Orchids

Ned Rorem

You hold me inside your iris like a
A terminal stain on life
You condescend to my primal brain and
Twist me around like a knifeCan't begin to explain
The feelings I have restrained
Don't ask me how I am
Because you're too busy planning your epitaph
Let me tell youDon't try to be the one person
Who has stayed just to say
They never left me
Aggravated, complicated, someone say it
God, I never learnYou keep me hidden behind a curtain
An audible human display
You feed me orchids to give me courage
And keep me in line with disdainCan't begin to explain
The feelings I have restrained
Don't ask me how I am
Because you're too busy planning your epitaph
Let me tell youDon't try to be the one person
Who has stayed just to say
They never left me
Aggravated, complicated, someone say it
God, I never learnI have nothing left for you
You left me with nothing
And I have nothing left for you
You left me with nothingI live at arm's length and die a little
Between your constants by day
I want my soul back before it's over
I can't even wish you awayCan't begin to explain
The feelings I have restrained
Don't ask me how I am
Because you're too busy planning your epitaph
Let me tell youDon't try to be the one person
Who has stayed just to say
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I never learn

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