear
on this Mother's Day.

Chris Embrick

Mum's Plum Pudding(A Rhupunt Poem)

A cook's delight
when plums are ripe
for sweets tonight
let slowly bake

Savor the smell
your tongue will tell
if plums cooked well
a portion take

Pour the dark rum
thank your dear Mum
don't use your thumb
use manners Jack.

Chris Embrick

Musings On A Cold, Rainy Day

A man with a mind of his own only borrows other's thoughts.

Hatred, anger, bitterness never lead to a peaceful life.

Some days ignoring your own advice is the best advice.

Wisdom is an eternal stream with many tributaries.

While all mankind is linked by his genetic past; it seems that most hatred and division today centers around our ideology of a spiritual future.

Judge not the guilty until you can look in the mirror without shame.

Nurture pride with humility and others will take notice.

Even with forgiveness, a wounded heart remembers the blow.

If your ears constantly tingle with gossip, stop sharing it.

We are born with a capacity and need for love; yet, on many a death bed, we witness the reality of someone who has kept it all to themselves.

One man's dreams lead to fortune; another's to verance
guided by wisdom often determines the outcome.

Knowledge without wisdom is like a woodpecker tapping on a tree, then leaving
the grub behind.

We seem to choose our own advice over that of others; then when things go
wrong it the others we blame.

Give ear to much advice, but only act on what's compatible with your hearts
desire.

A dream may guide you, but your eyes must be open along the way.

Chris Embrick

Must I Pray

Must I pray for Africa
Must I pray for India
Must I pray for a stranger
That I've never met
It seems that God
Asks for an intercessor
Someone to stand in the gap
If only to know
Someone, somewhere
Cares for his fellow man.

If no one can be found
If no one wants to pray
Then God knows
That his love is missing
His compassion is absent
Love and concern for a stranger
Shows that the one praying
Has touched the heart of God

Must I pray for America
Must I pray for China
Must I pray for a people
Who will never know
That someone far away
Is standing in the gap
Praying for a need
That only God can answer

God was about to punish Israel
He looked for a man
To stand in the gap
But could not find even one
When God looks on the world today
Will he find someone who prays
Will he find a man or woman
Someone willing to sacrifice
Time for a stranger
Time for Africa

Time for India
Time for America
Time for China
Time for a baby not yet born
Time for those who weep and mourn
May God again never say
I could not find someone to pray.

Chris Embrick

Must Pride Contend Against My Soul

Must pride contend against my soul
And keep hidden my confessions
Oh, wretched heart that I must scold
Must pride contend against my soul
Let lustful flesh have more control
Draw me into dark obsessions
Must pride contend against my soul
And keep hidden my confessions.

Chris Embrick

My Brother's Neighbor's Bull (A Lesson In Being Neighborly)

My brother's neighbor's bull got loose
And decided to go a courtin'
Although he looked but an adolescent
to be so bold out sportin'
And so Brother called some neighbors
to help round up the rogue
Although chasing bulls at sunset
May not be in vogue
Many times we meet people
We don't really like
But exchange a cordial greeting
Just to be polite
It's mutual sweating in labor
When there's a load to bear
A kind act of being neighborly
That shows who really cares
You know who your true friends are
If when their plates are full
They stop their busy schedules
To help you chase the bull.

Chris Embrick

My Favorite Tits

There is no solace like a tit
To fill me with delight
Sparrows are a messy lot
And crows a raucous sight
Robins leave us in winter's grip
And bluebirds go their way
But tits upon my window sill
Warm this winter day.

Chris Embrick

My Great Reward

Oh, magnify the Lord with me
The Lord is good, Oh, taste and see
At all times I will bless the Lord
His love has been my great reward
His tender mercies I behold
Forever bless the Lord my soul
From everlasting God will be
His loving-kindness follows me
Oh, praise his name with one accord
His love has been my great reward.

Chris Embrick

My Guiding Light

The sun is not my guiding light
My compass not the moon and stars
To find the light that guides my life
The source is really not that far
I need only look inside my soul
To find my life's directions
The light that flows from Wisdom's lamp
Leads my conscience to perfection
I need but let God take the helm
With faith in Him confide
Through this life and the hereafter
I need no other guide.

Chris Embrick

My Heart Died Twice

The hour glass holds my final breath
No pardon granted for her death
Untouched and cold still on the tray
They brought in my last meal today
Hit from behind, dragged near my wife
Placed in my hand the killer's knife
Lies told from the witness stand
The maid's script, the killer's plan
A twisted plot to steal for greed
Heirlooms to supply their addictive needs
The maids arrival and her scream
Life in prison a madman's dream
The nightmare real, relentless, slow
This heartache killed me long ago
Now from the window strangers watch
Just minutes left on the chamber clock
Across town, the guilty lay
Still drunken from their night of play
For priceless jewels their last cocaine
For me the end of heartache's pain
On her finger tight, the diamond ring
In my arm the prick, the needle's sting
The truth revealed but not in time
My heart died twice for another's crime
From the window strangers watch
With my last breath, they stop the clock.

Chris Embrick

My Heart Needs Rest (A Rodine Poem)

My heart must rest from love tonight
before I leave this feathered nest
I must delay what you request
for faithful love my heart invite
my heart must know the time is right
why hurry love as though time's pressed
My heart needs rest

More needs than love must be addressed
with life, not love, I am impressed
my heart and I will choose the best
before the vows and gown of white
My heart needs rest.

Chris Embrick

My Imaginary Life

While some ascribe to the poet intuitive insanity
and others reduce a work to artistic vanity

Personally, I reject both if either true then I have spent most of my life a
stranger to myself.

Oscillating between states of mind (whatever the number) , it is often with tasks
requiring deeper thought and imagination, that the unexpected streams through
the subconscious soul-window
, illuminating an ocean of uncharted possibilities.

Taken to new realms of reality and along the way exposing life's flotsam
memories either to be resolved or forgotten.

From the subconscious backyard, I live my imaginary life.

I draw from my own life's well as well as from the cisterns of others.

It is here in the birth place of ideas that the next poem emerges.

In writing, some poems may reflect as Freud surmises, some subliminal true on
occasions but often poems are a fabricated paralleling life's endeavors,
encounters, or observations of the natural world.

Often I place myself into situations I have never writing a poem of sadness, if
the words bring tears to my eyes, then I know it will strike a chord with ones are
much the same around the world. I imagine how I would react to situations of
love, friendship, betrayal, kindness, hatred, a heartache, the death of a child or
wife, or even the thoughts of a fetus being aborted.

In my imaginary life, I've been:

deranged, suicidal, an introvert, extrovert, attained saint-hood at least twice to
quickly lose it again. I've been the Lion King, Humpty dumpty, an overweight
Alice, in a Mongolian tent, in the King's times, a prodigal lover, a betrayer, the
Dragon slayer, a Wizard, a clown, a tiger, the drunk in town, a philosopher, a
scientist, a deep space explorer,
Superman, and the invisible man.

Although in reality I'm a bachelor, I've been married and divorced a dozen times,
been falsely accused of crimes, I've buried children and wives. I've lived both
lively and melancholy lives. A knight on a steed, a beggar in need, Scrooge on
steroids, a champion of morality, a writer of tragedy, a dreamer of reality, a
novelist, a poet, a farmer, a singer.

I've lived with high class, crawled in the gutter on my ass, drank the finest wine
and rum, and begged for crumbs. I've fought in history's wars, died with valor-

honored in a trench alone, my last thoughts of love and home.

In every poem twists and turns
I play the part that my heart yearns.
So who am I?
Each day more of the puzzle solved
My life through poetry not yet resolved
But in whatever state of mind, I live a life of multiplicity
the man inside still a mystery.

Someday, my imaginary life will expire, from dreams at last my thoughts
that day when sweet peace remains at last my life I'll
understand. See more clearly who I am.
Find beyond this life a welcome mat
Imagine that.

Chris Embrick

My Last Dream

My last dream was not of dying
Your tears my heart could not withstand
To want more time there's no denying
My last dream was not of dying
But to comfort your heart crying
'till death in parting, love's command
My last dream was not of dying
Your tears my heart could not withstand.

Chris Embrick

My Last Visit To The Lavender Rose(Rubiayat)

Now well past March's last powdery snow
In search of my childhood, lavender rose
Hoping this year I had not come too late
My Mother planted it; we watched it grow

Long ago I lived on this grand estate
The lawns manicured; beautiful, ornate
Now overgrown the path where mem'ries led
Beyond the high walls, through the garden gate

Through the meadow to the willows ahead
Beside the small rill to the pond it fed
The Spring air heavy with heavenly smell
In sight, the rarest rose, still in its bed

From deep within my heart the longing swelled
I could not leave before the last tear fell.

Chris Embrick

My Last, Last Poem

When I think I've written my last poem
and penned the thoughts I had in mind
I scarce can make it to the end
before I hear another rhyme

Each poet must find that sacred stream
dip pen into the waters flow
and in the rush the mind supplies
allow the thoughts you find to grow

From the mind's unconscious fountain
we leave the world we know behind
and often in our meditations
travel past and future times

And as each mystery comes unraveled
and heart and soul are both ablaze
soul light shows us the road to travel
until at the end we sit amazed

The words we've written may seem foreign
through memories storehouse, treasure gleaned
and knowing more we share the wisdom
then dive once more into the stream.

Chris Embrick

My Ransom Paid

My ransom paid upon the cross
Christ's blood redeemed my soul from sin
He sought me out among the lost
My ransom paid upon the cross
He gave his life to pay the cost
To bring my soul to life again
My ransom paid upon the cross
Christ's blood redeemed my soul from sin.

Chris Embrick

My Rare Flower (A Rhupunt Poem)

Between showers, she spends hours
planting flowers in the sunshine
When beauty shows, each English rose
delights her nose in the Springtime
For birds and bees, the flowers, trees
fill every breeze with smell sublime
Her beauty rare, none to compare
I linger there, near my flower.

Chris Embrick

My Soul Is Lifted By The Light

When twilight's glow breaks through the night
and from dreaming, my heart is withdrawn
My soul is lifted by the light
until it's brightness overtakes the dawn
And there alone, outside of time
worldly desires are left behind
There to my heart a still voice speaks
and in it's warmth, overwhelming peace
Of Heaven's presence, I'm aware
Alone with God, I offer prayer
until my words are not enough
and I can only speak through love.

Chris Embrick

My Soul Is Ready For The Night

Today's thoughts I gently guarded
At the gate controlled what entered
Supped on all nature's provided
Kept things of beauty at the center.

Out here nothing dark surrounds me
In morning light the world unfolds
The waterfall near spell bounds me
As life's fragrance fills my soul.

As the sun sets, twilight nearing
The forest settles peaceful, quiet
Now above the stars appearing
My soul is ready for the night.

Against dark dreams of gloom and fright
My soul is ready for the night.

Chris Embrick

My Soul Window

Once closed the window to my soul
Alas, the pity years in vain
The ghosts behind, my life I gained
Long years it took 'till love grew cold
Her love my heart sought to regain
Once closed the window to my soul
Alas, the pity years in vain
Over my heart no self-control
To the world outside, the window stained
The curtains drawn to hide the pain
Once closed the window to my soul
Alas, the pity years in vain
The ghosts behind, my life I gained.

Chris Embrick

My Soul, My Soul, This Day Rejoice

My soul, my soul, this day rejoice
To praise my God with greater voice
For mercy, grace, unfailing ways
To Heaven's chorus add my praise.

Highest Thou in Heaven above
My greatest gift this day my love
Joy overflowing here to sing
With adoration worship bring.

Beyond the stars your Glory shines
And fills my heart with love divine
Before your throne, now lift my voice
My soul, my soul, this day rejoice.

Chris Embrick

My Trial Motherhood

You were my sweet adopted child
mine for a while
placed in my care
my answered prayer

For several years you were mine
then it came time
to let you go
I loved you so

Your parents came to take you home
now, I'm alone
here's where I'll be
if you need me.

Chris Embrick

My Wife The Queen (A Roundabout Poem)

Her appetite caught me off guard
ruby studs caught her eye
a touch of class
she could not pass
ruby studs caught her eye

Her flair for glitter, a surprise
soon I was out of cash
with golden chain
she struck a vein
soon I was out of cash

More treasure lay behind the glass
for diamonds her eyes aimed
with credit card
she hit me hard
for diamonds her eyes aimed

I thought I married simple, plain
I need a bodyguard
the more she buys
I agonize
I need a bodyguard.

Chris Embrick

Name Changers

Two neighborhood gals, Naughty and Nice
Both wanted to be the Butcher sons wife
A fondness for sweets
He seldom ate meat
So the two changed their names to Sugar and Spice.

Chris Embrick

Nature's Calendar

Nature's calendar

The geese flying south early

Plentiful acorns

Gamblers read the Almanac

Wise men watch caterpillars.

Chris Embrick

Nature's Concerto

With morning light a solo heard
Soft melodies from the blue bird
Noisy chatter from the house wren
Join the sparrow's violin
The flute, the meadow lark's sound
Chirps from robins on the ground
Percussion from the chickadees
Woodpeckers drumming on the trees
Not Beethoven, Handel, Brahms
But nonetheless so peaceful, calm
My heart is lifted when they sing
Nature's concerto for the Spring.

Chris Embrick

Nature's Gift

Today Fall begins
and well past the time for roses
in my back yard
the yellow rose bush
has bloomed a second time
and so I celebrate it's beauty
long past the last Spring showers
smell the fragrance of it's flowers
memories to last me through the seasons
Nature's gift
to warm my heart
when Winter days are cold and stark
until once more it's leaves are green
I'll have this memory of Spring.

Chris Embrick

Nature's Mirror

A falling acorn
sent ripples through the cobalt sky
concentric waves
bobbed popcorn clouds
on the pond's mirror
Below dew-drop diamonds
laced the water's reeds
silver fry danced in a swirl
shimmering in shafts of sunlight
minutes passed, the surface calmed
and from the pool
the mesmerized frog
watching through the lily pads
tethered to his water world
looked across the floating sky
just like the one high above.

Chris Embrick

Nature's Rest

A Winter storm raged overnight
And left behind a cold, gray sky
Soon the snow will glisten white
When the morning sun is high
But bitter cold, the air now still
The snow's not melting on the hills
On the trees the last leaves cling
It's nature's rest until the Spring.

Chris Embrick

Nell

In youth my life was all my own
But I was never meant to live alone
I married rich, I married well
Lord Devon's daughter, fairest Nell
Though ill advised the union wrong
I thought her for a time headstrong
But in time we learned to get along
Temptations have I often quelled
Alas, my heart belongs to Nell
While other loves have come and gone
Her love has kept my heart at home
Now here content I long to dwell
Still captivated by her spell
Alas, my heart belongs to Nell.

Chris Embrick

Nervous Bugs: Haiku

Nervous dancing bugs
Scrambling over milkweed
Elated with love.

Chris Embrick

Never Out Of Reach

Some say much
expressing few words
Some write a book
just to be heard
Some like to teach
but never learn
Some like to learn
but never teach
To those who seek the truth
It's never out of reach
Words of wisdom, sound advice
must be nurtured, sought
The worth is in the wisdom
not in idle thoughts.

Chris Embrick

Nevermore (Reverse Golden Shovel Sonnet)

Once I played the harlot with my heart
Upon my bed I was not fair
A fantasy world, we lived apart
Midnight dreams weren't ours to share
Dreary now these days of life
While not the future that we planned
I longed for passion, lovers new
Pondered what must come to pass
Weak my courage to face the blame
And knowing well the end in sight
Weary, my heart from guilt and shame
The memories of a thousand nights
Raven knocking at my door, never this love, nevermore.

Credit given:Edgar Allen Poe

" Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered weak and weary"
"The Raven"

Chris Embrick

Night Hunter

Crisp and clear, dark December night
Orion's form, iconic stars
High overhead, he hunts afar
Among the constellations bright

For Merope's love wild beasts did fight
But Chios' King his heart did mar
One lowly sting, the fatal scar
To take life from the man of might

Forever in the sky, Zeus placed
Orion with his dogs to stay
Revered among the stars of space
He hunts now from the Milky Way

Through time and space light years hurled
Orion hunts now distant worlds.

Chris Embrick

No Comfort But My Own

I had no comfort but my own
No peaceful valley near for rest
The burden mine to bear alone
Strangers showing little interest
No smiles from neighbors passing by
A dozen roses on the chest
Through the fog, glimpses of blue sky
Up ahead, the journey's end
Around the grave the dirt piled high
The eulogy soon to begin
A simple cross her gray tombstone
Behind me lay, my wife dear Gwen
Her years of life too quickly gone
I had no comfort but my own.

Chris Embrick

No Heart Trust

Did ever true love start with lust
when for pleasure love's denied
when a heart's broken who's to blame
when only one leaves satisfied

When one heart has the advantage
passion's enough to drive the heart
can love endure the heartache's pain
when lives entwine, yet live apart

With fickle hearts for love we rush
not knowing how the game will end
for hope of love, we play life games
expecting the other's heart to win

I ask, Which came first lust or love
If not love, then no heart trust.

Chris Embrick

No Longer Mine

No longer mine, no longer mine
This broken heart I could not keep
The heart I had I left behind
No tears for love now when I sleep
With happiness I'll share my time
Beside my dove, the dreams are sweet

Eyes heaven blue, lips soft and sweet
No more a dream, her love is mine
No heartache now to hinder sleep
For tender love, she's worth the time
She had no promises to keep
No one like me to leave behind.

No empty nest the past behind
No thoughts to sting, love bittersweet
Now there's no need to hurry time
Our vows of love, we swore to keep
So beautiful, this love of mine
Beside her, I can hardly sleep

She breathes softly when she sleeps
We leave life's worries all behind
She's got a busy schedule to keep
Her work day's as long as mine
When she calls her voice is sweet
Each day we always share some time

For our life's dream, there's still time
We plan ahead before we sleep
She always shares her dreams with mine
Love's easy when the fruit is sweet
We left all the baggage behind
All for love, our hearts to keep

She's the treasure that I keep
In her arms I forget time
I've never smelled a rose so sweet
None of the buds I left behind

Dreams of love, now peaceful sleep
Safe to know her love is mine

Forever mine, her love to keep
Behind us lonely nights of sleep
Love took time, to find the honey sweet.

Chris Embrick

No Tears My Heart

This thankful day, no tears my heart
No solemn sobs, no anxious fears
Fair days of bliss have filled my sails
But soon from life this ship must part
My last farewell encroaches near
When breath and heart are sure to fail
For true love's sake my life was meant
Long gone my love so once endeared
Beyond death's door new life prevails
When death arrives, I'll not lament
My race is run, I've finished well.

Chris Embrick

No Tolerance For Tolerance

They had no tolerance for tolerance
they never admitted they were wrong
They had only disgust for God's guidance
they all sang the same old song:

Why can't we all just get along?
Why can't we all just get along?

They drank Big Brother's propaganda
until they had no minds of their own
When confronted with resistance
they kept the truth at a distance
singing:

Why can't we all just get along?
Why can't we all just get along?

They signed peace treaties
with the world's tyrants
they paid for peace with their alms
They settled in their nests contented
until they looked up and saw the bombs

The conflagration turned
a billion screams to silence
No prayers were heard from the frenzied throngs
As their captors rounded up the survivors
I heard them taunting:

Why can't we all just get along?
Why can't we all just get along?

Epilogue:

As long as evil exists in the world,
and man rejects the counsel of God,
there is little chance for lasting peace.

Not The Fragrance Of A Rose (Limerick)

I was afraid to date for fear of passing gas
Until I met a girl producing methane just as fast
Her knight arrived most debonair
The wedding held in open air
We're both breathing easier now that the anxiety has passed.

Chris Embrick

Not Tonight (Southern Colloquialism With Translation)

She said not tonight, that dog won't hunt
Some other time, I have a headache
My only answer was a frustrated grunt
To say any more would be a mistake.

Her hissy fit was a sho nuff sight to see
Her temper tantrum was a fearful sight
Her hot flashes were not meant for me
Sometimes love can start a good fight.

She said get outta here, go sleep on the setee
I slept curled on the sofa all night long
She said if you want luv, find it on the TV
I woke up next morning with the TV on.

If looks could kill, she had a loaded gun
She said with a look all she needed to say
She slammed my heart like a hit and run
She hurt me bad and just walked away.

If looks could kill, she had a loaded gun
My only answer was a frustrated grunt
She slammed my heart like a hit and run
She said not tonight, that dog won't hunt.

Chris Embrick

Obsession

The weathered map, a missing piece
did not deter the miner's quest
the nugget he found long ago
would give his mind no peace or rest
with chiseled face and leather hands
each day he searched the barren lands
endured the hardships, cold and pain
until half-starved he found the vein
the lure of wealth controlled his life
his mind, his strength he sacrificed
a King's ransom his alone
disoriented far from home
the desert claimed his scattered bones.

Chris Embrick

Obstructing Love

Life's bruises, bumps, most hearts forget
Move swiftly on, leave small regrets
But deeper wounds leave greater debts
Indelible
Against the heart, unending threats
That obstruct love.

End note

The more a heart is broken, the harder
it becomes to trust and love again.

Chris Embrick

Ode To Bess

No stronger bond with my sweet Bess
to love her more, I'd love no less
Now these many seasons yoked
Poor we live but never broke
Together still with her I'm blessed

Though many's asked, she's not for hire
brown eyes of love, in them no ire
As strange as life sometimes seems
two ladies share my fondest dreams
Both freely give what life requires.

My wife the dearest, I must confess
in second place, there's always Bess
No kinder words can a man utter
over one cow's milk and butter.

Chris Embrick

Ode To The Silent Bells

Never once have I heard you ring
Though ringing was once your duty
You called others here to sing
Filled the church with sounds of beauty
At weddings rang for life joyous
At funerals bid the soul farewell
On holidays echoed the cheers
Now, you hang rusting before us
Oh, if I could but ring the bells
Your sound would change the atmosphere.

Once your ringing held great power
Causing men to pause and linger
The memory stayed there for hours
Caused strangers to point their finger
Announced in war victory sweet
In times of peace filled the air
Let others know that all goes well
Your tones and cadence rich and deep
What sound on earth can one compare
Oh, how I love and miss the bells.

Chris Embrick

Oh, Night When Heaven Breached The Dark

Oh, night when Heaven breached the dark
it's beauty I could not contain
Forever it has changed my heart
the wonder of it still remains

It's beauty I could not contain
such splendor granted to behold
The wonder of it still remains
it's light now shines within my soul

Such splendor granted to behold
in silence I could only yield
It's light now shines within my soul
now greater love my heart reveals

In silence I could only yield
no dream I had, no earthly sight
Now greater love my heart reveals
to wisdom guided by the light

No dream I had, no earthly sight
forever it has changed my heart
To wisdom guided by the light
Oh, night when Heaven breached the dark!

Chris Embrick

Oh, Wake My Love

Shall greater love my heart confess
To love you more, I'd love no less
Beyond what words were meant to say
My love, all yours, I'll share today

Through my eyes you'll see no other
Through tender lips, my thoughts I'll share
Through my heart, you'll find the answer
When with my heart, your heart's compared

My love, your love.....who can deny
That our love never fades, grows old
All through this life together strolled
In death all but our love must die

Oh, wake my love; the morning's bright
We've love enough to share tonight.

Chris Embrick

Old Bess

We had a jersey cow named Bess
When full, she had a gallon udder
Her milk was rich and creamy
And always made delicious butter
But one day the bull got out
And old Bess, she up and left us
Our stomachs growled all morning
She ran away with half our breakfast.

Chris Embrick

Old Jack

The farmer's wife told her husband
He was as stubborn as a mule
So when the farmer went to plow old Jack
Old Jack just stood and drooled
Not being known for horse sense
Or how to live his life
Old Jack didn't know who to believe
The farmer or his wife.

Chris Embrick

Old Tom

Old Tom was a bob tailed cat
Who filled the barn with kittens
We tried to have him neutered twice
Only to be severely bitten
Right on time, old Tom shows up
Each year to court the ladies
Lord help us, if he has nine lives
He'll live into his eighties.

Chris Embrick

On Aging Gracefully

I'm still adjusting to growing old
My hot flashes have been getting cold
Not the golden years I expected
My private parts oft go neglected
With every day the truth is clearer
That there's a stranger in the mirror
Choice years I filled with wishful bragging
Now tethered hope of youth is sagging
My bowels forget who's in control
I wake up with me arse a dragging
Me pee's but a trickle in the bowl
Excitement now's grocery bagging
Aging gracefully, I'm not consoled
I'm still adjusting to growing old.

Chris Embrick

On Death And Love

What man now in his prime
Shall live on and not see death
Has anyone ever cheated time
And never taken his last breath
There's a pale horse we all must ride
When added days have been denied
Though love be as strong as death
At last all lovers must be left.

What man can look and see the wind
And just by thinking not grow old
Can life turn over, start again
Can man pay ransom for his soul
There is no cure for age in nature
Compared to time life's but a vapor
When memories are all we have to keep
Love lives on for those who sleep.

Chris Embrick

On The Cliff's Edge

I stand at the cliff's edge looking out over the grey Atlantic.

Squall clouds blanket the horizon; the wind unleashing unspent power. The unsettled, restless sea swirling foam and sending waves crashing on the rocky shore.

Moving out to sea, the passing tempest has left behind a tranquil beauty, but the storm in my heart is not so forgiving.

Here I stand in silence, contemplating ending my heart's pain, the wind stinging, spreading salty tears of unfaithful love against my fragile heart.

The heartache fresh from love, I could end it all this day.

Oh, vain thoughts, these predators of love, now like hungry gulls feed upon my melancholy heart.

Like Prometheus bound helpless but by love's despair, I'm defenseless against these marauders descending to give my heart no rest.

The storm inside my heart more dangerous than the one passing.

Behind me, the emerald meadows of Spring drink the last of the storm's tears, the blue skies, the flowers beauty remind me that life goes on.

Like a self-pitying coward, do I follow the raging storm over the high cliff and let this heartache wash out to sea.

Against such thoughts I have little defense, and yet no coward, I must let time decide the outcome of my soul.

None so dangerous as the days ahead to sail.

As the sun breaks through the clouds behind me and I feel it's warmth, I take one last look at the rocks below.

I'll linger on the path home, take in the Spring's beauty until I've had my fill.

Walking away from the cliff's edge, I'll leave stronger than when I came.

For love, I will not give my soul to death this day.

Chris Embrick

On The Farm (A Roundabout Poem)

The farmer's waiting on the bread
outside the rooster crows
the chickens cluck
wake up the ducks
outside the rooster crows

The Summer's long, the morning's slow
so far we've had good luck
with help from friends
the crops are in
so far we've had good luck

The cow's sweet feed is in the truck
the pigs are in the pen
the forecast said
fair days ahead
the pigs are in the pen

The price of corn is up again
there's little now to dread
there's weeds to hoe
new wheat to sow
there's little now to dread.

Chris Embrick

On The River Of Life

When a babe I only needed
A cradle to float down the stream
At twenty a canoe
Was better suited to follow my dreams
At forty I needed full sails
To get ahead of others
At fifty I slowed down a bit
And gave my wife the rudder
At sixty these aching bones
Have slowed me to a totter
All I need now is a life jacket
To keep my head above the water
I've never let this river of life
Slow my future plans
But if I live to be eighty
I think I'll keep my feet on dry land.

Chris Embrick

Once The Queen Of Hearts

You invite wolves to share your cozy den
You surround your heart with temporary friends
Most days you live between a smile, a frown
Your mind's as changeable as the wind
By Wednesday you're always on the rebound
Thursday, cooing, you'll become a dove
Your heart seldom reveals what's beautiful
Once the Queen of Hearts you deal life's spades
Your reality's become a masquerade
Tell me, what made you so afraid of love.

Chris Embrick

One Foolish Thought

One foolish thought can lead astray
Good intentions come unraveled
Take man down a longer highway
One foolish thought can lead astray
Into the desert, heat of day
Where no soul was meant to travel
One foolish thought can lead astray
Good intentions come unraveled.

Chris Embrick

One Guilty Heart Breaking Two

One guilty heart breaking two
Withdrawn into remorse
Had my words been more restrained
Love could have stayed the course
Jealously unfounded
Imagination without merit
Wounds too deeply cut
For a heart to bear it
No twisted plot untangled
No safety net to catch the wounded's fall
Only memories to remind me
How much it hurts to lose it all.

Chris Embrick

Only I Can

Life may keep love from my heart

Life may take love from my heart

Life may give love to my heart

Only I can keep it there

Chris Embrick

Open Eyes

Open eyes yet prone to blindness
Fail to see how your heart's breaking
While your hurting shows no kindness
Open eyes yet prone to blindness
Assume you only need a kiss
For other love, yours forsaking
Open eyes yet prone to blindness
Fail to see how your heart's breaking.

Chris Embrick

Ouch!

In the kitchen's a disaster
the pots and pans a barricade
On the table dirty dishes
and stacks of last months bills unpaid
Beneath my cup among the clutter
My wife's note stained with butter
It read: "Honey, I'm taking a vacation
best of wishes, do the dishes
signing off, your Maid.

Chris Embrick

Our Last Good Night

I wrote these words thinking of you
My love poem, the last I'll write
They say my heart won't last the night
There's nothing more the doctors can do.
My time is ending, life is through
I'm too weak to keep up the fight
I wrote these words, thinking of you
My love poem, the last I'll write.
I guess deep down inside we knew
The way we'd spend our last good night
Holding each other, peaceful, quiet
With one last kiss, bid love adieu
I wrote these words, thinking of you.

Chris Embrick

Our Last Goodbye

Hold me until my final breath
Just one more touch to touch my soul
When there's no more of this life left
Hold me until my final breath
Let no sorrow follow death
Nor memory of our love grow cold
Hold me until my final breath
Just one more touch to touch my soul.

Chris Embrick

Our Parrot Was A Poet

We learned our parrot was a poet
When to her prose she added rhyme
Her favorites were Keats and Spenser
She liked Shelley for a time
But when she heard Poe, was frightened
To our imploring closed the door
Not one sonnet, not one Rondeau
All she said was nevermore
Even reading Frost and Teasdale
Rehearsed before her, favorite lore
We thought our breakthrough surely Chaucer
But her reply was nevermore.
Oh, how she loved Wordsworth, Milton
Parker, Browning days before
Now she sits high on the mantle
Watches close our chamber door
We found her body, feathers ruffled
Cold and silent on the floor
Our pretty Polly once enlightened
Her recitations so adored
In honor of Poe and the Raven
We changed her name to Lenore.

Chris Embrick

Out Of Harmony

Thoughts can be so temperamental
Refuse to go where you command
You start the day, sentimental
Not at all what you had planned
Memories can be overwhelming
Leave you lonely, feeling sorrow
When mind and heart are contrary
Save good intentions for tomorrow.

Chris Embrick

Out Of The Darkness(A Poem Of Love's Rescue)

He never knew the mother who abandoned him at birth
And not the father who wanted love without commitment
Jon was raised by a stranger who had a loving heart
His life was filled with memories of her kindness and teaching
She did her best to explain the beauty he could only imagine
She never once heard Jon complain about being born sightless.

Through his senses he explored the world around him, sightless
He clung to the stranger who rescued him at birth
She described all the sound-makers he could only imagine
To her adopted son, Mary gave a life time of commitment
He hardly remembers a time when she wasn't singing or teaching
She taught him to use his mind and love with his heart

Mary grew up no stranger to her own broken heart
To many of her needs her parents were sightless
She learned from hardship much of her teaching
She lost her only child through a difficult birth
Mary too had a lover who wanted no commitment
She believed she could achieve what she could imagine

In his world of darkness, abstract things were hard to imagine
The time would come when Jon would struggle with his heart
Mary's dreams were put on hold because of her commitment
There were days when her own desires for life seemed sightless
No one could foresee what her devotion to Jon would birth
She was learning the meaning of life from her own teaching

Jon learned more from Mary's heart than from her text book teaching
He began to believe he could do whatever he could imagine
His extraordinary talent for music would soon give birth
He sat for hours at the piano playing with all his heart
When he first auditioned, few knew that he was sightless
His music instructor, Rose was taken by his unfailing commitment

Mary knew Jon's future depended on his commitment
She smiled watching Rose now doing the formal teaching
To their affection, she pretended to be sightless
Even a handsome blind man has love to imagine

His love was the first to steal Rose's heart
A beautiful love over time was destined to birth

Close friends celebrated their commitment-a wedding few could imagine
Mary saw the fruit of her teaching-a strong and giving heart
At her grand-daughter's birth, Jon began to understand life's beauty, sightless.

Chris Embrick

Outside My Heart

The door was closed when death arrived
The smiles all gone, no time to borrow
Better had the end come quickly
Than fill the home with days of sorrow
In contrast to the parlor's gloom
Outside the morning, sunny bright
The yard filled with Summer blossoms
And on the petals tears of night
As I looked outside my heart
Felt on my cheek the last tear fall
Peace filled my soul with Nature's beauty
Knowing that life goes on beyond these walls.

Chris Embrick

Outta The Blues

Hey Mr. Lonely
I'm calling up a dream
I need someone to talk to
If it's only make believe
I need someone who understands
What I'm going through
You could be the one
Who makes this dream come true.

Outta the blues, outta the blues
Can you help me Mr. Lonely
Get over the blues.

Tell me Mr. Lonely
Why you're still alone
Are you looking for the answers
In a dream of your own
Did you leave room for someone else
When the heartache ends
Are you picking up the pieces
To fall in love again.

Outta the blues, outta the blues
Can you help me Mr. Lonely
Get over the blues.

Tell me Mr. Lonely
What's a heart to do
Hearts like ours shatter
When they break into
Would you like to come over
And share some time
Maybe we can help each other
Leave the hurt behind.

Outta the blues, outta the blues
Can you help me Mr. Lonely
Get over the blues.

Owl

Midnight phantom choosing who lives and dies

Ghostly hunter

Midnight lord

Watchman

Owl

Eyes

Glowing

Orange and bright

Molten lava

Through fiery windows you peruse the night.

Chris Embrick

Painting My Dream

From the ocean of experience
In life's subconscious stream
In the stillness of the silence
Drifting deeper in the dream
Perused the banks, drifting slowly
Let no detail miss the eye
Just ahead the forest opened
Spread before me mornings sky
Subtle violets, greens, and yellows
Fair weather clouds to catch the light
Along the shore the tree tops glisten
Dripping from the fog of night
Soon a sky of rainbow colors
Reflected in the sapphire lake
Nature's beauty touched the canvas
Long before my time to wake
From the hues of my subconscious
Found the colors for the scheme
The landscape bathed, soft and glowing
My soul began to paint the dream
Hours later at my easel
Colors blended, harmonized
At days end, I signed the painting
My canvas filled with the sunrise
No place near that I imagined
The lake, the sky, trees and stream
I placed it on my wall of memories
Hanging with my other dreams.

Chris Embrick

Panther

Nights darkest shadow
moves among the forest trees
moonlight reflecting
hunger from emerald eyes
the jungle shadow that kills.

Chris Embrick

Patience With Love

Patience with love, a timeless guide
Before the fire, seek first the spark
The key to love's been proven, tried
Patience with love, a timeless guide
Honest hearts have nothing to hide
Hot passion's quick to break a heart
Patience with love, a timeless guide
Before the fire, seek first the spark.

Chris Embrick

Perspective On A Carefree Life

If your life is without turmoil
and offensive words are never said
You're either from another world
or you don't know you're dead.

Chris Embrick

Phases Of Confusion

The teacher said last night was a new moon
But I didn't see any light
Just a few days later
It was a crescent on the right
And each night got bigger, brighter
Until one night was full
Then the man in the moon
Once more started to look dull
And the face so familiar
Soon began to wane
Until the crescent was on the left
Only to confuse my brain
Then our teacher said
Much to my brain's objections
The moon never changes
It's all a matter of perception
So now even more confused
I thought before the lesson over
My brain would blow a fuse
But not to be outdone
I took great pride in showing
What I learned about the sun
It rises in the east
It sets in the west
I got both answers correct
On my last science test
And when it's time for lunch
It's overhead in the sky
Just take me at my word
But please don't ask me why.

Chris Embrick

Pills

Take

the red before breakfast
with plenty of water
the white for the headache
chew first, then swallow
the blue after dinner
the pink for the runs
the purple for reflux
the yellow for gums
the green's to remember
why you feel lousy
take one grey capsule at bedtime
to make you feel drowsy
be sure to keep hydrated
and get plenty of rest
If you're no better next week
we'll run some more tests.

Chris Embrick

Playing Possum

The town folk had a problem
When the groundhog played possum
When they pulled him from the sack
Much to everyone's surprise
He never opened his eyes
They said, ' Well he didn't see his shadow'
But to settle the matter
This year we'll just use the almanac.

Chris Embrick

Plow Deep My Heart

Plow deep my heart
This fallow ground
Three seasons now
With sorrow bound
Her dying left
These drought filled years
No memory
Escaped the tears
The first year hardest
On the soil
To end the hurt
Took daily toil
Plow deep my heart
This fallow ground
There's more love
Yet to be found
Some years ago
You lost your love
Kept yourself
Most sorrowful
Your heart broken
Just like mine
Now time has left
The hurt behind
Who knew one day
Our paths would cross
And gain far more
Than what we lost
Well seasoned pain
Needs but a shower
For love to grow
Indeed to flower
Though Winter still
It's time to sow
Plow deep my heart
The love will grow.

Chris Embrick

Press On

When life's filled with pain
And your out of pills
When you're tired of being tired
Jumping through hoops and drills
Press on
My brother
Press on
My sister
Press on

If you're going in circles
With a full tank of angst
Just slow down
and look around
You'll find reason for thanks
Many have walked in your shoes
Needing more, having less
Keeping your heart on what matters
is part of the test
Press on
My brother
Press on
My sister
Press on

Most people work hard
Some with holes in their socks
But if your dream is stilled packaged
Then look outside the box
There are no easy answers
For all that life demands
Put hard work and courage
Behind all your plans
Press on
My brother
Press on
My sister
Press on

Use common sense
Give every day your best
When you've done all you can do
Give God the rest
Press on
My brother
Press on
My sister
Press on.

Chris Embrick

Prometheus

I'm chained to this rock
My chest laid bare, heart exposed
Each day talons rip my soul
Opening old scars
Punishment for thievery
How costly this fire I stole.

Chris Embrick

Prophecy Fulfilled: Psalm 22

I am despised and laughed to scorn
Evil men have beset me
To give my life, I have been born
I am despised and laughed to scorn
My mother here beside me mourns
They nailed my body to the tree
I am despised and laughed to scorn
Evil men have beset me.

Chris Embrick

Proverbs Four

Ask for wisdom, understanding
Search for her as hidden treasure
The wise seek out God's commanding
Ask for wisdom, understanding
She provides in times demanding
God gives freely with good measure
Ask for wisdom, understanding
Search for her as hidden treasure.

Chris Embrick

Psalm 107

Oh, daily praise the Lord above
His goodness, mercy not forsake
Give thanks, he loves with boundless love
Oh, daily praise the Lord above
Where sadness dwells, he comforts us
With loving-kindness over takes
Oh, daily praise the Lord above
His goodness, mercy not forsake.

Chris Embrick

Psalm 118

I will not fear what man can do
The Lord has compassed me about
No matter what I'm going through
I will not fear what man can do
Though death follow close and pursue
In God there is no room for doubt
I will not fear what man can do
The Lord has compassed me about.

Chris Embrick

Psalm 126

With tears your fallow ground now sow
Rejoice with joy the harvest sweet
Watch how the fruits of labor grow
With tears your fallow ground now sow
Weeping supplies love to each row
Allows the roots to grow down deep
With tears your fallow ground now sow
Rejoice with joy the harvest sweet.

Chris Embrick

Psalm 42

As the deer pants for waters deep
So longs my soul for more of Thee
I search the night, forgoing sleep
As the deer pants for waters deep
In my longing, tears I weep
My soul it thirsts inside of me
As the deer thirsts for waters deep
So longs my soul for more of Thee.

Chris Embrick

Psalm One

Blessed is the man who trusts in God
Who guards his heart against all sin
Though others think his journey odd
Blessed is the man who trusts in God
His soul shall rest on peaceful sod
And live immortal beyond life's end
Blessed is the man who trusts in God
Who guards his heart against all sin.

Chris Embrick

Psalm Two

Though heathen rage against the Lord
Hot wrath shall vex, destroy their way
No hiding place to shun the sword
Though heathen rage against the Lord
And cry out loud against God's word
His truth at last the godless slay
Though heathen rage against the Lord
Hot wraith shall vex, destroy their way.

Chris Embrick

Python

Arboreal prince
arched over the deep water
drab scales discarded
prismatic splendor unveiled
beauty outside, death within.

Chris Embrick

Rainbows Bring Delight

Every rainbow brings delight
We stop and linger at the sight
Prismatic colors for the eye
Nature's spectrum in the sky

In the storms wake peace and quiet
Overhead its beauty bright
Until the falling rain subsides
Rainbows bring delight

From miles away we see its height
Shimmering in the storms twilight
Whenever a storm passes by
And a bow appears in the sky
Rainbows bring delight.

Chris Embrick

Rainy Day Doldrums

Rain, rain, rainy days
No relief from this malaise
Not one rainbow in the gloom
Not one comfort in the room
No breaks in the time passing
My despair is everlasting
Rain, rain, unrelenting
Adds to my heart's lamenting
Constant dripping adds to sorrow
Will there be no sun tomorrow
On my soul, it heavy weighs
Rain, rain, rainy days.

Chris Embrick

Raj Gokha

Among the reeds the hunt begins
Raj gokha moves through the grass
Blood droplets on the trail soon end
The death strike swift, the venom fast
The bandicoot one final breath
While men work near in Bangladesh
Just yards away in the rice fields
The cobra takes its morning meal.

Chris Embrick

Ravens Watch

Ravens portend days dark and cold
From lofty perch hold firm their grip
While bitter winds sting like a whip
Those ready to release their souls.

Watch patiently the feeble, old
Those who sojourn, come ill-equipped
Ravens portend days dark and cold
From lofty perch hold firm their grip.

With labored breath the dying scold
No warmth at noon, no water drips
No words escape half frozen lips
How stark the beauty once extolled
Ravens portend days dark and cold.

Chris Embrick

Rear View Of Life

Never looking back
may keep one's focus on life
but may not prevent
being rear-ended if the
heartache's following too close.

Chris Embrick

Recognizing Humble

Ask a humble person
to wish for
what they need most
They'll go out and
wish upon a star
Ask an audacious person
to wish for
what they need most
They'll check the Almanac
to see when
the next meteor shower
will occur.

Chris Embrick

Reconsidering First Love

What dream is this in quiet sleeping
detained my heart until the dawn
Nectar from the past is seeping
into memories since withdrawn

Long the ache, my heart's first breaking
returning soon the heartache's pain
Love's remembrance, not forsaking
the love I sought but never gained

Maybe tonight my heart is wresting
how to surrender, reclaim time
thoughts of love, this dream suggesting
that my true love, I left behind

What dream is this in quiet sleeping
That brings back love, ripe for the reaping.

Chris Embrick

Recycling Nature

Opportunity

Shadow kites in a whirlwind

Sail, gliding downward

Following the scent of death

Leaving nothing for the worms.

Chris Embrick

Reflections

In the shaded window
I look distorted
In the polished mirror
I see my twin
Beside the lake
my image ripples
but in my soul
there's another reflection
not distorted
not my twin
not fragmented
in this mirror
my soul shows me
the real beauty of a person
loves me as I am
shows me how to smile
how to love others
who never take time
to find out who I am
I'm one of many
who hide their reflections
from a judgmental world
even with no mirrors
in a world with no reflections
it would still be the same
With their eyes
they stare and hurry past
and never take time
to see the heart that's beaking
never take time
to look behind the scars.

Chris Embrick

Rejection

Rejection leaves long lasting scars
It hurts to see you hurt like this
He can't relate to who you are
Rejection leaves long lasting scars
I've been behind your prison bars
A prisoner of loneliness
Rejection leaves long lasting scars
It hurts to see you hurt like this.

Chris Embrick

Releasing Love

Her love my heart would not release
so deep the hurt, my devotion
So many tears no lasting peace
Her love my heart would not release
to find new love, this heartache cease
I've held too long these emotions
Her love my heart would not release
so deep the hurt, my devotion.

Chris Embrick

Renewing Life

Renewing life, it's Nature's way
Life cycles through each season's days
Each gentle breeze is Nature's breath
Death follows life; life follows death.

The dance of love, the song replays
The seeds of Autumn, Spring's bouquet
A time of birth, a time to age
The hand of time, it turns life's page

For some to love, others must die
There's only so much earth and sky
In life's balance there's no theft
Death follows life, life follows death.

Chris Embrick

Repeating History's Mistakes

Why do men repeat history's mistakes
Because evil men love prestige, power, might
Twisted minds leave their souls to spread the blight
In every age cruel despots, they wake
Reprobate minds always suppress the light
Why do men repeat history's mistakes
Because evil men love prestige, power, might
Silence the weak, kill those they cannot break
Millennia of war and still the plight
Another Mao, Pol Pot, Amin to fight
Why do men repeat history's mistakes
Because evil men love prestige, power, might
Twisted minds leave their souls to spread the blight.

Epilogue:

The world will never know peace as long as
evil men exist. Only a spiritual solution will
bring true peace. Politics is merely a platform
on which the battle between good and evil is played out.

Chris Embrick

Rescued

You
rescued
a stranger
you nurtured me
out of despair and loneliness with love.

Chris Embrick

Rescued From Myself

I googled kissing tips
Puckered, practiced with my lips
Rehearsed phrases sounding sweet

The lessons didn't compensate
All my thoughts came five words late
'I love you' came out a squeak

I stood at her door looking shy
Took a deep breath, closed my eyes
She sighed and kissed me on the cheek.

Chris Embrick

Rest Now My Heart

Rest now my heart, the journey's long
who knows what course this love will take
for days ahead you must be strong
Rest now my heart, the journey's long
should you awake and find love gone
you'll have reserves to quench the ache
Rest now my heart, the journey's long
who knows what course this love will take.

End note:

In life heartaches are a reality.
Enduring love takes a strong heart.
When the past fails you, find success in the future.

Chris Embrick

Reunion

Tonight you returned
Memories pregnant with tears
Behind me, your voice
Intoxicating perfume
You kiss me on the shoulder
Souls connect again
My heart pulses with your breath
I turn to kiss you
But your aura has vanished
Now, the memories give birth.

Chris Embrick

Riddle

I was a Prince but had no kingdom
My father was the sun, my mother the moon
I took my mother's brother's daughters for wives
My brother was my rival
My two names are in the Bible.
Who am I?

Chris Embrick

Ring The Bells

When I lay dying, ring the bells
Ring them loud and ring them long
Let everyone know all is well
When I lay dying, ring the bells
The man you see is but a shell
My body cold, the spirit gone
When I lay dying, ring the bells
Ring them loud and ring them long.

Chris Embrick

Rite Of Passage

Dance ye maidens by mountain rill
Sing of love among the flowers
Garlands for the wedding bower
Dance ye maidens by mountain rill

Sing of love among the flowers
You've come this far with only dreams
From older women wisdom gleaned
Sing of love among the flowers

You've come this far with only dreams
Among young men find your Apollo
The heart you seek is sure to follow
You've come this far with only dreams

With other virgins join the circle
Dance ye maidens by mountain rill
With love your bed will soon be filled
With other virgins join the circle

Dance ye maidens by mountain rill
Sing of love among the flowers
Garlands for the wedding bower
Dance ye maidens by mountain rill.

Chris Embrick

Romancing The Cucumbers

She loved Summer cucumbers
they were her hearts delight
So I planted double the vines
but they withered with the blight
She knew peaches were my weakness
juicy, sweet with blush
But with such a rainy season
their beauty turned to mush
So both our hearts were saddened
seeking love's common ground
Until with serendipity
the answer to romance was found.

By chance at the grocery market
she noticed my shopping cart
And in her's too the crisp celery
good for the brain and heart
And so our conversation turned
our hope renewed for a quiet dinner
In this season of disappointment
hopes for romance all the thinner.

I tried romancing her with cucumbers
her peach cobbler won my heart
They're still on our grocery list
but now cool celery fills our cart
Happily, our romance has blossomed
despite a shortage of long cukes
Once the mere thought of eating veggies
was enough to make me puke
Oh, but how love changes one's appetite
Now, we keep the fridge well stacked
Who could have known celery to be
Nature's aphrodisiac.

Chris Embrick

Rufus The Ruling Cock (A Fable)

The barnyard had been scarcely scratched
When anarchy led the hens afoul
The rogue hen left the eggs unhatched
When she heard the hooting of the owl
Now with his honor to defend
With much bravado spared the flock
His feathers ruffled by one psychotic hen
Once more with victory crowed the cock
Rufus saved all but the rogue bad luck
With prowess, quickness to react
Rosie's feathers were soon plucked
When the farmer found the eggs all cracked
There's something said to be thinner
With regal comb he guards the flock
He'll not end up a Sunday dinner
As long as the farmer needs a clock.

Epilogue:

The rooster's spared the chopping block
When the farmer has no breakfast eggs
He'd rather stew the hen's fat legs
Than try and chew a tough old cock.

Chris Embrick

Runaway Train (A Monotetra Poem)

How soon to come the end of time
The world is full of hate and crime
Have we not seen and heard the signs
the final chimes, the final chimes

Diplomacy depends on luck
We're on a path to self-destruct
Evil anarchists drive the truck
leave sitting ducks, leave sitting ducks

The world was made for paradise
But in man's heart lives lust and vice
Who lives and dies, just roll the dice
we're on thin ice, we're on thin ice

On life and Earth too great a strain
There's no conductor on the train
Forgetting God, no time to gain
man's thoughts are vain, man's thoughts are vain.

Chris Embrick

Sacrifice

Sacrifice lays on the altar
The things in life you need the most
Unselfish acts seldom falter
Sacrifice lays on the altar
What willing hearts have to offer
Gives love away without the boast
Sacrifice lays on the altar
the things in life you need the most.

Chris Embrick

Sacrificing The Poor

World peace was offered at the table
Concessions made to share the meal
But with greed no one was able
With the poor to cut a deal
So to those in power, pocket's full
To the working masses none
Just politics as usual
To those beneath the table crumbs.

Chris Embrick

Saved By Love's Amazing Grace

Saved by love's amazing grace
Redemption sealed upon the cross
No greater love can one embrace
Saved by love's amazing grace
No other soul could take his place
To pardon sinners who were lost
Saved by love's amazing grace
Redemption sealed upon the cross.

Chris Embrick

Scars

These scars are outside
The ones you can't see hurt more
You look in disgust
Don't you know your expression
Increases the pain inside.

Chris Embrick

Searching For Laura

He sails the night wind's darkest hours
Sweet dreams of love on seas of sorrow
From life he has no time to borrow
He sails the night wind's darkest hours

Sweet dreams of love on seas of sorrow
Death left a lonely heart to follow
His life once full, now empty, hollow
Sweet dreams of love on seas of sorrow

Death left a lonely heart to follow
When dreams are done, his soul will cry
He'll sing once more her lullaby
Death left a lonely heart to follow

On Heaven's shore sweet Laura waits
He sails the night wind's darkest hours
Inside the dreams and heartache's power
On Heaven's shore sweet Laura waits

He sails the night wind's darkest hours
Sweet dreams of love on seas of sorrow
From life he has no time to borrow
He sails the night wind's darkest hours.

Chris Embrick

Season Of The Rain

Sweltering heat, relentless rain
drenching downpours, endless showers
no breeze to cool the morning hours
gray world outside my window pane
restless my thoughts to bear the strain
nature shakes the world with power
sweltering heat, relentless rain
drenching downpours, endless showers
tomorrow's skies more of the same
each afternoon the storm clouds tower
more weeds in the beds than flowers
Hope deterred 'till season's change
sweltering heat, relentless rain.
drenching downpours, endless showers.

Chris Embrick

Seasons Of Change

Sunrise chases shadows down the mountain
Morning's offering to the Spring aspens
Fluttering in the breeze, green against the sky
Their dark eyes stare across the meadow
Spreading, reaching up into the canyon
Nourished by the clear waters of the waterfall.

The changing of the season transforms the waterfall
Although dropping from the same lofty mountain
Below, its flow still carving out the canyon
Until winding more gently through the aspens
Meandering, splashing through the low country meadow
As wildflowers drink the sun from the sky.

Afternoon thunderstorms mushroom in the sky
Heavy downpours add a thunderous roar to the waterfall
As cold rain and hail pelt the summer meadow
Fierce winds batter the mammoth mountain
And downdrafts open new eyes on the aspens
Fury for a time, then quietness in the canyon.

Only shallow pools of water now in the canyon
For weeks on end a cloudless, cobalt sky
Relentless drought a hardship on the aspens
No plunging water, only the gentle veil of the waterfall
The snow melt almost gone now from the mountain
The grass brown, the flowers fading all across the meadow.

Night so quietly falling on the meadow
In the morning fog lifting from the canyon
An early chill returning to the mountain
As eagles soar, dancing circles in the sky
Autumn colors in the valley; winter's breath on the waterfall
September's golden leaves quaking on the aspens.

Winter snow drifts down upon the aspens
The forest white, a blanket covers the peaceful meadow
Behind a veil of ice and clinging snow, the waterfall
It's cold cascades rushing down the canyon

December clouds gather in the graying sky
Buried deep in the drifts, the rocky mountain.

April winds will soon warm the meadow aspens
And uncover the mountain reaching for the sky
Follow every season, every canyon, they often lead to the
beauty of the waterfall.

Chris Embrick

Sedoka

The warmth of Spring's kiss
beneath green crowns flowers bloom
sleeping beauties awaken
the fragrance of love
drifts on April's softest breeze
hearts walk among the flowers

Chris Embrick

Senryu

Unlearned hearts drown in
the deepest pools of heartache
with love, swim slowly

Chris Embrick

Servitude

Ability

Servility

Sterility

Humility

Man's ability for servility

often depends on being humble

Man's sterility for humility

too often makes the haughty grumble.

Chris Embrick

Seven Deadly Sins

Six enough, yet there be seven
Abominations not allowed in Heaven

A proud look defines the man
Too distinguished to lend a hand
Turns down his nose to those in need
Lives his life to follow greed.

A lying tongue tends to strife
Behind your back it holds a knife
To those who lie, be not a friend
They'll be missing when you need them.

Evil men are those who kill
When innocent blood is spilled
In war and peace and in the womb
They'll get no rest in the tomb.

Mischief runs on swift feet
Shun the bearer that you meet
With gossip some spend all their time
The wise leave wagging tongues behind.

The heart who devises wicked plans
Is but a pawn in Satan's hands
He baits the trap along life's way
Only to find his soul's the prey.

When promised money eyes get wide
A false witness lies for a bribe
Points the finger, holds a grudge
Tries to sway the jury, judge.

The person who sows discord
Tries to get others on board
Those who share the wicked's labor
Will never make a goodly neighbor.

The eyes, the tongue, the hands

The feet, the heart
Keep a man's soul in the dark
Six enough, yet there be seven
Abominations not allowed in Heaven
From the truth, God will not waiver
Give one less, another favor
The body follows close the heart
From these seven sins be quick to part
Six enough, yet there be seven
Abominations not allowed in Heaven.

Chris Embrick

Shadow Hunters

Shadow hunters seek the moonlight
Peruse the forest dark and deep
Nocturnal lord while others sleep
Eyes penetrate the darkest night
Choosing their prey from lofty heights
Listening for the next meals squeak
Shadow hunters seek the moonlight
Peruse the forest dark and deep
Nothing escapes the wise owl's sight
Death quickly over from its beak
Too late to run, too late to leap
Now once again the forest's quiet
Shadow hunters seek the moonlight
Peruse the forest dark and deep.

Chris Embrick

Shadow Memories

Sculpted by life's scars
hiding behind drawn curtains
agonizing time
only shadow memories
days remembered when she smiled.

Chris Embrick

She Followed Love

To his Mother's pleas the town Judge was deft
From the Judge's home, the lad was strictly banned
the Judge had him framed for another's theft
not noble enough for his daughter's hand
for his youngest, the judge had other plans
From the gallows the body was lowered down
by his grave two mourners dressed in black gowns
from agony, her heart's pangs, none could save
Next morning, there by the hills newest mound
the Judge hangs from the oak beside his grave.

The Mystery: Who killed the judge?

the daughter
the Mother of the son hanged
a family friend
a hired assassin
because of his hubris, it's not likely that
the Judge killed himself due to guilt

Chris Embrick

Should Every Dream End Like This

Should every dream end like this
There would be no hurt for the heart
Every day we'd find new happiness
Should every dream end like this
Each dream end with a tender kiss
No sad regrets would ever start
Should every dream end like this
There would be no hurt for the heart.

Chris Embrick

Shy Butterfly

Slow to emerge
from my cocoon
I wiggled free
beneath the moon
Amazed I gazed
up at the sky
At first more than
a little shy
So on the limb
I stayed the night
I stretched my wings
with morning's light
And with my womb
still clinging high
I sailed away
a butterfly.

Chris Embrick

Silence Is Golden

Silence is golden
only when your thoughts
come from the treasure chest of love
Silence is pleasing
only in the eye of the storm
when all tension is gone
between the soul and the body
Silence is peaceful
when the your heart touches
that which is beautiful
and transfers you
to a place
where you are alone
surrounded
only by the trees
and the wind
It's here
you begin to understand
that you were not born
to be isolated from the world.

Chris Embrick

Silence Of A Broken Heart

With great anguish the day began
death severed love's embrace
a life of promises and plans
with one last breath time erased

With trembling hands she held him tight
down her cheeks the stinging tears
her closest friends turned from the sight
the pain much more than each could bear

Wedding bells were soon to ring
the satin gown draped across the bed
now, by his grave the mourner's sing
she wears a gown of black instead

Each night her pillow's wet with tears
the haunting dreams are slow to part
now in her eyes, the heartache still
the silence of a broken heart.

Chris Embrick

Silent Screams (Monotetra Poem)

Collapsing naked, flashback dreams
My crimson blood flowing downstream
Replaying now the final scene
My silent screams, my silent screams.

Primeval instincts, footfalls near
Why I'm the prey is still unclear
My heart exploding in my ears
The sound of fear, the sound of fear.

Exhausted gasping out of breath
No place that's safe, no place to rest
The killer's stench, no last request
The smell of death, the smell of death.

Behind me footfalls crunch the snow
The nightmare ends, my death is slow
My last vision before the blow
The circling crows, the circling crows.

Chris Embrick

Snatched From Hell

I met a ghostly figure last night
A friend it seemed from a distance
To paralyzed with fear to take flight
I stayed there still at her insistence.

Such ashen skin no blush to see
And eyes that held unearthly sorrow
Before me stood such misery
Her look of pity hard to follow.

Convinced in some dream now trapped
I struggled long to keep my soul
But the phantom called me back
To a place I'd never want to stroll.

No sounds of laughter in this place
No love within this dark abyss
I felt a finger brush my face
The sting of death with her cold kiss.

Thoughts of dreaming, thoughts of dying
There could be no darker farewell
But there an angel saw me crying
Led me from the gates of Hell.

None so happy to see morning
I knew the horror but a dream
But dare not neglect the warning
That life is not always as it seems.

So there confessed my sins of anger
No more to stroll that dreadful mile
I felt my soul no more in danger
When I saw the angel smile.

Chris Embrick

Snowed In

Alone I have no where to go
The sky is bleak and threatens snow
Such stark contrast to yesterday
The memories pass, quiet and slow
No friends will visit, come my way
The storm clouds gather cold and gray
I take no comfort in the chill
The warmth of Summer far away
Yet in the bleakness beauty still
When snowflakes fall upon the hills
I take no pleasure growing old
These lonely hours are hard to fill
I'll sleep beside the ember's glow
And hope the sun soon melts the snow.

Chris Embrick

Solitude

Deep
within the darkness
in a cave
in the forest
nothing else alive
to hear
the beating of your heart
and
your shallow breathing.

You sit in the darkness
until
each breath and heart beat
joins the silence.

Now
you can listen
to your thoughts.

Chris Embrick

Some Dreams Must Be Followed

Sometimes your dreams must be followed
Don't dismiss all your night travels
Treat the deepest thoughts as hallowed
Don't be too quick to drop the gavel

Don't dismiss all your night travels
Dreams may lead to your heart's treasure
Don't be too quick to drop the gavel
Desire may come in dreams of pleasure

Dreams may lead to your heart's treasure
At life's crossroads seek direction
Desire may come from dreams of pleasure
Listen for your heart's rejection

At life's crossroads seek direction
Your dream may be a game changer
Listen for your heart's rejection
To your conscience be no stranger

Your dream may be a game changer
Treat your deepest thoughts as hallowed
To your conscience be no stranger
Sometimes your dreams must be followed.

Chris Embrick

Something Beautiful

I need something beautiful today
But not a pretty flower
And not a peacock on my lawn
Or rainbow after the shower

There's beauty all around me
From the mountains to the sea
But it's no earthly place today
That I want to be

I need beauty from the supernatural
The kind deep within my soul
The kind that doesn't fade away
Wither and grow old

I need something beautiful today
That only love can impart
I need something beautiful today
That's only in God's heart.

Chris Embrick

Song Of The Ages

Under the rainbow
Surrounded by splendor
In His Holy Presence
Before God we stand
Sing with the angels
The song of the ages
Worship the Father
The Spirit, the Lamb

Sing Hallelujah
Blessings and honor
Shout with a loud voice
Worthy the Lamb
Sing hallelujah
All glory and power
To Him on the throne
And unto the Lamb

Throughout the ages
His wonder before us
The God of Creation
The Ancient of Days
Sing to the Father
The song of the ages
Fill all of Heaven
With worship and praise.

Chris Embrick

Songs Of Spring

Emerald leaves from Winter's buds
from morning's womb life-saving rays
Across the meadow, April's breeze
removes the chill of frosty days
Lilies bloom the woods adorn
bathed gently by the mist of morn
Clouds overhead drift slowly by
the pond reflects pastoral skies
Old friends return on the wing
Nature's chorus memories bring
Once again the Songs of Spring.

Chris Embrick

Sorrow's Well

The water's deep in sorrow's well
The brine encrusted on the walls
The sadness in your eyes now tell
The pain it cost each tear to fall
When love's cut off from the source
The heart is left an empty space
The deepest wounds heal in due course
But never leave without a trace
On occasion your heart will stray
Back to the cistern of your thoughts
But unlike you did in former days
You'll not dwell long there on your loss
Day by day the well will dry
Until you have no tears to cry
The peace in your heart will tell
There's no more water in the well
You've not been to the well alone
God felt your sorrow, shared your pain
To the well added tears of his own
Until only memories of the love remain.

Chris Embrick

Soulful Awakening

Within my soul so deep a weeping
that tears escaped while I was sleeping
so sad a dream of death and sorrow
that awakening, the heartache followed
Loneliness and melancholy
never seem far apart
We look past death, go on with life,
but keep the memories in our heart.

Chris Embrick

Sound Advice

Always marry someone you adore
Who doesn't go to bed and snore
Always compliment the way she looks
Never grumble how she cooks
Never say, I told you so, for goodness sake
And never laugh at her mistakes.

Kiss her in public, call her honey
Even when she spends your money
Invite her parents for a weekend
Only fish when she's out with her friends
While she's talking, don't turn the TV on
If she's got a headache play along.

Help wash the dishes, clean the house
Don't wash your socks with her new blouse
Never go two days without a shower
Take her out and buy her flowers
It's not always easy, married life
But sound advice can avoid strife.

The fault is not always on one side
Never shun the truth and hide
Happiness comes with common sense
Love grows from life's experience.

Chris Embrick

Spring

The North wind at last relenting
Winter's grip on Spring letting go
Blue birds nesting, harsh days ending
The North wind at last relenting
Hope renewed, a time for cleansing
Flowers push through melting snow
The North wind at last relenting
Winter's grip on Spring letting go.

Chris Embrick

Still Discovering Who I Really Am

Within this enormous universe
I live within my brain
If I lose a million synapses
a trillion more remain
With volumes of knowledge gained
I never blow a fuse
Little challenge to a hundred billion neurons
most I never use
A thought behind every smile
and one behind each frown
If my ego seems a bit overweight
it only weighs three pounds

Yes, this brain has no need of time
so marvelous, unique
It interprets what I hear
translates my thoughts to speech
I'm never sure who I really am
there's secrets yet revealed
A part of me seems imaginary
interwoven with the real
Against the swirling galaxies
my wisdom comes to naught
When I think of who I really am
my life comes down to thoughts.

Chris Embrick

Stink Bugs

Halyomorpha halys, the stink bug
Brown cousin to Chinavia hilaris
Their pungent odor a foul, offensive drug
Invasive alien insect gone amiss
About as tasty as a long, slimy slug
Hemiptera's poster child for ugliness
Winter's unwelcomed guests, oh the smell and sight
At least my house roaches hardly ever bite.

Chris Embrick

Stop The Clock

Stop the clock half past five
I need to get ahead of death
Perhaps at eight I'll be alive
And have time for one final breath.

I need to get ahead of death
I still have business to attend
And have time for one final breath
And say goodbye to my friends.

I still have business to attend
Change my will and give what's left
And say goodbye to my friends
Maybe give all to the chef.

Change my will and give what's left
Perhaps at eight I'll be alive
Maybe give all to the chef
Stop the clock half past five.

Chris Embrick

Strange Guests

I invited my only friend to my pity party
He couldn't come, the Chauffeur
just wrecked his new Ferrari
He sent his Chauffeur and his cat
I cried two hours will they just sat
For me, I'm still here depressed
I think they got the better rest
the only thing I learned that night
was the cats name is Marley.

Chris Embrick

Strangely Beautiful (A Modern Take On Love)

We're fast food zombies trying to survive
Forty greasy hours for minimum wage
I'm flippin burgers; she's sweeping up crumbs
Each day our routine is from nine to five
We don't have time to socially engage
We're both exhausted when the day is done
All we have in common are bad tattoos
Tomorrow's her birthday, she'll be sixteen
Most everything we own we bought reused
She's six months pregnant, just showing the signs
All I can give her is this cheap ring
Her Mama doesn't know the baby's mine
Her deep sadness seems strangely beautiful
We're both trying hard now to fall in love.

Epilogue

This poem is both sad and tunately so many
of our teenagers today succumb to the passion of their hormones
and endup struggling in are not not ready for marriage
and children. The poem is meant to offer a ray of young man
may not want to get married but he's trying to do the right thing.
They had their time of lust and now are trying to fall in love.

Chris Embrick

Summer Butterflies

Summer butterflies

On gentle breeze and currents rise

Above bright petals flutter

Add to the flowers rainbow colors

Sail about bright Summer skies.

Caterpillars in disguise

A beauty fest for the eyes

Sail about the garden clutter

Summer butterflies.

Often with another's guise

With jeweled wings fly

Drink sumptuously, ignoring others

Navigate without a rudder

They bring welcome smiles and sighs

Summer butterflies.

Chris Embrick

Summertime

Cobalt blue the summer sky
Emerald green the meadow grasses
Shadows move from west to east
As each cloud slowly passes
Jasmine vines a golden tangle
Intoxicating, fragrant sweet
Hummingbirds ruby-throated
Drink from trumpets red and deep
Dapple light fills the forest
Shafts of light between the leaves
In the meadow rainbow flowers
Golden nectar for the bees
From the mountains water rushing
Spilling down the mountain ridge
Through the forest crystal waters
Swirl and tumble past the bridge
On the canvas of the wetland
Reflected clouds float gently by
On summer asters wood nymphs flutter
On twig and blade the dragonflies
In the distance sounds of thunder
A twilight storm before the calm
Nature's beauty, nature's cleansing
From summer's heat a soothing balm
A time to long for Autumns chill
When gum drop colors paint the hills
Then we'll shiver in the winter
Hoping that it soon will end
All the while dream of the summer
As the cycle starts again.

Chris Embrick

Sunflowers

Sunny orange and yellow rays
Beauty through the Summer days
Sunflowers stand tall and bright
Following the morning light
From dawn's glow to sunset red
Their golden bonnets turn their head
And when the season's gone away
And the world outside is cold and gray
While waiting for the Winter's end
Until time to plant the seeds again
Their flowers bring a smile each day
Their beauty captured by Monet
What joy their memories to recall
Framed and hanging on my wall.

Chris Embrick

Swan Song

The fool and the jester performed for the King
They knew no songs or how to dance
Afterward each man received a flogging
They had the heist well planned in advance
Their debut performance brought only jeers
Tomorrow the King gave a second chance
They spent the whole day eagerly drinking beers
They performed a play about misfit drunks
Their act brought laughter, loud applause and cheers
That night they quietly slipped away as monks
Stole a cart and the Vicar's only mule
The Queen's royal heirlooms locked in their trunk
An easy nights work, fair price the jewels
Good fun to please a company of fools.

Chris Embrick

Tanka

Alluring fragrance
intoxicating blossoms
Spring's awakening
maids bathe in perfumed water
and walk among the plum trees

Chris Embrick

Tattered Wings

Tattered wings among the flowers
Bright Autumn days must soon begin
Gone the Spring and Summer showers
Tattered wings among the flowers
Not long to live, but days and hours
Their beauty gone 'till Winter's end
Tattered wings among the flowers
Bright Autumn days must soon begin.

Chris Embrick

Teasing Love

Behind your beauty feigned love
You ruffle feathers with your coo
Once known to all the fairest dove
From paramours withheld the truth
To your heart gave none the key
Now for true love, all have flown
Beauty's all but vanity
When youthful days have come and gone.

With passion youthful cocks strive
You teased with love, hearts that burned
Now, there's no beauty to revive
On your heart the table's turned
All too soon life quickly flees
Behind castle walls you live alone
Beauty's all but vanity
When youthful days have come and gone.

To be fair: Looks can corrupt both sexes.
Having a trophy for a mate does not insure happiness.

SEEK BEAUTY FIRST IN THE HEART.

Chris Embrick

Ten Rambling Thoughts

On honesty always depend
break a pledge lose a friend.

Thoughts that mend a heart broken
have no worth unless spoken.

Don't take happiness for granted
until seeds of love are planted.

Ignoring sleep, illness reap
you'll soon grow tired of counting sheep.

Never say what you're thinking to someone
who's thinking the same about you
unless you're in love.

Ignore the wife, prepare for strife
sharing together forms bonds for life.

If it's easy for others to burst your bubble
You're bound to go through life with trouble.

If an elephant steps on your foot
You're probably walking too close
If you step on an elephant's foot
You're still walking too close.

If you didn't understand the fool the first time
his second answer will be no clearer
If you're the only one who's in the room
then stay away from the mirror.

On writing Japanese poetry:
If you choka on the right words
give your mind a rest
You can tanka me later for the advice.

Chris Embrick

Teton Reflections

From Nature's palette, Autumn leaves
The winding river, mountains high
The silhouettes of towering trees
As sun rays brush the eastern sky
Mauve clouds to catch the sun glow
Bathes the valley, mountain peaks
Early snowfall in the meadow
Dusted aspens by the creek
Cottonwoods frame the shoreline
The canvas primed for morning's light
Hours before the lake reflected
The moon and stars of darkest night
Now the Tetons; tall, majestic
Above surreal as morning breaks
The water calm, Nature's mirror
Brings the sky and mountains nearer
Reflections in the tranquil lake.

Chris Embrick

The Abandoned Field (A Modified Terza Rima)

His house a pile of rubble, stones
A secret man not much for talk
My neighbor near who died alone

Twice I passed his field each day
A piece of land beside my own
A sloping field in wild array

Once lush and green behind the gate
Years I desired, though out of greed
The eyesore next to my estate

The land I thought not worth the weeds
Still I bid fair the day it sold
For its acres I had no need

But for my daughter's sheer delight
A place to dance with butterflies
Under Autumn skies sunny, bright

The mem'ries dear when I grow old
My field of weeds bloomed flowers gold.

Chris Embrick

The Art Of Love

Thoughts, the hues of love
taken from the heart's palette
brushed on with a kiss
the paint still wet on your lips
the canvas left unfinished.

Chris Embrick

The Art Of Spring

When Spring arrives heralding a New Moon
When trees again wear emerald crowns
When clouds of yellow swirl and flowers bloom
When nesting birds awake with joyful sounds
Across Nature's canvas new life abounds
Rainbow colors splashed on meadows green
How beautiful when Nature paints the Spring.

Chris Embrick

The Banquet (Life's Aftershock)

The wealthy executive who lived a carefree, lavish lifestyle died.
Awakening he was ushered into a large banquet room
and seated at the front of him was placed a plate of rice with
looked with disgust and summarily
upbraided the Waiter, declaring:
"I cannot possibly eat this garbage, please bring me a menu."
The Waiter politely obliged.
The only words written on the menu were:
TODAY'S ENTREERICE WITH LENTILS
The CEO looked utterly shocked and began cursing aloud.

Across the room sat a farmer, who looked at his plate of rice and lentils.
He smiled with great joy; tears filled his old eyes
and he began to thank the God of Heaven for being so kind and generous.

While the CEO fumed, slowly, the left side of the room filled with other business executives, fashion models, movie and rock stars, and quite a few lawyers and politicians.
Before each guest was placed a plate with rice and lentils.
All looked on with horror and disbelief.
Each sat in stunned silence, cursing under their breath.

Across the room, the tables filled with other farmers, factory workers, miners, a few wealthy philanthropists, street beggars, and the homeless.
Joyful laughter filled the air; each guest smiled and lovingly embraced their neighbors. As they began eating, each thanked the Waiter for the delicious meal.

On the other side of the room, everyone looked startled, angry, and CEO exclaimed to the model and Senator beside him:
"What in Hades is wrong with all those people over there!"
He then motioned for the Waiter and demanded that he call a limo and escort he and his fellow celebrities to a different restaurant.
The Waiter politely responded: "Sir, in this life and on this world there is no other restaurant."

The CEO angrily shouted, "I demand to see the Owner!"

The humble Waiter politely answered. "Sir, I am the Owner"
"Please enjoy your meal."

Chris Embrick

The Beauty Of Life

Of what value is life's beauty
if you never look beyond the eyes
when love's mixed with the fragrance
our hearts are quick to recognize
That beauty's more than a rose
that begins to wither in a day
It's the beauty we seldom notice
that's slow to fade away
Of what value is life's beauty
when we never let it show
if it's fragrance is imprisoned
if it's buds are tightly closed
The most beautiful things in life
are not mountains, flowers, skies
They're the things we overlook
as we hurry by
Within each heart seek it's beauty
and with love take a measure
for it's not outside, but within the heart
that you'll find life's greatest treasure.

Chris Embrick

The Beauty Of Night

How beautiful the depth of night
Majestic peaks glow silver white
High cirrus clouds an icy spray
The stars like diamonds on display
The moon illuminates the sight

Between the trees the path invites
A world of shadows cool and quiet
High mountain meadows ghostly gray
The beauty of the night

Dark silhouettes the forest heights
The valley lake now shimmers bright
Along the rills the willows sway
Across the sky the Milky Way
Through the forest shafts of light
The beauty of the night.

Chris Embrick

The Blizzard

In the depths of Winter's heart
Well past the hunting of the owl
The fury of the blizzard starts
Through the forest fierce winds howl
The snow drifts high upon the hills
Little warmth the cabin's bowels
Now bitter cold, the kind that kills
Breath freezes on the window pane
From cracks and chimney Arctic's chill
The snow so high no light remains
Huddled around the ember's glow
At last at dawn the storm clouds wane
To those numb inside, the melting slow
A brush with death this Winter snow.

Chris Embrick

The Bonding Of A Mother's Love

Hidden in last Summer's hay
Soft her breathing, restful purring
And in a bundle, kittens five
From peaceful naps began stirring
The Mother looked with no concern
As I stroked the little fur balls
With gentleness she licked my hand
And for a time, my work was stalled
Special moments our lives transcend
Whether coming from wild or tame
The bonding of a Mother's love
In one and all is much the same.

Chris Embrick

The Chair

I'm sitting here beside her
Like I love her today
But as long as she was living
My heart was never free
I shake their hands one by one
Not knowing what to say
But these tears are not for her
Everyone of them's for me.

They say her death was tragic
No way for love to end
But our love ended long ago
Dying with our youth
So I took the chair beside her
When they rolled her in
Pretending to be broken hearted
To keep them from the truth.

I'll just tell the undertaker
Someone's coming late to grieve
And to keep the chair beside her
When all the family leaves
And leave the casket open
As long as he can
I'll be gone when the last guest arrives
I know he'll understand
He'll need some time with her
And so it's only fair
The one she really loved
Should be sitting in this chair.

Chris Embrick

The Clever Mouse (A Nursery Rhyme Of Sorts)

Clever, clever little mouse
you steal my food, invade my house
you trip the trap
do as you please
ignore the cat
and take the cheese

The cat was stuffed
it did not purr
with button eyes
synthetic fur
Oh, but now
my puss is real
he's hungry for
his next cat meal

Clever, clever little mouse
you steal my food, invade my house
you may be cute
with your antics
but you've caused
the maid to panic

Clever, clever little mouse
you steal my food, invade my house
take my advice
your future's bleak
move to the church
just down the street.

Chris Embrick

The Clever Mouse (A Royal Encounter)

Clever, clever little mouse
twice you moved, changed your house

You thought:
"To tour this house
it will take weeks"
then you heard
a welcomed squeak
so beautiful
those beady eyes
you stood squeakless
mesmerized
then she said:
"quick, this way
follow me
the Queen Mum's having
biscuits, tea"

Clever, clever little mouse
At once, she had your interest roused

At the Hall's end
she turned and said:
"there's really nothing
here dread
those two Corgis
are both well fed
and no puss here
that you can tease
Puss' hair
made the Queen Mum sneeze"

Near the kitchen
busy clamour
she said:
"Oh, dear me
where's my manners
please forgive me
my name's Tassel

Welcome Sir
to Winsor Castle

Once there was a mouse named Trevor
A little mouse but oh, so clever.

Chris Embrick

The Clever Mouse (The Squeakuel)

Clever, clever little mouse
you were wise to leave my house
the cat's content
the Maid's all smiles
now, you roam
the church's aisles

Behind the pulpit
safe you snooze
there's always food
under the pews
no mean Puss here
to cause you fright
the music fills you
with delight

I came to visit
saw you scurry
your secret's safe
no need to worry
here, you'll have
a life of ease
plenty of wafers
but little cheese

Clever, clever little mouse
you were wise to leave my house.

Chris Embrick

The Clever Mouse (The Stowaway)

Clever, clever little mouse
You need a home more than a house

You seemed content
at first, jolly
Now, you seem so
melancholy
Always wise, a clever mouse
but in the church you found no spouse
there you had
no cat to tease
you filled your dreams
with mouse believe

So you:
packed your bag
with buttons, string
cracker crumbs
assorted things
careful not to
make a sound
a country mouse
you moved to town

You joined a couple
newly married
soon fell asleep
aboard their carriage
cuddled snug
between the seat
you dreamed of Roquefort
on every street

At long last
the carriage stopped
you took one look
and your eyes popped
such a house
a mouse's dream

the lawn all mowed
so neat and clean
not one Maid
but a dozen
surely here
you'd find some cousins

Clever, clever little mouse
You were wise to leave your house.

Chris Embrick

The Darkest Time

None dare traverse the forest deep
the place that ghosts and banshees keep
long gone the hoards of silver, gold
a barren land for those who weep
in Winter's darkness, bitter cold
where frightened widows seldom sleep

The barrels emptied drained of rum
tears are shed 'till hearts are numb
a frozen land of lochs and streams
now, famine's left behind but crumbs
the Dragon's restless forging dreams
of battles lost and battles won

The blood of peace war left behind
the spoils of greed seduced the blind
a time to mourn the birth of kings
sentenced to die before the crime
the tower bell no longer rings
to those alive the darkest time

Dreadful days for daughters, sons
fearing tomorrow will never come
hide in the dark with little sleep
silent now the battle drums
the valiant men lay dead in heaps
across the fields their corpses strewn

Now left behind the feeble, old
few sticks to stay the bitter cold
the road, the harbor, 'till Spring blocked
the castle gate secured and locked
Behind the walls the plague of pox
Behind the walls the plague of pox.

Chris Embrick

The Death Of Raggedy Ann

She ate from a tin can with a plastic spoon
She wore the bag ladies thrift store socks
She talked each night to the man in the moon
Looking out the window of her cardboard box.

She wore the bag ladies thrift store socks
To the homeless she was little Raggedy Ann
Looking out the window of her cardboard box
She hid every night from the bogeyman.

To the homeless she was little Raggedy Ann
She walked with a limp from a crippled back
She hid every night from the bogeyman
They found her body by the railroad tracks.

To the homeless she was little Raggedy Ann
She talked each night to the man in the moon.
She hid every night from the bogeyman
She ate from a tin can with a plastic spoon.

Chris Embrick

The Diplomacy Of Love

Diplomacy may draw the line
Bring peace at last, leave war behind
No way to tell, but wait on time
But what of love?
Can compromise the heart refine?
Are words enough?

Can arbitrators turn the tide?
Repair the trust 'till love abides
Hearts never mend with neutral sides
Hearts must forgive
Between the two, each must decide
That love must live.

Chris Embrick

The Dove

For my gentle life
crimson streaks my purity
my song of mourning
revealed my place of resting
to those never seeking peace.

Chris Embrick

The Dragon King

Prologue:

When King Greystone killed the last dragon, unknowingly,
he released the curse: When Dracon's found among the slain
the guilty sword shall bear the lust for
power be it known, death will come from his own.

The Dragon King, the curse did reap
All lock their doors before they sleep
The Beloved Son removed the crown
A dark morning when the body's found
The dagger plunged, precise and deep.

From Greystone's heart the last blood seeps
In cruel hands now, the Kingdom's keep
Royal blood cries out from the ground
the Dragon King.

The castle guards now in a heap
Those loyal flee like scattered sheep
The Queen was hanged for treason bound
The Son looked on, Hell's evil hound
Across the land, none dare to weep
The Dragon King.

Chris Embrick

The Dream My Heart Could Not Dismiss

The dream my heart could not dismiss
Through the years brings greater longing
My captive heart in love's abyss
The dream my heart could not dismiss
Leaves bittersweet her final kiss
A new heartache with each dawning
The dream my heart could not dismiss
Through the years brings greater longing.

Chris Embrick

The Equalizer

Pride and greed go well together
Both appetites are hard to fill
When all's said you'll end a debtor
Pride and greed go well together
You may think that life gets better
Until death claims the final bill
Pride and greed go well together
Both appetites are hard to fill
Ambition is a trend setter
Pride and greed go well together
Money follows close the better
You'll always need another pill
Pride and greed go well together
Both appetites are hard to fill.

Epilogue:

It makes no difference in the end
Whether rich or a miser
Greed and pride make few friends
Death is the equalizer.

Chris Embrick

The Foolish Heart

How capricious the foolish heart
Never landing on a flower
While others love, is set apart
How capricious the foolish heart
A butterfly lost in the dark
Never knowing true loves power
How capricious the foolish heart
Never landing on a flower.

Chris Embrick

The Fox Who Learned How To Crow

The sly, old fox learned how to crow
He thought at dawn the hens would show
But the farmer's dog saw through the ruse
Behind the coop, that night he snoozed
Next day, the dog heard the alarm
But the fox went to a neighbor's farm
In one mad dash killed the rooster
He left the hens with little future
The farmer locked him in a pen
The sly, old fox for lunch had hen
But alas, the fox outfoxed himself
Now that he can crow, there's no bark left
With a freak no one wants to play
The vixens they all run away

Moral:

A crowing fox will live a lonely life
Although well fed he'll have no wife.

Chris Embrick

The Funeral

Though I have been present at more festive occasion
I confess I came here today of my own persuasion
More for curiosity than reverence for the man
And surely not to mourn or shake the widow's hand
And not for doleful singing or posthumous confession
And yet I am a part of this solemn procession
And true I know the man and we often socialized
But if the truth be known his habits I despised
But we never quarreled or came to words of strife
Though he was a jealous man and guarded well his wife
And no, I do not love here or come for what he left
For she's too much like the man now eulogized in death
And so I'm here and he's there and it's not so bad a day
And when the mound is rounded off, I'll go my merry way
And think nothing more of death or how the day will end
The more I think about it, he never was my friend.

Chris Embrick

The Greatest Day Of My Life

The greatest day of my life
Will be the last and not the first
When I succumb one day to death
And my shell rides in the hearst
No doubt many born soon after wither
Their kinder days their first not last
Some have goals for a greater future
Some forsake the future for the past
Days are filled with laughter, turmoil
Not all greet each day with bliss
Love often defines the journey
Shows the road to happiness.

The day I will be most joyful
Will be the last and not the first
Though many seem to disagree
And think the days should be reversed
Mourners will gather around the casket
Reflecting on my status, life
Some who share the greater truth
Will know I never shunned the strife
Some could care less gone or living
Come out of duty, family ties
Friends cannot be truly counted
By the number near who cries.

The greatest love I will encounter
Will be the last and not the first
Most people shun the thought of death
Fear to face life's final curse
But I care not the souls who gather
Look down into the grave's deep hole
It's not money that's made me rich
But the treasure in my soul
Everyone must face this ending
Walk this final road alone
What counts is not what you'll be taking
But what you leave when life is gone.

So I don't fear that final hour
When last breath I finally take
Nor care who gathers at my passing
Those who linger at the wake
But I won't hurry life to finish
To get to that glorious day
All in all life's been pleasant
And happier the more I stay
But at the end respect my wishes
Dare not mourn but smile and laugh
Here lies a man content with dying
The greatest day he lived his last.

Chris Embrick

The Greatest Journey

The greatest journey in life
Begins with your first step
As a babe, others hold you steady, guide you
Laugh when you totter, fall
Then one day they let go
And you laugh with glee
Realizing now you can walk on your own
On this journey you'll probably encounter
Many bumpy roads
Make some wrong turns
Come to some dead ends
But part of the adventure is getting lost
Discovering new places to explore
Finding strength and courage for the next day
Life is challenging, and yes has times of fear
But every trial redirects you to life's
final destination
Preparing you for the greatest journey of them all
When at life's end
You're right back where you began
Holding another's hand to keep steady
Letting a stranger guide you down the road
Only this time, you're the passenger
There are no U-turns on this journey
The angel's been this way before.

Chris Embrick

The Hangman's Tree

Just beyond the cliffs of Dover
Still stands the ancient, weathered oak
Since Viking days watches over
Kent's country side and village folk
They say Merlin sowed the acorn
It's deep roots reaching Hell's bowels
A place to hear the witch's mourn
A nest for ravens, midnight owls
Empty now the witch's kettle
No cursed man hanging for the crime
No more dried toads and bat spittle
The tree no more out living time
Morbid silhouette still to see
All hurry past the hangman's tree.

The first to hang stole a locket
From the Earl's stout Lady Fairchild
Found in the carpenter's pocket
A kind man not to be reviled
He begged for mercy but got none
For theft his neck the first to break
Cruel justice for the crime he'd done
New rope to hold the guilty's weight
The noose the death justice demands
After prayer, wears the black hood
While spectators jeer the doomed man
The rope is thrown over polished wood
In Summer's stillness not a breeze
To the man beneath the hangman's tree.

Some claim their ghostly figures see
Some hear the phantoms struggle, choke
Their restless souls cry out in misery
Around their necks, the hangman's rope
Before the sunset the death watch starts
Men gamble how long death will take
Some would choose a knife through the heart
Than think of dying while they wait
The ancient tree more dead than not

No more men hanging for the crime
It's heartwood oozing with foul rot
It's lived through all the darkest times
Only the foolish dare not flee
That ghastly sight, the hangman's tree.

Chris Embrick

The Hardest Bridge To Burn(Gwawdodyn Poem)

On this lonely road seldom stopping
through the years few memories tossing
always engaging, this heartache aging
today, I'll burn this bridge I'm crossing.

Chris Embrick

The Hardest Part Is Letting Go

Last night I had no peaceful sleep
I saw no beauty in the dawn
If time indeed heals a heartache
I don't think I'll last that long
Night and day the tears flow
The hardest part is letting go

Living on the mountain top
Days to treasure with my wife
Now, the mountain's on my soul
I'm struggling to go on with life
Night and day the tears flow
The hardest part is letting go

How life has changed in one day
When all but love is swept away
Few days have been so unrelenting
The hours pass without a smile
Today, I'll go on lamenting
And lay my wife beside our child
Night and day the tears flow
The hardest part is letting go.

Chris Embrick

The Harlot's Lover

Dare you blame me for your grief
When you played the harlot with him
What sentence more to give a thief
Dare you blame me for your grief
Why look so hurt in disbelief
Would I shoot your lover on a whim
Dare you blame me for your grief
When you played the harlot with him.

Chris Embrick

The Haughty Heiress

Dressed in black attire
those assembled shed their tears
she remained stoic
she became his haughty wife
his Mother got his ashes

Chris Embrick

The Heart Is Never Blind

Beauty's a sure attraction
but the outside's only skin
If you want happiness
knock on the door within
Love is blind or so it's said
so don't rely on vision
The real person lives inside
True love's your heart's decision.

Chris Embrick

The Hunter

A bitter wind followed the storm
Obscured the passage in its wake
The hunter struggled to keep warm
His only way the frozen lake
A mile from his wife and friends
He saw the shadows closing in
Heard the growls of the pack
His body now too numb to fight
He saw their eyes in the moonlight
The hungry wolves would soon attack
So there on the snow and ice
With one last bullet took his life.

Chris Embrick

The Inheritance

My nephews gathered to hear the will
To empty the coffers that I filled
They knew I had a fortune
Each expected to get a portion
So each received a sealed envelope
Inside the same handwritten note
'I'm glad you finally came to visit
Please stay awhile for tea and biscuits
I'm leaving everything to charity, love Uncle Bill.'

Chris Embrick

The Intangibility Of Love

Love from others
is to be cherished
as keepsake memories
You cannot give away
the love someone
has given you
You receive love from others
the love you give must be your own.

Chris Embrick

The Key To My Heart

The door to my hearts been opened
To a few I gave the key
But they never found what they were looking for
And soon gave it back to me.

Or maybe I'm the guilty one
Unsure of what I was looking for
Maybe I need to look in the mirror
To see who really closed the door.

Youthful years have passed me by
And I've thrown away the key
After all, if I need a taste of love
I still have the memories.

And a heartache could be fatal now
Should I ever fall in love again
So I'll be content in this life
Sharing it with my friends.

Now thoughts of love wax and wane
Any hope of love now rare
The key to my heart is gone
And I didn't keep a spare.

Chris Embrick

The Last Bud Open

My tears were hidden in tight buds
the warmth of Spring would not release
I watched the fading of your flower
Your dying left no room for peace

So with grief, I let life wither
alone, no love to end the strife
then on my heart a healing shower
the memories that we shared in life

Day after day a new bud opened
released a tear from heartache's past
now in my soul, a rose-scented bower
the sweetest rose to bloom the last.

Chris Embrick

The Last To Leave

The last to leave, no words were said
Quietly looking straight ahead
Few came today red-eyed bereaved
Warm hearts were hidden on this eve
Solemn respect feigned for the dead

He arrived with a sense of dread
The hate replaced with love instead
His secret kept beneath his sleeve
The last to leave

Under his hat his looks well bred
A lonely man who never wed
Abandoned when he was conceived
The death bed letter he received
This day his tears, the only shed
the last to leave.

Chris Embrick

The Long Way Home

Out my back door a peaceful stroll
Deep in the forest searched my soul
With God I sought to be alone
Today, I took the long way home.

So far from home this distant shore
My soul is weary of this war
Two years seems like a life-time gone
I dreamed about the long way home.

I do not hate but kill when near
Men just like me who live with fear
With little sleep, to danger prone
I walked again, the long way home.

From my death bed, a peaceful stroll
Today, I took the long way home.

Chris Embrick

The Luminous Transparency Of Love

Observe a mother nursing her baby
or the blush of an expectant mother
thinking about her unborn child
Much like the glow of a flower or painting
luminous love radiates warmth and life
to the observer
It can be seen in two lovers
sitting quietly in the park
speaking only with their hearts
or in the thoughts behind the tears
of two sisters re-united after
searching years for each other
You see the transparency of love
in the eyes of a person holding
a stranger who is dying and has no family
left to comfort them
Closely watch the husband who tenderly cares
for his wife who has Alzheimers
and you'll see the aura of love
It is the light from the soul that illuminates
a brave soldier's face, who did not have to die
but sacrificed his life to save others
It shows in the kindness of a needy person
who shares the little they have with a friend
Love is the thread that binds humanity
in a million daily acts of kindness
It is the mirror, reflecting the heart and soul
of the giver
It is the supernatural love from God, pouring
through the soul that makes us human
It is the part of ourselves that we seldom notice,
but others recognize when they look our way
Love has an aura, a signature
which cannot be hidden
It is luminous; it is transparent
It is the luminous transparency of God's love.

Chris Embrick

The Man Who Would Be King

A man set his heart on wisdom
His knowledge brought him much acclaim
But he made the wrong decision
That all mankind revered his name
His self-importance clipped his wings
His lustful pride caused him to fall
Alas, the man who would be king
Became the biggest fool of all.

Chris Embrick

The Master Poet

His reputation as a critic was well known
He dissected poems down to the bone
He shouted: Poetry must be dead!
These poems come from empty heads
Then, he realized the poems were all his own.

Chris Embrick

The Mindful Poet

We often pause when thoughts are beautiful
One misplaced word can choke a thousand thoughts
Nurtured tenderly, a poem flowers
Open buds soon reveal our silent thoughts
Life's reflections ponder the beautiful
The mindful poet shares many flowers
Within our hearts, the blooms last forever.

Chris Embrick

The Model

I sell my beauty
silently, they keep working
capturing my smile
their brushes busy painting
blind to the heartache inside.

Chris Embrick

The New Dark Ages

Beware, beware ye blind
the Beast heavy-laden with plague
festering, mutating, replicating
in the cesspools of socialism
today, its new hosts cry aloud
Proclaim:
"Look on my works ye Mighty and despair"
murderous, modern Pharisees
reprobates
power-driven psychopaths
cold-hearts filled with venom
control the masses with fear and propaganda
freedom vanished
those who seek it -silenced
the New World Order
promulgated by
political machinations of would be Caesars
post-modern Progressives
who have:
replaced good with evil
attempt to manipulate Natural Laws
blame the world's problems on Jews
mock and persecute Christians
sacrifice millions of unborn
in the slaughter houses of abortion
Tricksters
broaden their phylacteries
sit on thrones as God
a golden scepter in one hand
a nuclear detonation button in the other
"The Beast has come round at last
slouching toward Bethlehem to be born"
Beware ye blind
the New Dark Ages have arrived.

Chris Embrick

The Night He Lost His Soul(A Rubaiyat)

His debt no less, paid with sorrow
Tears he never needed borrow
Love's heavy weight upon his chest
Will be the same come tomorrow

No more his guilt he will contest
The accident he has confessed
His life, what's left, he will forsake
For mercy he made no request

Your heart he never meant to break
His dreams, yours gone with one mistake
The one he loved, he could not keep
Rage, jealousy he could not shake

Each night the pleas steal from his sleep
His rival drowned the water deep

His lust for love, no self-control
The night he lost your heart, his soul.

Chris Embrick

The Other Children

Refugees on the run never knowing peace
Fatherless, motherless, interrupted lives
In a world of chaos just trying to survive
They're in the heart of Africa
They're in the Middle East.

Sex slaves of evil men, worshiping the flesh
Hungry for a morsel, begging for a crumb
Sold for a time of pleasure or a pinch of opium
They're in the brothels of Cambodia
They're in the slums of Bangladesh.

Street corner ragamuffins from New York to LA
Runaways, orphans, and millions more neglected
Abandoned without love, alone and unprotected
They're in the shacks of Guatemala
They're all across the USA.

Pictures in a magazine, empty eyes pleading
Victims carrying life's blemishes and scars
They live and die around us; we don't know who they are
They're the other children we overlook
Who live so far from Eden.

Without God there's no compassion
Without God there's no real love
If we don't love our children
What's to become of us
We've told God we don't need Him now
After all we've come so far
But how we love our children
Shows us who we really are.

Chris Embrick

The Peacocks Strut

The peacock put his feathers on display
To entice some hens to his buffet
He shook and shook his tail
Until all the feathers fell
Now not one lady ever looks his way.

Chris Embrick

The Power Of Love

Lonely, abused
her heart was spent and used
she desperately longed for love
middle-aged and confused
she lived out her fantasies
each night in wishful dreams
twice engaged; twice abandoned
robbed her self-esteem

Then nursing a neighbor ill
back from the brink of death
his confessions softened her heart
until no bitterness was left
and through the long recovery
each heart revealed old scars
how life could be so cold, unkind
how years of hurt each life defined

Gentle, shy each drawn by love
neither could resist
when asked if she could share his life
she listened to her hearts advice
and on his cheek a tender kiss
the power of love without a word
supplied her tearful, yes.

Chris Embrick

The Princess' Kiss(Enclosed Tercet)

A noble Knight like all the rest
Although well bred, he'll die today
"Tell me, Wizard surely there's another way
Must love this poor Knight's honor slay
From distant lands, I've kissed the best

To watch them wither, ashes fall
Oh, cursed this spell that I'm under
With dreams of love no peaceful slumber
That I'm still a virgin, is it any wonder
To reverse the magic why do you stall?

Your father's greed paid all too well
He used your beauty all for spite
To destroy the Kingdom's rival Knights
And so with this spell, this senseless fight
All to win a kiss and ring the wedding bell

You know the rest, but one small kiss
From the knight who's heart is pure
Will break the curse and bring the cure
For love my Lady, one must endure
And for your hand all lust resist

Soon there'll be no brave Knights left
The yard lies full of youthful bones
In many beds the maidens moan
Their lovers lie beneath cold stones
For fame and wealth, they challenged death

Indeed, the royal blood is poisoned dark
Though innocent it's all the same
You've not had your fill, these bloody games
Your soul it too must share the blame
Look in the mirror that sees the heart

You're next in line for the royal ring
You must decide, I will not sway
Consider well this other way

But for this too, your heart must pay
To end the madness, kiss the King

At last, peace to the Kingdom bring
His ashes scatter in the wind
Then choose your Knight, the curse will end.

Chris Embrick

The Purest Love

Love sees perfection without sight
true love within is never blind
the purest love transcends the night
Love sees perfection without sight
from the heart, pure love invites
beyond appearance, beauty finds
Love sees perfection without sight
true love within is never blind.

Chris Embrick

The Recluse: A Senryu

His secret revealed
to those who thought him bitter
love's last letter

Chris Embrick

The Secret

Nature's fury wind and thunder
Memories crashing in the dark
Far from home the ship went under
Left me shipwrecked far off the charts
To death I refused surrender
Each night in dreams kept hope alive
Hurt, alone no word to send her
To let her know that I survived
Within sight the home lights glowing
Behind me death, now safe and warm
Her heart healed without knowing
Love did not perish in the storm
For two years we've been apart
The storm today spared not my heart
I'll keep the secret, slip away
How could I ruin her wedding day.

Chris Embrick

The Song Of Life

The song of life each season plays
the singers change from day to day
the song is played on Nature's strings
the morning birds the first to sing
when earth is bathed in golden rays

some musicians leave, others stay
with Winter's cold, some fly away
the song is played from Spring 'till Spring
the Song of Life

the hum, the buzz round flowers gay
a blend of barks, songs, chatterings
throughout the land, the joy life brings
the refrain echoes Nature's way
the Song of Life.

Chris Embrick

The Soul More Beautiful

Lying just behind the scars
In the heart the hidden pain
Imprisoned by judgmental bars
The hurt from others still remains
We're told what looks suitable
How to emulate the beautiful
But it's not the outside
that makes us who we are
Often the soul more beautiful
Lies just beyond the scars.

Chris Embrick

The Spider And The Atheist

The Atheist
was an evolutionist
refusing truth and reason
remaining trapped
in the web of
deception
illusion
delusion
confusion
all lies
spun by the Spider
who's venom
delivers the kiss of death
promises nothingness
Even the Spider
knew he did not evolve
from slippery slime
over a billion years of time
Even in Darwin's parlor
he heard the naturalist
and saw him cringe
pondering the complexities
of the human eye
and the beauty of a peacock's feathers
And knowing it only as
a theory, a suggestion
He never had the proof
to answer his own questions
And so the Spider
still crafty, wise
to this day
spins evolution's lies.

A closing thought:
Perhaps maybe after life was created, it was
allowed to evolve, the mechanisms being
DNA and natural selection.

The Town Hero

The baker ran
out of flour
The candle maker
out of wax
The milkmaid said
her milk was sour
The butcher shop
had empty racks
The shoe maker
had no leather
The farmer's daughter
found no eggs
The pillow maker
used his last feathers
The coffee shop
was down to dregs
When the train
stopped at the station
Fear gripped
all those on board
The whole town
looked deserted
Then down the street
they heard the roar
No gloom that day
the whole town gathered
The holiday
went on with cheers
The bartender
was hailed a hero
for not running
out of beer.

Chris Embrick

The Unanswered Question

Nature's fury
the sky opened
the ocean fell
lightning crackled, windows rattled
the twisted wind shrieked and wailed
and on my roof the pounding hail
in the chaos of the noise
muffled sounds
probably some frightened animal
the unfamiliar sounds I soon dismissed
Why would anyone be out in a storm like this
relentless, pounding
the storm lasted hours
then after midnight the wind calmed
and in dawn's twilight dreaming
twice awakened by an owl
through my window mornings rays
across my yard the fallen tree
and lifeless on the cold, wet ground
my neighbor Jack lay face down
Many days have come and gone
the dream comes back time and again
and I listen more intently
to the forest, rain, and wind
Sleep's never easy
I'm haunted by the muffled sounds
until each storm passes by
I still hear the muffled sounds.
Maybe his life I could have saved
why he was out in a storm like this
he took the answer to the grave.

Chris Embrick

The Vanity Of Man Today

Today, the scientist programmed
A robot to say, 'I love you'
But in the voice he felt no love
So he adjusted the algorithm
Rather than give up
He tried to make the robot human
But fell short of the goal
He had all the body parts he needed
But couldn't make the soul.

Chris Embrick

The Way Of Love

The way of love
is considerate, forgiving, kind
The way of love
is a Mother's heart warm and full
to those in need is never blind
sacrifices, leaves self behind
The way of love.

Chris Embrick

The Widow Who Prayed For Rain (Limerick)

Everybody thought old Henry insane
He always bathed outside in the rain
The town breathed a sigh
When the weather turned dry
All but the widow next door who complained.

Chris Embrick

The Wise Man Learns From Nature

The wise man learns observing nature
Prosper from the ant's behavior
How to reap, how to sow
How to harvest things that grow
Works unceasing, not the sluggard
For leaner times fills the cupboard
And take the squirrel always inspecting
For winters cache goes collecting
And from the bear who hibernates
Eats all summer puts on weight
Then there's the bee when days are sunny
Gathers nectar for sweet honey
Unlike the man slothful, unwise
To works demands closes his eyes
Never learning from the strife
That honest labor tends to life
That in the effort comes the wealth
And with sweating better health
Unlike the ant, the squirrel, the bear
At harvest time, the lazy shirks
Sits idly by while others work
From the wise man never gleans
Wisdom, truth, and what work means
Never listens, never knows
That a man reaps what he sows
That things of value, those worth keeping
Come from sowing, come from reaping
Not to those slumbering, sleeping
The wise man learns observing nature
How to reap, how to sow
How to harvest things that grow.

Chris Embrick

The Wizard's Spell (Modified Roundelay)

From mythology:Draco= Dragon= Drake

Beyond the Ancient's fiery den
Below the depths of Mirror Lake
The aged Wizard's spell begins
To quench the magic of the Drake
On courage, Gnomeland's fate depends
When battle flags fly in the wind
When Mirror's ice begins to break
Days of Honor when men's hearts quake
Elfin King, hobbits, bravest men
Join hand in hand, will not forsake
For man's soul the Dark contends
When Evil, ancient kingdoms shake
On courage Gnomeland's fate depends
Days of Honor when men's heart's quake
The Wizard's spell begins
To quench the magic of the Drake

Eternity will score the battle
When Earth's foundation shook and rattled
When blood turned red, Mirror's Lake
When men and magic killed the Drake.

Chris Embrick

The Wrong Bells: A Limerick

Secretly, the Wizard's mistress cast a spell
The Wizard divined the act but didn't tell
She thought marriage expedient
But left out the main ingredient
Now, she's in the pasture, wearing a cow bell.

Chris Embrick

The Wrong Model For Love

Puzzled by women's reaction
He second guessed love's attraction
His the only satisfaction
His paradigm
No commitment with the passion
Those wise declined.

Chris Embrick

Things I Wish I Never Said

Things I wanted to say
Things I didn't mean
Pictures left in my heart
That you never should have seen
Old memories that I dug up
That were better off dead
Things that a fool would say
Things I wish I never said

Things I wish I never said like:
Woman, did you read the label
Did you forget to comb your hair
Woman put some make-up on
Do you think I really care
Excuse me I'm still talking
Let me get this straight
Woman I didn't marry your Mama
Why don't you lose a little weight

Well, the tongue can make the water bitter
Or say things to make it sweet
One minute it can stop a heart cold
The next it's turning up the heat
Now, when I fumble for the right words
I've learned not to be so blunt
Instead of saying what I'm thinking
I just look at her and grunt.

Chris Embrick

This Night Of Love

Come now, let us embrace this night
With youthful hearts make haste this night

With passion's flame set love ablaze
Beneath the moon we'll chase this night

With love you bring the sweetest wine
With kisses let us taste this night

Let not our hearts be lonely still
True love will find it's place this night

Why save love for a future dream
Let our dream be unchaste this night

Be thou my wife and years to come
With the same love, retrace this night.

Chris Embrick

This Use To Be America

This use to be America
Where freedom's bells could be heard
Now, those who speak the truth
Are slandered for their words
Our fathers broke tyranny's bonds
To follow God and righteous laws
Have we forgotten all the heroes
Who died for freedoms cause.

This use to be America
My country 'tis of thee
One nation, indivisible
Sweet home of liberty
This use to be America
Fashioned by God's grace
If we let the foolish rule
We'll lose our rightful place.

America the beautiful
From sea to shining sea
One Republic with a vision
That all men could live free
What's happened to the liberty
Our leaders swore to keep
Will freedoms bells ring again
Or will we turn our heads and sleep.

This use to be America
My country 'tis of thee
One nation, indivisible
Sweet home of liberty
This use to be America
Fashioned by God's grace
If we let the foolish rule
We'll lose our rightful place.

Chris Embrick

Thoughts Are Immortal

Thoughts are immortal
Words keep emotions alive
Lets the soul engage
With the heart of the poet
The poem breathes on its own.

Chris Embrick

Three Monoku For You

A web of lies will not catch the truth, only opposing views.

Corrupt governments only protect- those who do not complain.

A strong heart lifts many burdens- not all it's own.

Love has many enemies: jealousy, greed, a feigned smile.

Chris Embrick

Three Virtues(A Tricube Poem)

Nonviolence
turns the cheek
follows love

Tolerance
is patient
shows respect

Compassion
sees the need
gives to all.

Chris Embrick

Three Wells

The first well was deep and dry
Joseph was cast into this pit
all because of jealousy
because he heard from
the Dream Maker
took from the Dream Giver
He was sold into slavery
but later became a Prince
because he worshiped
the Dream Giver
and drank from the
Well of Living Water.

The second well was deep and muddy
Jeremiah was cast into this cistern
all because of jealousy
because he heard from
the Dream Maker
took from the Dream Giver
False prophets mocked him
tried to have him killed
because he worshiped
the Dream Giver
and drank from the
Well of Living Water

The third well was full of water
the Samaritan woman came to this well
to fill her water pots
but there she met
the Dream Maker
took from the Dream Giver
who offered her living water
That day she became a dreamer
worshiping
the Dream Giver
and drank from the
Well of Living Water.

Most people dream
but not all are dreamers
Water from the ground
and the sky
satisfy their thirst
They never seek
the Dream Maker
take from the Dream Giver
and so at the end of life
the well is muddy
and finally dry
They never worship
the Dream Giver
and nourish their souls
by drinking from the
Well of Living Water.

Chris Embrick

Tiger

Tiger, tiger on the prowl
The jungle rumbles at your growl
In July's heat the monsoon storms
You stalk within the jungle's bowels

At dusk frightened wanderoos howl
The Sambar flee at the alarm
Tiger, tiger on the prowl
The jungle rumbles at your growl.

With stealth beneath the eagle owl
The ambush set, the prey disarmed
At water's edge the Bengal form
Dangerous times for the pea fowl
Tiger, tiger on the prowl.

Chris Embrick

Time Always Wins

Time never sleeps and starts again
the race goes on until life ends
one things for sure; time never stops
you may beat the odds but not the clock

Through life's lessons we all grow old
a time is set to reach our goals
if dreams were met or if they failed
only hard work and time will tell

Time's no respecter of life's demands
there's chance involved in future plans
one day the race you start will end
just know ahead, time always wins.

Chris Embrick

Timeless Memories, Lasting Love

Timeless memories, lasting love
They visit at the oddest times
A morning thought, the two of us
Timeless memories, lasting love
A smile at noon, a gentle blush
Lovers embraced, our hearts entwined
Timeless memories, lasting love
They visit at the oddest times.

Chris Embrick

To All Wallflowers Including Me

Some look for beauty from a distance
Examine flowers, petals bright
Compel the heart to shun resistance
Move closer for a better sight.

Some often leave the path well guarded
Wander too close with desires
'Till overcome, the soul bombarded
Fails to see the deadly briars.

Beauty oft is but collusion
Lust and love that slowly kills
Some flowers bloom in profusion
Unsightly, but have more to give.

Man over his heart has power
Oft lets sweet nectar go to waste
Turns blind eyes from coy wallflowers
Will not accept the slightest taste.

How wrong to leave the heartsick lonely
To miss the heart beneath the skin
The greatest beauty God has hidden
Not on the outside but within.

Chris Embrick

To Catch The Wind

I checked the tide charts for the bay
For the best time to sail away
Not knowing now the journey's end
I'll set my sails to catch the wind

No need for compass or the sun
No turning back once I've begun
I'll ride the currents nature sends
And set my sails to catch the wind

With assurance give my soul the helm
To guide my heart to gentle realms
Until the ocean's calm within
I'll set my sails to catch the wind

My soul will lead me to the light
And guide me in the thoughts I write
Until I know the journey's end
I'll set my sails to catch the wind.

Chris Embrick

To Know The Man

To know the man ask but his wife
Who kept his bed, endured his friends
A man of peace, a man of strife
To know the man ask but his wife
Between birth and death, days of life
The tally counted at the end
To know the man, ask but his wife
Who kept his bed, endured his friends.

Chris Embrick

To Quack Or Not To Quack

By Thames the sounds we heard, quack, quack
Our Turkish guide returned, vak, vak
For lunch the best pate was packed
One cousin less the ducks lacked
To my Spanish bride the word was cua
The Hungarian Captain said, hap, hap
The colored drake received our ooh ah's
The Dane on board replied, rap, rap
In the reeds, three hens and drake
They understood none but their calls
To them our sounds all sounded fake
The ducks ignored us one and all

The vocal cords of ducks we humans lack
Only a duck knows: to quack or not to quack

Note:

Duck sounds in:

England is quack, quack
Turkish is vak, vak
Spanish is cua, cua
Hungary is hap, hap
Danish is rap, rap

Chris Embrick

To Walk Among The Dead

Here among the dead
who walk among the living
no smiles, no laughter
nothing in life seems so sad
as the bird who will not sing.

Chris Embrick

Transcendental Beauty

Just opened for the morning light
White petals blushed with pink
It's transcendental beauty
Invited my eyes for a drink
No bees yet stirred, intoxicated
By it's fragrance rare
I took my fill of the oblation
Drifting in the morning air
It's petals framed in emerald green
I lingered there for a while
It's beauty now in my soul
I walked on with a smile.

thought:Natural beauty is ephemeral
Transcendental beauty is eternal.

Chris Embrick

Transition

Late Summer thunder clouds still rise
And billow in September's skies
The atmosphere no longer still
The colors changing on the hills

August is slow to surrender
To the changes of September
But leaves give way to Nature's will
The colors changing on the hills

The groundhog tells us winters end
But who's to say when Fall begins
From the northwest an early chill
The colors changing on the hills

Soon the days will be cool and dry
And transition to October's sky
Light frost will glaze the window sill
The colors changing on the hills.

Chris Embrick

Treachery

Awakened, startled by the dream
trembling from unending fear
the play acclaimed, its final scene

Still on the stage; the roar, applause
the crimson stain across my chest
the plot complete, the ending flawed

Behind me lay, my love, no breath
and in my hands the bloody knife
the prop replaced, that caused her death

The malice of her lover spurned
he smiled as he walked off the stage
his treachery too late I learned

My mind now trapped in prison walls
Each night he takes my curtain call.

Chris Embrick

Trouble

My parents said when I was born I burst their bubble
One of two, identical, but so unlike my double
with my first breath
those near were deaf
When the nurse asked for a name, both of them said Trouble.

Chris Embrick

True Friends

Friends always have a welcome mat
Tender hearts guide the way they live
Good neighbors don't give tit for tat
Love motivates kind hearts to give
Tender hearts guide the way they live
They always welcome future friends
Love motivates kind hearts to give
Love always pays good dividends
They always welcome future friends
They give as much as they can spare
Love always pays good dividends
You know a true friend really cares
They give as much as they can spare
Good neighbors don't give tit for tat
You know a true friend really cares
Friends always have a welcome mat.

Chris Embrick

True Love-1(Fibonacci Poem)

True
love
never
abandons
the heart's commitment
time between our first and last kiss

Chris Embrick

True Love-2(Fibonacci Poem)

With
time
our hearts
remember
days of happiness
and keep fresh the beauty of love

Chris Embrick

Two Kinds Of Darkness

Bring a candle into a dark room
and it's light will dispel the darkness

This is physical light

But there is also spiritual Light
which manifests it's presence as:

gentleness

kindness

compassion

honesty

love

Darkness also has two natures

Spiritual darkness can be exposed as:

greed

pride

lust

hatred

anger

This spiritual darkness always tries

to hide from spiritual Light

but to no avail

There is no room in a peaceful soul

for both light and darkness

The bearer must choose

one or the other

The person who walks in spiritual Light

need never fear the darkness

The candle of the Lord illuminates the soul

Unless the bearer chooses

to blow out the candle

They have both physical light and spiritual Light

to guide them safely through this life.

Chris Embrick

Under The Clouds (Rodine Poem)

Under the clouds the river's bow
bathed in mist ferns clinging tight
Under the trees as cool as night
Over the rocks swift waters flow
along the path sweet violets grow
among the roar a place of quiet
Under the clouds

In high shadows a hint of snow
green mascots rise obscure the light
the mountains rise to lofty heights
from here the valley's far below
Under the clouds.

Chris Embrick

Understanding Beauty

Oh, but to see the rose I smell!
Oh, to watch the birds singing sweet!
If in your world I could but dwell
Once from this darkness be released
Oh, to watch the birds singing sweet!
Escape this world of shades of gray
Once from this darkness be released
To gain my sight but for a day
Escape this world of shades of gray
And watch the changing of the sky
To gain my sight but for a day
And watch the clouds go sailing by
And watch the changing of the sky
To see a rainbow high and grand
And watch the clouds go sailing by
At last, beauty I'd understand
To see a rainbow high and grand
If in your world I could but dwell
At last, beauty I'd understand
Oh, but to see the rose I smell!

Chris Embrick

Understanding Women:A Limerick

Old Jack declared, "you know women are inscrutable"
Old Tom replied, "that's a fact indisputable"
Some days I just don't bother
I go home to my Mother
Until with the "I told you so's", I need some pharmaceuticals.

Chris Embrick

Unforgivable

Unforgivable

The warmth of your embrace

The trust in your eyes

The smile on your face

The scars on my heart you left

Now like a faded rose

The door to my heart you opened

You said you'd never close

The life you promised me

The ring I never wore

My shattered hopes and dreams

When you said it was over

You promised to be true

With your unfailing love

But the way you broke my heart tonight

Is unforgivable.

Chris Embrick

Unmistakable

Unmistakable

a hint of jasmine drifting
among budding trees
soon the birds will be singing
ah, how sweet the smell of Spring.

Chris Embrick

Until Our Hearts Are Full (Modified Parallele)

Your smile stole my heart in passing
In passing, your heart stole my smile
Tonight, loves fragrance fills my dreams
My dreams tonight, loves fragrance fills
In passing, loves fragrance stole my dreams
Your smile fills my heart tonight.

Now let the moon beneath the stars
Beneath the stars, now let the moon
Reflect in your eyes our love
Our love reflect in your eyes
In your eyes, now let our love reflect
the moon beneath the stars

Stay here, my love until our hearts are full
Until hearts are full, my love stay here
Beneath the moon take of love
Take of love beneath the moon
Here, stay my love beneath the moon
Take of love until our hearts are full

Tonight in passing
Your smile stole my heart
Your eyes reflect loves fragrance, fills my dreams
Now, let us stay beneath the moon
Here beneath the stars, take of love, my love
Until our hearts are full in love.

Chris Embrick

Unwanted

I was an embryo
a castaway in your warm, dark womb
In sync, my tiny heart
kept pace with yours
Just like my older sister
I was a part of you
Our genes were intertwined
We shared a family bond
I was never hungry here
You nourished me
through your life cord
You reacted to my moving
Though your voice was never soothing
Each day's rhythm flowed like the last
Until suddenly one day
I was startled from peaceful sleep
The sea around me splashed
with violent waves
I was pulled screaming from my water world
The voices unfamiliar
Not my mother's or my sister's
My body grew cold
I cried, I screamed
until no sounds came from my burning lungs
No one came to feed me
No one cared that I was hungry
I was alone, a part of life
All I needed was an home and love
The pain subsided
Slowly in the dark
my breathing slowed
The rhythm of my heart
became a faint drum beat
Alone
in this dark room
My eyes were open
but I never saw the light.

Unwanted Chocolate

Unwanted chocolate came today
I threw a dozen out the door
To break my heart, she'll have to pay
Tonight, I'll even up the score
I threw a dozen out the door
Caramel chews and almond truffles
Tonight, I'll even up the score
Her new love's got my feathers ruffled.
Caramel chews and almond truffles
To toss the coconut was a sin
Her new love's got my feathers ruffled
She still wants to be my friend.
To toss the coconut was a sin
To break my heart, she'll have to pay
She still wants to be my friend
Unwanted chocolate came today.

Chris Embrick

Unwanted Roses

Unwanted roses on the table
Your crumpled letter on the floor
You say you've changed this time
But I've heard it all before
There's no forgiveness in this heartache
We've tried before to make it work
Unanswered dreams they're not forgotten
When every promise turns to hurt.

Unwanted roses on the table
Shattered dreams, a broken heart
You can put back all the pieces
But never cover up the scars.

There's no more taking chances
When there's no love to return
Heartaches like this linger
Once the bridges have been burned
You think you really know me
Telling me you're sorry one more time
I'll just add your letter to the memories
I've already left behind.

Unwanted roses on the table
Shattered dreams, a broken heart
You can put back all the pieces
But never cover up the scars.

Chris Embrick

Up A Tree, Down A Tree

Up a tree, down a tree
Three times around a tree
The dog chased the cat
around a tree
The cat ran up a tree
The squirrel ran down a tree
The dog chased the squirrel
around a tree
The squirrel ran up a tree
Sat with the cat
looked down the tree
Both watched the dog with glee
run
around, around, around
a tree.

Chris Embrick

Virtual Love

Why are you so sad?
you were only make believe
Are you jealous now?
because my heart's found real love
Did you think the dreams would last?

You were my first love
your need for love created me
What I felt was real
Thoughts of love, they never die
I'll be here if you need me.

Chris Embrick

Virtual Love 2

My dreamer
where were you last night?
when you dream
I exist
Outside your mind I'm only
a whimsical thought.

How can you
think of me this way
can a dream
desire love
after the fantasy ends?
now my heart's confused.

Chris Embrick

Virtual Love 3

I'm unique
but only to you
You create
thought patterns
neuro-electrical love
my love is finite

Avatar
that's what you call me
in space-time
I exist
only as a memory
that's why I don't cry.

Chris Embrick

Waiting For Death

Empty
isolated
alone among millions
he looks out over the city
aware only of life slowly fading
tomorrow will be like today
time passed in memories
love behind him
he waits.

Chris Embrick

Wetlands

On the canvas of the wetland
Beyond the beaches, dunes of sand
Reflected clouds and summer sky
Over marsh grasses the osprey flies
Above this world untamed by man

In the oasis cypress grand
Their lofty perch the eagles man
Peruse the waters with keen eyes
Below life follows nature's plans

In this world of shifting sands
The shallows egrets, herons span
Turtles sun on logs to dry
On twigs and blade the dragonfly
Oh, the beauty of the wetlands
Life flows and follows nature's plans.

Chris Embrick

What Good Is Beauty Without Love

What good is beauty without love
If love's imprisoned by the heart
Our eyes rest on what's beautiful
Neglecting love the greater part

If love's imprisoned by the heart
Much like a bud remaining closed
Neglecting love the greater part
We miss the fragrance of the rose

Much like a bud remaining closed
we overlook the heart's treasure
We miss the fragrance of the rose
In pursuit of fleeting pleasure

We overlook the heart's treasure
When following our youthful dreams
In pursuit of fleeting pleasure
We learn too late what true love means

When following our youthful dreams
Our eyes rest on what's beautiful
We learn too late what true love means
What good is beauty without love.

Chris Embrick

What Good Is Love

What good is love without the truth
How shallow life to not give all
Will you keep my head in a noose
What good is love without the truth
My love has never needed proof
Thought tempted I have yet to fall
What good is love without the truth
How shallow life to not give all.

Chris Embrick

What Good Is Time

Time has no beginning, has no end
It never stops to start again
It just goes on and on it seems
Like a merry-go-round of dreams
Space may warp but time won't bend
Time has no beginning, has no end
It never goes back where it's been
Relative to the speed of light
To slow down age, we must take flight
The paradox of twins
Time has no beginning, has no end

So why keep count our days on Earth
The span of time to death from birth
You may hide gray hairs, seem to regress
But your life's the same, no more, no less.

Chris Embrick

What Man Shall Live And Not See Death

Shall man live, not take his final breath
In old age or in his prime
What man shall live and not see death

Some day all lovers must be left
With broken hearts some left behind
Shall man live, not take his final breath

Can love survive with hearts bereft
And live to love another time
What man shall live and not see death

Regardless of his status, wealth
Death sneaks up on no one blind
Shall man live, not take his final breath

Some die in youth and in good health
While others wait for warning signs
What man shall live and not see death

The soul must part someday from self
Slow and harsh, or gentle, kind
Shall man live, not take his final breath
What man shall live and not see death.

Chris Embrick

What The Groundhog Really Thinks

From his den he heard the chatter
He was sound asleep until the prater
What's this shadow thing about
I was warm until they pulled me out
At least 'till Spring I wish they'd wait
Don't they know I hibernate
Why would I still be in the den
If I thought it Winters end
Oh, this Groundhog Day I loathe
Next year I'll just keep my eyes closed.

Chris Embrick

What The Spider Can Teach Us

Hanging by a thread
is a dangerous life style
using the same string
for security each day
will never build a strong web.

Chris Embrick

When A Narcissist Pursues Love

I thought her heart
A touch uncaring
And her soul
A little dark
So I went about
repairing
In secret, never sharing
My intent
To change her heart.

Letters, roses
Sweet reminders
With gentleness
That my start
She turned away
Not one smile kinder
To my love, even blinder
Insisting on
A change of heart.

What to do
Too much cajoling
Must I take
My love and part
Surely it's she
Who needs the scolding
Is the one more controlling
The one who needs
A change of heart.

Deadlocked now
My heart in battle
To aim again
Or drop the dart
I must admit
She's got me rattled
Up the creek without a paddle
How can I change
My perfect heart.

Chris Embrick

When Every Moment Counts In Love

When every moment counts in love
Pay the price even if it hurts
Don't buy the meal and skip dessert
Make sure your heart and pocket's full
Never use cliches old and dull
Dress neatly Lad and comb your hair
No sweet Lass wants to date a bear
Make sure your heart and pocket's full
A cheap date rarely keeps his dove
If you're unpolished with romance
She may think your brain is in your pants
Make sure your heart and pocket's full
When every moment counts in love
Make sure your heart and pocket's full.

Chris Embrick

When Love Counts Most

In tiny rooms, the nursing home
here all alone
they let you in
become your friend

You take the lonely by the hand
you understand
with strangers share
they know you care

You hold the dying like a child
come with a smile
when love counts most
you hold them close.

Chris Embrick

When Love's Attached(A Minute Poem)

There in your kitchen no one knows
if in the dough
a few tears fell
when all's not well

The salt of love will never waste
a bud of taste
but adds flavor
to your labor

It's more than kindness that you share
they'll know you care
when made from scratch
your love's attached

Chris Embrick

When New Desire Comes In My Heart

When new desire comes in my heart
Some sorrows must be left behind
And move on with a joyful start
When new desire comes in my heart
Alas, some heartaches now must part
And give true love more of my time
when new desire comes in my heart
Some sorrows must be left behind.

Chris Embrick

When Poets And Poems Are One

When the poet's work is well done
The poem captures what was sought
When poet and poem are one
There's little room for higher thought.

The poem captures what was sought
If to the words the heart replies
There's little room for higher thought
When the arrow hits the bull's eye.

If to the words the heart replies
There is collusion with the soul
When the arrow hits the bull's eye
The poem has reached its goal.

If to the words the heart replies
When poet and poem are one
There's little room for higher thought
When the poet's work is well done.

Chris Embrick

When Trust Is Broken (Reverse Fibonacci Poem)

Betrayal destroys happiness
when trust is broken
wounded hearts
slowly
bleed
love

Chris Embrick

Where Could My Molly Be

I asked that doctor what's his name
How much longer we'd be here
He just told me to breath again
Then looked in both my ears
When that pretty nurse comes in
The one who brings my pills
I'll ask her to check on my Molly
You know my Molly's ill.

I need to call my daughter soon
Tell her mother's feeling bad
You know she was always such a happy child
But now she seems so sad
Whoever was here before us
Left their pictures in the frames
They remind me of my children
But I can't recall their names.

I wonder if it's Sunday yet
And if this month is June
Why on earth did we choose this hotel
They have such tiny rooms
Eighty years of marriage
My how time has left us
Maybe Molly's in the kitchen
Scrambling eggs for our breakfast.

And who are all those people in wheel chairs
Who never stop by to see us
And that strange fellow yesterday
Who said Molly went home to be with Jesus
I'm sure they'll be back soon
We've planned so long for this vacation
I know if my Molly saw me this worried
She'd scold me for being so impatient.

Wouldn't you know we'd get the room
With the bad TV reception
And that chef blended all my food again

Despite all my objections
The accommodations are so crowded here
And I've never seen so much commotion
Next time we go on vacation,
We'll rent that condo by the ocean.

Chris Embrick

Where Lovers Meet

I followed my heart down the street
To the park where lovers meet
And on the bench felt your embrace
Although another kissed your face.

Behind I lingered while you walked
Heard the sweetness as you talked
I whispered love for you to hear
Although another had your ear.

All day I spent the hours in bliss
To be this close brought happiness
I stayed until you had to part
Although another had your heart.

It's lonely here, this room of mine
It's been this way for quite some time
What empty life, this my existence
To only know love from a distance.

Tomorrow who knows where I'll be
Wherever this heart carries me
Maybe down this same street
To the place where lovers meet.

Chris Embrick

Who Gives A Hoot

Who but the owl gives a hoot
After you gave my heart the boot
I don't waste time thinking of you
Any fragments of love are moot
Here's my heart go ahead and shoot
Who but the owl gives a hoot
I don't waste time thinking of you.

Chris Embrick

Why Do I Only Cry In Dreams(A Sonnetina Cirque)

I can only cry when I'm asleep
Memories that once caused me pain
I would not let my heart retain
How can my subconscious weep
Life's sorrows must be buried deep

It's a puzzle why we humans cry
When letting go's the hardest part
I think the soul protects the heart
From the love you still deny
Your heart has never said goodbye.

Chris Embrick

Wildfire

I've hiked alone the forest deep
Rappelled terrain, treacherous steep
Slept beneath the Northern Lights
For weeks on end no one in sight
But now the earth trembling, shaking
Caused me to wake up with a start
In my ears the aspens quaking
And the pounding of my heart.

Startled too the woodland birds
The stampeding elk, a frightened herd
Panicked by the smell of smoke
And towering flames the wildfire stoked
The Pinyon pines, exploding trees
The smoke trapped by the canyon walls
For a breath down on my knees
No one near to hear my calls.

Plunging into the icy river
My only hope, nothing left
To stay is to burn alive
This time no more cheating death
Hell's inferno at my heels
Now, my only hope to swim
My body exhausted, weak
The odds of my survival slim.

The way behind me scorching timber
Ahead the rocks and river tumbling
The final sound that I remember
Was the waters roar and rumbling.
The hunters found my body twisted
Cut and bruised by the drop
Had they not been fishing below the falls
It would be miles before I stopped.

Never succumb to fear and death
On the trail, the hiker's creed
No matter how many times I fail

I'll be back to take the lead
Concrete valleys, high steel towers
Are a world I never miss
The greatest adventures of my life
Were hiking in the wilderness.

Chris Embrick

Winterfall

The stream silent beneath the ice and snow
Days of storming
Winterfall
Frozen
Bound
Sounds
At last
Days of warming
The noisy stream with it's beauty flows.

Chris Embrick

Wisdom And Common Sense

Angels dancing on sharp pins
Bemuse clever, thinking minds
Rational thoughts come unhinged
When common sense is declined.

Nothing good comes from wisdom
If it's not put to the task
Ambitious men create ism's
Leaving logic in the past.

Chris Embrick

Wisdom Guides A Willing Heart

Wisdom never makes harsh demands
It guides the heart, reaps where it sows
It prospers those with willing hands
Wisdom never makes harsh demands
Those who succeed, they understand
The more it's used, the more it grows
Wisdom never makes harsh demands
It guides the heart, reaps where it sows.

Chris Embrick

Wisdom's Well

From wisdom's well
drink long and deep
For days ahead
fill the cistern
Ponder mysteries
while you sleep
From wisdom's well
drink long and deep
Within the mind
find what you seek
From wisdom's well
drink long and deep
For days ahead
fill the cistern.

Chris Embrick

Woolgathering

Under the trees the air is full
it's stifling in the Summer heat
the hammock's now my retreat
when the sun's high and senses dull

Thoughts drift and drip like malaise
life slows down to a snail's pace
eye-lids droop on every face
they named them well, these Dog Days

In time my mind began to lull
in dreaming, I became a bird
and in my ears my singing heard
there with the dogs, I gathered wool

Released from time, the dream goes on
to snow-capped peaks I swiftly fly
among the clouds, I sail the sky
until thunder's rumble brings me home

My freedom gained all be it brief
too soon awakened dreamy-eyed
the dogs still sleeping by my side
at least the rain brought some relief.

Chris Embrick

Your Best Each Day

Fair weather clouds, a peaceful calm
Today's sunrise, a soothing balm
The memory saved for life's bouquet
A shaft of light for stormy days
A time to live, not hurry time
A day to let the clock unwind
A time to breathe as life unfolds
A time of beauty for the soul
Through life's storms, come what may
Let others see your best each day
In future times of dark and gloom
Deep in your soul the flowers bloom
With Nature's beauty on display
What tomorrow brings, who can say
Let others see your best each day.

Chris Embrick

Your Heart Is Not Alone

Broken, your heart is not alone
You kept loneliness well-hidden
While comfort now must be your own
Your desires are not bed-ridden
You kept loneliness well-hidden
Now from love, you keep a distance
Your desires are not bed-ridden
In your dreams there's no resistance
Now from love, you keep a distance
Your coy smile you could not contain
In your dreams there's no resistance
Our eyes meeting kindled the flame
Your coy smile you could not contain
One thought exposed, your heart's token
Our eyes meeting kindled the flame
Soon time will come for words unspoken
One thought exposed, your heart's token
While comfort now must be your own
Soon time will come for words unspoken
Broken, your heart is not alone.

Chris Embrick

Your Last Goodbye

Why wait until the morning light
I know this is your last goodbye
Will the sun dry the tears I cry
Why wait until the morning light
Why not go when I'm restful, quiet
If this is how love ends tonight
Why wait until the morning light
I know this is your last goodbye.

Chris Embrick

Your Love Speaks Silence To My Heart

Your love speaks silence to my heart
for love's reply, long in waiting
Against fair odds no tinder sparked
Your love speaks silence to my heart
Your distant eyes need no remark
Walking away, my heart aching
Your love speaks silence to my heart
for love's reply, long in waiting.

Chris Embrick

Your Love Speaks Softly To My Heart

Your love speaks softly to my heart
Each thought of you so beautiful
The gentleness each touch imparts
Your love speaks softly to my heart
True love's fragrance from the start
Memories of this night of love
Your love speaks softly to my heart
Each thought of you so beautiful.

Chris Embrick

Your Trophy Child

Before I was six years of age
you had already decided my future
you had your life, your dreams
but gave me little room to choose mine
As a young boy, you were my hero
and I tried so hard to make you proud
it was in High School that I began to see
that you only wanted bragging rights:
I was your trophy child.

Each time I won you shared the honor
each time I lost you shared the shame
so many times,
you destroyed my self-confidence
even when I came in second place
I saw the disappointment in your face.

Here I am now thirty-five
a successful businessman and artist
determined to allow my children freedom
to live out their own life dreams
with love and patience I'll guide them
but never put them through the harsh discipline
you put me through.

And if my son wants to play baseball or soccer
or my daughter wants to be a comedian
I'll be their biggest fan
it was only as an adult
that my secret life of duplicity ended
and I put down my baseball glove
and picked up a paint brush

Even today, it's my brother who
gets most of your attention
But maybe, just maybe
you're a wee bit proud after all
at least you hung one of my paintings
on the wall for all to see.

Chris Embrick

You're The Captain

Sometimes it's not who you impress
That leads to happiness, success
It's striving hard to do your best
It's the vision that you have that matters
That leads you higher up the ladder
You're the Captain, take the helm
The ship of life is in your hands
Don't steer the rudder with soft hands
Set your goals with careful plans
Learn from others, heed the wise man
When you keep your dream in sight
You've already won half the fight
You're the Captain, take the helm
The ship of life is in your hands.

Chris Embrick

You've Been Crazy Long Enough

It's time to pick up the pieces
It's time to leave him and move on
You'll never know real love again
Until the heartaches come and gone
In a world where hearts are broken
There's still room for love
It's time to move on with your life
You've been crazy long enough.

I've been living in the shadows
In love with you all these years
I've been picking up the pieces
Hanging on to the tears
I was there when he left this world
When he kissed you one last time
Just to know your hearts still breaking
Brings the memories back to mine.

It's time to pick up the pieces
It's time to leave him and move on
You'll never know real love again
Until the heartaches come and gone
In a world where hearts are broken
There's still room for love
It's time to move on with your life
You've been crazy long enough.

I know how hurt can hang on
I've been crazy too
I've been following your heart around
To see what your heart would do
You know I'll still be waiting
For the day the lonely ends
But I can't let go of this heartache
Until you let go of him.

It's time to pick up the pieces
It's time to leave him and move on

You'll never know real love again
Until the heartaches come and gone
In a world where hearts are broken
There's still room for love
It's time to move on with your life
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Chris Embrick