

# Rainbow Tears

*A collection of Poems*

*For*

*Animal Lovers*

*By*

Steve Bateman

*In Memory of*

**ZELLA**

(1993 –2006)

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First Edition 2007

## About the Author

For several years I was a professional musician and songwriter, and spent much of that time touring Great Britain and Europe. I still play Bass Guitar in a local band, but only for fun now.

I have now semi-retired and moved away from the city where I used to live, I now live in a small village on the North East coast of England.

I started writing poetry over 30 years ago, at the age of 15, and only recently have I thought about publishing some of my work.

In March 2006, I lost my beloved dog, Zella, her loss has inspired me to write this collection of poems, and so this book is dedicated to her memory.

Since losing Zella, I have met many people, mostly via the Internet, who have also lost a beloved 'furry friend'; their losses have also inspired some of these poems.

I have been involved with a local animal charity for many years, and most of my 'furry friends' have come to me through their shelter.

A donation of £1 UK Sterling, will be given from every sale of this book, to The Hull Animal Welfare Trust

Thank you for reading '*Rainbow Tears*'

I hope that this collection will help you find some comfort and inner peace, and perhaps a little understanding of the way, I believe, our 'furry friends' think and feel.

"Through love we learn to grow; through growth we understand love"

Steve Bateman (2007)

**<http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/zella/index.htm>**

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For every book sold, the author will donate £1 UK  
Sterling to

The Hull Animal Welfare Trust.

**The Hull Animal Welfare Trust**

**Sunnydene Animal Shelter**

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## A Prayer

May love find your heart and fill every corner with happiness,  
And May peace be yours, and live within your soul.  
May each day fill your senses with the wonders of creation,  
And may your life be surrounded by the spirits of those you  
Have loved.

In times of sorrow, let each tear echo the depth of your love.  
When memories burn your eyes, that burning is the fire of this  
Love,  
And when you smile, it is the contented smile of peace.  
When your tears fall, be not ashamed,  
The tears of grief are the tears of true love.  
Love and peace are the only truths we can be sure of,  
And these strangers we adopt and take to our hearts, are the  
Purest of all love,  
And their love will bring you peace.  
But my friend, when their time with us is over,  
We must search our heart and soul for the love they have placed  
In our trust,  
Let them return to their creator surrounded by that love,  
For love is the only truth that can be given away freely,  
Yet still can remain in our hearts for eternity.

May we be granted the strength to care for our sick and needy  
Friends, and may all our prayers be answered swiftly-with love  
And compassion:

For it is true that in love we find that strength,  
In our souls we nurture our compassion,  
And in our hearts our prayers are born.  
As we look into the eyes of those we love so dearly,  
May we see into the very heart of our maker,  
And may he see through their eyes into our hearts and grant us  
Our Prayers.

**Amen.**

Love and Peace - Man and Animals,  
Eternal Friends-Eternal Companions.

## No Guilt

My heart is all yours, this you already know.  
There is no other creature that I could love more.  
Whenever you smile, you know I smile too,  
And when you are sad, I will cry for you.  
When you're alone, I will always be there,  
When you feel so un-loved, you know that I care.

I am not perfect, I will do some things wrong,  
I will make you angry - but not for too long.  
If I chew your slippers, or dig up your lawn,  
I know you'll forgive me, and welcome me home.  
You forgive me the things that make you so mad,  
And you love me so much, even when I am bad.

How many times have you tripped over me?  
When its dark and you're tired and you cannot see.  
Not once have I thought that you were to blame,  
No matter what, I will love you the same.  
If you've made me squeal out and stood on my paw,  
You never meant to hurt me; it was an accident, I know.

When the short time I have has come to an end,  
I know you'll be there, for you are my friend.  
You will not let me suffer, for your love is so true,  
And you'll know in your heart, it's the right thing to do.  
So please don't feel guilty, when you must let me go,  
I never will blame you, for loving me so.

## The Greatest Gift

(My 'Buddy')

The greatest gift is the one you don't see,  
The gift that comes from the heart of me,  
The gift of love is for all to share  
All I ask my friend is that you care.  
Feed me well and treat me kind,  
For a love like mine you will never find  
Not even from your human friends  
Will you find a love that never ends.

I will never judge the things you do  
Nor will I ever make you blue  
By your side I will stay until its time to go  
For my dearest human, "I love you so".  
I'll fill your heart with joy and smiles  
And together we'll walk for miles and miles.  
I will never falter from this path that I take  
I'll be loyal and true, I will never forsake.

I will patiently sit or lay at your feet,  
While on your computer you type, to the friends that  
You meet,  
But once in a while take your eyes from the screen  
Then gently touch me, let me know I am seen.  
Please know this, my human; I will not be here long,  
In just a few short years I will be gone  
A lifetime for me is but a moment for you  
Please give some more time for this friend who is true.

Look into my eyes, you will see to my soul  
Without you, my Human, I am nothing at all,  
When the time comes, and my soul must depart  
Your eyes will shed tears; you'll have pain in your heart  
Feelings of guilt will tear at your mind  
But my Human, you were perfect - you treated me kind.  
So waste not a moment, that you may spend it with me,  
For each moment we share lasts for eternity.

*For Brandy*

## Take me Home

Before you pass by my pen, please look at me,  
I see you have grief, but I can set your heart free.  
I know you have lost your loving best friend,  
But if you take me home, I'll help your heart mend.  
I won't ever expect you will love me as much,  
I just need your company and your soft gentle touch.

I was thrown in the streets and abandoned by man,  
But if I can still love, then you surely can.  
I wandered the city in the cold and the rain,  
Hoping a Human would love me again.  
The Human that took me when I was a pup,  
Lost his wife and his job, he was down on his luck.

I do not blame him for throwing me out,  
He had his reasons - I have no doubt,  
The days turned to weeks as I wandered alone,  
With despair in my heart, I could never go home.  
I grew very weak from hunger and cold,  
And 'o' how I longed for a Human to hold.

Then one day when I could take no more pain,  
A rescuer came and held me again,  
He brought me to this place and gave me a meal,  
A warm bed to sleep in, he helped my heart heal.  
But many pass me by; they don't look to my soul,  
My love is still there, I will give you it all.

So look into my eyes before you pass by,  
I can feel all the pain in each tear that you cry.  
Please let my warm tongue, kiss your heartache away,  
I'll be faithful and loving, by your side I will stay.  
So please don't pass by and say "never again"  
There is love in your heart - that is why you feel pain.

## My Final day

You were the one, from when we first met,  
Our spirits were joined; in stone this was set.  
And this will not change when I leave your side,  
You will know we are one, by the tears you have cried.  
Not once in my life will you feel alone,  
But when I have gone, your heart will be torn.

While I am young, enjoy me at play,  
And please do not think of my final day.  
In my eyes you will see no sadness or tears,  
For I will enjoy every moment; for all of our years.  
Don't ever think that we are so dumb,  
We know that each day should be filled up with fun.

You cannot prepare for the sadness you face,  
When I grow old and infirm, and my heart loses pace.  
All I have asked, you have given to me,  
And one day I'll ask you, "Please set me free".  
I will love you no less, for it is written in stone,  
We will always be one; you will never be alone.

So I ask you my friend, hold off on those tears,  
We have so much to do; we have so many years.  
I know, in your heart, as you hold me so near-  
That my final day; is your biggest fear.  
But remember my friend, when the time comes to part,  
Our spirits are one; I will stay in your heart.

## My First Day

As I lay so un-loved in a cold empty bed,  
I felt a soft hand caressing my head.  
“What’s this?” I thought, as I trembled with fear,  
“Where is my momma, why isn’t she here?”  
Then as you picked me up: I felt calm and okay  
The first time we met, our very first day.

You took me back home, but I still wasn’t sure,  
I was still so afraid and I wet on your floor.  
But I learned I could trust you in a very short time,  
And from that moment on your heart was all mine.  
You taught me to come, to sit and to stay,  
Our bond just grew deeper with each passing day.

You made me so happy each moment we shared,  
And not once since I met you was I ever scared.  
You’d hold my lead tightly as we walked in the park,  
And I feared not a thing, not even the dark.  
But its time now my friend to take off my lead,  
And bid me farewell for I must now be freed.

I have grown old and my fur has turned grey,  
Yet still in my mind is our very first day,  
The day that I found this love that is true,  
The day I found hope: the day I found you.  
The day that I trembled with cold and with fear,  
Now I feel your hand tremble as you hold me so near.

I see in your eyes the sadness and pain,  
Your tears falling down: like warm summer rain.  
This pain in your heart will leave you in time,  
For I will always be yours and your heart is all mine.  
Another little baby is awaiting your touch,  
Another like me: who will love you so much.

So kiss me once more and hold me so tight,  
As I soar to the bridge like an angel in flight.  
I hope you have learned that love is to share,  
And another like me needs your special care.  
Alone and un-loved: it will need your loving hand  
I love you my friend, and know you understand.

## My Human

Why does your heart feel so much pain?  
Don't you know, my Human, you'll see me again?  
In the far distant future, your name will be called,  
You will see, my Human, I am no longer old.  
Here at the Bridge, we are healthy and young,  
And I will greet you, my Human, with my warm loving  
Tongue.

Why do your eyes shed so many tears?  
Don't you remember, my Human, all our happy years?  
Just think of the times we were happy at play,  
And know that you'll hold me, in the future, one day.  
I will play at the Bridge, until in the distance I hear...  
Your footsteps approaching as your time gets near.

Why does this guilt tear at your mind?  
From love, my Human, your action was kind.  
Age and ill health had taken my heart,  
So you made the right choice, and allowed us to part.  
In spirit I stayed in your heart and your soul,  
In your mind you will see me, each time you call.

Why do you sink to the depths of despair?  
I am still here, my Human, my love is still there,  
From your sight I have gone, but I'm not far away,  
I am here at the Bridge; you will see me one day.  
My spirit is free, yet is in your heart too,  
My Human, My Human, don't you see 'I love you'?

## The Candle

Take my hand, can you feel? It trembles as we cry,  
Squeeze it tightly, shed your tears, and let this moment  
By,  
Feel my strength, and watch the flame of the candle  
That we light, and together this grief we feel, all of us  
Will fight.  
Be not afraid of this darkness that you see,  
Let the light of this candle, show the way for you and  
Me.

The flickering dance of the candle's warm flame,  
Will remind you that love will always remain  
So remember the ones who have gone from your sight  
And be healed by the glow of the candle's soft light.  
When the crying is over for the baby you miss,  
As you blow out the candle, you blow them a kiss.

## Odd Creature

'O' my you look strange, who cut off your fur?  
I don't mean to laugh, I'm sorry to stare.  
Your face is all flat; you look such a fool,  
I've wet myself laughing, just look at this pool.  
Of all of the creatures I've seen at this place,  
You are the strangest, with the ugliest face.

Such a sight I've not seen, not ever before,  
Forgive my laughter as I roll on the floor.  
What's that I hear? You make a strange noise,  
It's a bit like a bark and a squeak from those toys.  
You've come a little closer, now I'm laughing so much,  
You really are ugly, but you have a nice touch.

You walk really odd, tell me, have you been hurt?  
I should not laugh at you, I shouldn't be curt.  
You may be in pain; you just don't look right,  
I'm sorry for laughing, but you do look a sight.  
I think, given time, I can accept you this way,  
As I know you will love me forever and a day.

I will love and protect you; you'll be my best friend,  
I'll be proud of your strangeness till our time's at an end.  
I see in your eyes you have so much to give,  
I'm glad that you chose me, and with you I will live.  
I'll make some mistakes and I will do some things wrong,  
But you will always forgive me, for your love is so strong.

Even though you are ugly and strange, I won't care,  
I'll not laugh anymore at your lack of fur.  
I know I'll be safe, for I have been told,  
But I still think you're ugly, 'man' you are bald.  
My mamma just said, you are beautiful inside,  
And that you are a Human and your heart I must guard

## Strange Paws

Where are you my Zella? Where are you my friend?  
I thought you would stay with me right to the end,  
My 'humans' are talking, they are telling me things,  
But I don't know the words of these 'Human' beings.  
Who is this 'God' in whose arms that you lay?  
And who are the 'Angels' that took you away?  
If I knew where they lived, I would tear down their door,  
And bring you home safe to leave never more.

'Humans' are strange, no fur on their paws,  
They walk on two legs, instead of all fours,  
When I look in their eyes I see so much pain,  
Don't they know that I love them? Shall I tell them again?  
When I blink my eyes slow, it means 'I love you'  
Do they understand me? I'm sure that they do.

I know that they love me; I can feel in their touch,  
When their paws stroke my head, I can feel it so much.  
So why do they cry? They should be looking for 'God',  
For he has my Zella, don't he have his own dog?

I don't like the cold and I'm not very brave,  
But I'd face anything, if my Zella it would save.  
I would lay down my life for my 'Humans' too,  
For my love is so strong, unconditional and true.

When my 'Humans' strange paws tickle my ears,  
I feel safe and loved, without any fears,  
They talk to me softly and keep me well fed,  
But I don't understand when they say "Zella's dead"  
So if you can hear me, my Zella, my mate,  
I'll wait for you always, by our garden gate.

(To Zella, from your Brandy)

## Our Day

One set of paw prints stretch down the beach -  
Where once there was two, you are just out of reach.  
Each step that I take, each stone that I turn  
Reminds me of you, and my eyes sting and burn,  
Each wave that rolls in, each stick that I throw,  
Reminds me of you, and my tears start to flow.

Your other companion keeps his nose to the ground,  
Searching and searching till you he has found.  
He can't understand where you have gone,  
He wants you back home, where you belong.  
I look in his eyes and see to his soul,  
He misses you Zella, and his tears start to fall.

I know that in silence you walk by my side,  
Catching the tears that I try to hide.  
Not a bark, not a sound, as you run with me still,  
Not a stone is disturbed as I climb up the hill.  
From the first light of dawn to the darkness of night,  
I know you are with me, so this grief I must fight.

Down the lane I will walk, but I wont hear your steps,  
They are cushioned with love,  
From my heart's deepest depths.  
I won't hear your bark, nor see your face,  
But deep in my soul will be your special place.  
I will look to the sky and call out your name  
There will be tears in my heart till we meet again.

We've travelled life's highway since the first light of dawn,  
With you by my side I was never alone.  
We played in the sunshine and sheltered from rain,  
We ran through the grasslands and walked down the lane.

And then in your twilight we'd sit by the fire,  
For age has its price, and you would soon tire.  
The night is now here and I walk all alone,  
The Angels have taken you for their very own.  
So have a safe journey, my companion, my friend,  
This day will return, but never shall end.

## Look for me

Dad can you see me? I'm here at your feet,  
I lay down beside you, while you are asleep,  
Dad can you hear me? I'm barking so loud,  
Please stop your crying, you used to be proud.  
When we used to play, you'd laugh till you cried,  
But the tears you cry now have taken your pride.

Dad I am here, just reach out and touch,  
Let me dry all your tears, I love you so much,  
Dad you must listen with your heart not your mind,  
The grief makes you deaf; your tears make you blind.  
You used to be strong; you used to walk tall,  
You don't laugh anymore, when your tears start to fall.

Dad I am here, please why can't you see?  
When you see fleeting shadows, Dad, that is me.  
Dad I am shouting, so why cant you hear?  
Those un-explained noises are nothing to fear.  
It's only me Dad; I'm trying to come through,  
I just want to say, "Dad, I love you"

## The journey

As I sit by the place where we laid you to rest,  
The pain of your loss is like a knife in my chest,  
I touch the cold earth and I feel you are near,  
Then I walk away slowly and leave you a tear.  
The wind strokes my face and the tree drops a leaf,  
Is that you I can hear? No, it's only my grief.

This place they call grief is a very strange land,  
As I walk down its path, will you take my hand?  
Its dark and so cold and I don't know the way,  
Please walk with me Zella - please will you stay?  
This path of despair I so carefully walk,  
Is full of poor souls with hearts that are broke,

Will you be my guide? Will you help me through?  
I am blinded by tears that I cry for you.  
If I stumble and fall will you still be there?  
Will you carry my tears on your lovely soft fur?  
Will you cradle my heart? Will you lift me up high?  
Will you help me to see through these tears that I cry?

If I grow weary and tired and sit down to rest,  
Will you keep me safe with your paws on my chest?  
If I sleep for a while, will you watch over me?  
Guarding my heart from the things I don't see.  
They say just ahead there is hope and there's light,  
They are not far away they are just out of sight,

They say there's a place with meadows and fields,  
A place where there's love and the broken heart heals,  
They say there's a river that flows for all time,  
A river of tears from the one's left behind.

A bridge spans the river designed from above,  
Painted with rainbows, built of dreams and of love,  
So Zella my sweetheart will you take my hand?  
And lead me back home through this dark lonely land.

## Forgive Us

Do you forgive us for letting you go?  
Do you understand we could do no more?  
Do you forgive us for making that choice?  
Were you soothed by the sound of our heartbroken voice?

We just couldn't bear to see you in pain,  
We believe that one day we'll see you again,  
When the vet said, "I'm sorry, there's nothing to do"  
We had to be brave and let go of you.

We're sorry for crying, you must have hurt too,  
Watching our tears as they fell down on you.  
We tried to be strong; we tried not to cry,  
But it tore at our hearts, watching you die.

We chose to stay with you right to the end,  
Cos' Zella my princess, you were more than a friend,  
'Our baby girl' that's what you were,  
When we needed you most, you always were there.

You were a gift from nature, a gift from above,  
A gift of true friendship, a gift of true love  
When we look back in time to the fun we all had  
We laugh and we cry, we are happy and sad.  
So Zella my love, we just need to know,  
Do you forgive us for letting you go?

## Zella

Our sweetheart, our princess, our little baby girl,  
To us my darling you meant the world.  
Our love and our memories will never fade out,  
Of this we are sure, of this there's no doubt.  
When we first saw you, it was love at first sight,  
With your spindly legs, and your eyes 'o' so bright.

For the next thirteen years you were loyal and true,  
Our sweetheart our Zella, we belonged to you.  
When you were a puppy you wet on my knee,  
From that moment on, you were a big part of me.  
At the seaside and Hessle we'd run and we'd play,  
Digging and swimming till the end of the day.

You'd play with your brush, or play hide and seek,  
Then 'natter' and 'boss' us to give you a treat.  
You could count up to six when we played with the ball,  
You'd bark and then catch it as it bounced off the wall.  
Then we'd play 'next game' - with the ball you would run,  
And we'd have to chase you - we had lots of fun.

Even in winter there was fun to be had,  
You'd play in the snow with Mam and with Dad  
You loved to go out for a ride in the car,  
You didn't care where, how near or how far,  
You'd sit in the front whenever you could,  
Looking so proud and feeling so good.

You were clever and special - you knew many words,  
You tilted your head at all the things that you heard.  
We have so many memories, it's like you've always been  
There, - Yet our time seemed so short, it just isn't fair.  
Your corner is empty; our hearts feel the same,  
Our tears keep on falling like the cold winter rain.

If a wish could be granted, if a dream could come true,  
It would be to be happy; it would be to see you.  
Our eyes scan the garden and we feel such despair,  
Expecting to see you, but you are not there.  
Each time we go out and walk down the lane,  
We feel you are with us, and call out your name.

We are privileged and lucky to have shared in your life,  
Now the pain of your loss just cuts like a knife,  
But we thank you my darling for the years that we had,  
For the love that you gave, we truly are glad.  
When the gold autumn leaves dance round our feet,  
We'll think it is you, as our hearts skip a beat.

When the warm summer breeze caresses our face,  
We'll think it is you, as our hearts start to race....  
As our tears fell down on your pretty little face,  
We knew you would carry them to a far away place,  
To Rainbow Bridge where you'll run and you'll play,  
Till we all meet again some other day.

We have so many memories, too many to write,  
Sleep peacefully Zella, our sweetheart, goodnight.

## Permission to love

Zella my Princess, you know me so well,  
Whether happy or sad, you always could tell.  
When you had to leave, my sunshine went too,  
The smile left my face, the day I lost you.  
My heart was all full of sadness and woe,  
My happiness went, when you had to go.

Each day that dawns, I still miss you so,  
Each night that falls, my tears start to flow.  
Your 'Brandy's' heart is as heavy as mine,  
And still we keep searching, should you give us a sign.  
We think that a sign has been sent as a gift,  
A new little life - to heal this great rift.

An Angel has come; did you send her here?  
To give your Dad love, so I don't shed a tear?  
Sweetheart I thank you for sending this girl  
But Princess you know, you still are my world.  
I will cherish and love her; you know that I will,  
But my Zella you know, that I love you still.

Brandy is happy; she has captured his heart,  
He knows you have sent her; he is so smart.  
The sun in my heart, is beginning to shine,  
And my smile is returning, as she becomes mine.  
We called her 'Katie' and told her of you,  
But I feel in my heart, she already knew.

Zella my sweetheart, I know you so well,  
And in my heart you always will dwell.  
But I need to know that you're ok with this,  
For I still cry for you, when Katie gives me a kiss.  
Do I have your blessing to take her into my heart?  
For she needs a Dad, she needs a new start.

*For Katie*

## The spirit of my Wolf

I remember the day the wolf entered my heart,  
It was the day I was born, he was there from the start.  
With patience he sat in the depths of my soul.  
Quietly waiting till he heard the call.  
And as my heart broke and he heard the sound,  
He leapt to my side with an almighty bound.

He was there at my side each time my heart broke,  
And now through my Zella, his spirit has spoke.  
As I opened my heart, he opened my eyes  
And I could see clearly, the strength of our ties.  
As I stumble through life, many times will I fall,  
But I know that his spirit will be there when I call.

They say that a man, is judged by his deeds,  
By the company he keeps, by the life that he leads.  
The spirit of the wolf, is the company I keep,  
I am proud he is there; to help those I meet.  
It's took many years to see through this mist,  
To punch through this veil, using love, not a fist.

On this road we all travel, I'll be your guide,  
For I can see clearly, no heartbreak can hide.  
With my soul I will fight, my heart is a sword,  
To defend you from pain, as you pass down grief's road.  
So I tell you my friends, the wolf knows my soul,  
He makes me walk proud; he makes me walk tall.

## Ode to the wolf

The wolf stands proud so strong and alert,  
Searching for souls that are torn or are hurt.  
With selfless compassion he stands ready to fight,  
To drive away tears; to make the wrongs right.  
In silence he waits until he hears the sad call,  
Of a heart that is breaking and a tear drop to fall.

When the tears fill your eyes and you cant see the way,  
He'll be there at your side, in your heart he will stay.  
When your heart has stopped aching and your tears at an  
End, The wolf will not leave you; he is forever your friend.  
Many myths have been told of the wolf and his pack,  
Filling us with fear, sending shivers down our back.

'A wolf in sheep's clothing' is quite often said,  
But they are 'Angels in wolf's clothing',  
They shouldn't fill us with dread.  
The wolf's heart is pure, no malice nor greed,  
They would lay down their life, for a soul that's in need.  
But remember my friend; the wolf is no fool,  
He can see through your soul, like a clear crystal pool

The compassion he shows is a valuable gift,  
And you will turn to the wolf, when you're heart is adrift.  
So never abuse the wisdom they give,  
They have so much to teach us, on the way we should live.  
So be like the wolf, so proud and so strong.  
Give love to the needy and the wolf shall live on.

## Miss You

The warmth of your fur, the depth of your eyes,  
The touch of your paw, the times daddy cries.  
The laughs that we had, the games that we played,  
The cuddles we shared, in the place where you laid.  
The memories I have still make me so blue,  
My darling, my Zella, I really miss you.

The days on the beach, when we sat on the sand,  
Watching the waves, with your paw in my hand.  
Then go for a swim, even when it was cold,  
You were so full of life, even when you were old.  
These memories I have, in my heart they will stay,  
My Sweetheart, my Zella, I miss you today.

The days you were ill, I'd lie by your side,  
I'd try to be strong, but God knows I cried.  
If time could reverse, it would stop all my pain,  
To share all these things; again and again.  
If just one more time, I could feel your soft touch,  
My Princess, my Zella, I miss you so much.

## Rainbow Christmas

The cold winter chill has brought forth the snow,  
When you flew to the bridge, I fell to the floor.  
Time's a great healer, or so they all say,  
But a tear falls for you each night and each day.  
Tis the season of hope, when a saviour was born,  
But for what can I hope when I still feel alone?

Presents and cards from friends rarely seen,  
Do they understand what love really means?  
You taught me that love can last for all time,  
Your heart and your soul were truly mine.  
As I sit by the fire and watch dancing flames,  
Your warm treasured memories are all that remains.

In the soft evening glow, I'll drink my mulled wine,  
I'll gaze in the fire and look back in time,  
The times by the tree when you'd un-wrap a gift,  
The look in your eyes would make my heart lift.  
We would look through the window and watch the ice  
Form,  
We were safe in our house, so cosy and warm.

So I'll light you a candle and raise my glass high,  
And drink to your memory with a tear in my eye.  
So 'cheers' now my Sweetheart, and thank you so much,  
For the love that you gave, my soul you did touch.  
'Merry Christmas' my Zella - and to all of your friends,  
Please tell them my 'Princess' that love never ends.

## Three Little Angels

Three little Angels were sent with a task,  
To teach how to love is all they would ask.  
They chose the same mom, then flew down to earth  
But at all different times was their moment of birth  
This difference in age just had to be so  
There was one still to love, when another had to go

Tiffany came first, and what a sweet girl,  
In my bed on the left my Tiffany would curl,  
She knew there were others, who needed my love,  
More little Angels, to come from above.  
Her path was mapped out, her mission was clear,  
To light up the way, for the others so dear.

As sure as the sun will rise every dawn,  
Another little Angel was soon after born,  
My 'lover boy' Bandit was next to arrive  
And like all puppies should, he made me feel so alive,  
Tiffany would teach him all that she knew  
How to make mommy happy; and never feel blue.

Bandit was the boss, and such a boy too  
He hated to bath and everyone knew,  
He had his own place where he would lay  
'Neath the lilac bush, each fine spring day.  
He'd patrol and protect like a soldier so brave,  
And would have laid down his life, if us it would save.

Even my friend whose campaign had been tough,  
He came to her dreams when she'd had enough,  
He said that he knew she was important to me,  
So he was ready to guard, and to set her stress free.  
“When you have self doubt just call me, I'm here,  
I'll be there at your side, to chase away fear”

As Tiffany grew old, a stroke took her sight,  
Her task was fulfilled, she taught Bandit right.  
Then just as the frost can steal the sun's crown,  
The Angels took her back, so another could come down.  
After a while my third Angel did come,  
A really wild child, I became Scarlett's mum.

A flaming red-head, with a spirit the same,  
Now Bandit was teacher, and this girl he would tame.  
Feelings of guilt would tear at my mind,  
Until in a dream my Tiffany I would find.  
Rolling Scarlet right up to my feet  
And saying no other could ever compete.

She knew that her love was safe in my heart  
And I could give Scarlett a new life, and a new start.  
She said every pup deserved a mom just like me,  
So Scarlett became Angel number three.  
She said that sometime she would visit us more,  
A kiss and a smile, then she had to go.

Time passed so quickly, and Bandit grew old,  
On my right he would lay and his head I would hold,  
My love was so true and I wanted him to know,  
So I said I would help him, if he needed to go  
No more could he walk, he could barely stand up,  
'Twas his time to cross over and become a young pup

I saw through a dream, he did not cross alone,  
Tiffany was there to welcome him home.  
With each step he took, he grew younger and strong,  
With Tiffany and the others cheering him along.  
He said he felt healthy, so fit and so fine,  
And he would come back for Scarlett, when it was her time.

So now it is just little Scarlett and me,  
The last of my Angels - the last of the three,  
And one day I'm sure we will all re-unite  
And soar through the skies, we are angels in flight,  
Until then my darlings, take this love that I send,  
My trilogy of Angels - this love never ends.

*Dedicated to Tiffany, Bandit and Scarlett*

## Shelby

My sweet Shelby girl, my loved precious one,  
You will stay in my heart, you will never be gone  
The life that we shared, are the memories I keep,  
You will stay in my heart, you never will sleep.  
Though you play at the bridge, you will dance in my heart,  
I know in my soul we never shall part.

As the years roll by, you will always be there,  
In my heart, in my soul, in the memories we share,  
You were sent with a message of hope and of love,  
You were sent by the Angels, you were sent from above,  
You taught me well, my lessons were learned  
So now to the Angels, you have returned

And so Shelby girl till we meet again,  
In my heart and my soul you will remain,  
Many years will pass by until I get the call  
But I know that for you, time means nothing at all  
At my side you will wait, at my feet you will curl  
In my heart you will stay, my sweet Shelby girl.

*Dedicated to Shelby - Debbie's Angel of Fur*

## Message to my mom

I am sending this message to my Human mum,  
All the years that we had were 'O' so much fun,  
You gave me a life that was so full of love,  
And you know I still see you from my place up above.

I can still hear your voice; can you hear my bark?  
I am always there with you, just look to your heart.  
I'm happy and playing and once again whole,  
Because of your love, mom, you gave me it all.

I know your heart breaks; I'm missing you too,  
But there's one thing more I need you to do,  
Take care of your heart, live happy and long,  
I will wait here forever; I will wait for you mom.

So lift up your head and dry all your tears,  
I want your life to last for many more years.  
Be happy for me, I have found a friend here,  
Another like me, who her Human holds dear.

Through her Human she has sent this message from me.  
To dry all your tears; and set your guilt free.  
I asked her permission to tell you her name,  
So you know it is me and I am the same.  
She said, "It's ok, go on and tell her"  
The name of my friend is Steve's Princess Zella.

## Lady

'O' my 'Lady', my 'Little old girl',  
You had our hearts in such a whirl,  
Your eyes said, "Please, I want to stay"  
But we knew you were close to your final day.  
For thirteen years you were treated cruel,  
That man you were with was such a fool,  
He never had the pleasure of your truest love,  
But I know that we did and we thank God above.

Thank you Lady for our seven years,  
You made us so happy, but now we have tears,  
You were faithful and true and we loved you so,  
Our hearts broke in two when you had to go.

The night that we found you was bitterly cold,  
You collapsed in my arms and I knew you were old,  
Everyone thought you wouldn't survive,  
But we did all we could to keep you alive.  
It took many months for your trust to gain,  
To teach you a hand is for pleasure, not pain,

We tickled your ears and gave you a hug,  
When your faith had returned you gave us your love.  
The months turned to years; we had so much fun,  
By our sides you would walk, and with 'Zella' you'd run.

But the years seemed to go in the blink of an eye,  
It was all much too soon that you had to die.  
You're spirit will live in our hearts all our days,  
You were a 'gentle old soul' with wonderful ways,  
Your home was your oyster, and you were it's pearl,  
Sleep peaceful my darling- 'Our Lady', 'Our little old girl'

*For 'Lady'*

## My Sweet Lady

My sweet little lady, my sweet little girl,  
To us my 'babe', you meant the world,  
The day we first saw you, it just felt so right,  
You went straight to our hearts; it was 'love at first sight'

You waited and waited alone in that pen,  
Until someone came by who would love you again,  
I'm glad it was us that you chose to love,  
If we hadn't have met, you would have been sent back  
Above.

The bond that we shared was stronger than steel,  
My friend you were faithful, your love was so real,  
And what a surprise that you had in store,  
You were carrying new life, but we didn't know,

All that we did was with a heart that is true,  
And I'm sorry for what happened to your 'Mary Lou'  
I know you forgave me, but I still felt so bad,  
You still gave me comfort all the times I was sad.

Your sweet smiling face was such a delight  
You would run with such grace, like an Angel in flight,  
With the rest of your pack we would walk in the park,  
And at Shelby, Mandy and Bagel, You'd bark.

You were the boss; they knew that for sure,  
If they stepped out of line you would growl really low,  
I can still hear your voice; all my memories will last,  
I still hear you howl at the siren that passed.  
These past fourteen years have gone much too fast,  
But you will live in my heart, and my love, it will last.

The time drifted by and you became old,  
Our days of sunshine began to grow cold  
I can feel in my heart that you are not very far,  
Just the breadth of a tear, just the length of a star,  
So I bid you safe journey, though I wish you'd have stayed,  
I love you my lady, sleep peaceful my babe.

*Dedicated to Lady 'Babe' Wilson*  
*(1989-2006)*

## Sweep

My brave little Sweep, my bodyguard and friend,  
I thought our days never would end.  
You made us all laugh, you made us all weep,  
Dancing around on your pretty little feet.  
Even the vet, who you hated so much,  
Would laugh as you growled when he tried to touch

Like an innocent child, you thought it was fun,  
To tease the poor cat with your squeaker, then run.  
You knew it was naughty, annoying holly like that,  
So up she would get and jump on your back.  
It wasn't much fun when her claws caused you pain,  
But it was fun anyway, "So I'll do it again"

"Time to play catch, so I'll jump on my mum,  
Then she'll give me a cuddle, this is just so much fun"  
Mum is so happy when this black ball of fur,  
Just hurtles through space and flies through the air.  
"Then running away and hiding from you,  
Will you come find me? I hope that you do"

How the years have gone by, you don't notice at first,  
Until the time comes, when your poor heart must burst.  
My coat was once black, as a dark moonless night,  
Then age made it silver like a star 'o' so bright.  
Our memories are sweet; they will last for all time,  
They will stay in our hearts, come rain or come shine.

If Sweep could speak, I know he would say,  
"Your love was so precious, for your heart I will pray,  
Hold tight to those days, the good times and bad,  
I understand mum how you are so sad,  
But look to your heart, for I will always be there,  
And again you will feel that sunrise we share."

## Sweep's Wings

It seems so long since you were here with me,  
So very long since you sat on my knee,  
But I still feel your love so deep in my heart,  
My darling, my Sweep, we never did part.  
When you were a baby, I was one too,  
Like a brother and sister, together we grew.

What times we would have, the 'arguments' and fun,  
Sometimes you'd bite me, and then you would run.  
But I know that deep down; you loved me so much,  
My darling, my Sweep, my heart you did touch.  
You were my little brother, in the guise of a dog,  
You were sent as a gift, you were sent here by God.

The time has now come, my dear little 'bro'  
I know in my heart, that I must let you go,  
You now have the wings that the Angels have gave,  
For the sake of my heart, I must now be brave.  
So fly to the bridge, for I now set you free,  
Be happy my brother, be happy for me.

*'Sweep' and 'Sweep's Wings' are dedicated to  
'Sweep'*

## My sweet Boule de Laine

Boule de Laine, my sweet precious thing,  
How could I know all the joy you could bring?  
My big ball of love, the loneliness went,  
The day that we met, the day you were sent.  
With a kitty like 'Rrrrrr' "I'm here Mom" you'd say  
As you welcomed me home, in my arms you would lay.

Like the shadow I cast, you were there all the while,  
My little 'fur' clown, you did make me smile.  
You'd tease me and please me, my sweet Boule de Laine,  
'O' how I wish you back in my arms once again.  
Bath time was fun; you would not lay and soak,  
You would strut up and down, and do your 'Moon walk'.

You thought it was fun to tease me so much,  
As your cute little paws would reach out and touch.  
On the bathroom counter, you would patiently sit,  
Waiting and waiting for just one Q-Tip.  
Like a young majorette, you would throw it up high,  
Then catch it again as it fell from the sky.

I remember the time when you peeked through the door,  
One eye at a time was all that I saw,  
Then you twisted your head so I could see both your eyes,  
My how I laughed; what a funny surprise.  
In your short little life, there was so much we shared,  
And my sweet Boule de Laine, you know that I cared.

So great was my love, that I broke my own heart,  
By giving you peace, as I let you depart.  
Deep in my soul, I know it is true,  
That you do not blame me, for what I had to do.  
You can see all my tears; you can feel all my pain,  
And you know that I loved you, my sweet Boule de Laine.

*For Boule de Laine*

## The dream

(A Short Story)

One day while the Bridge Keeper was doing his rounds, filling up the water and food bowls, he noticed a new Furbaby sat under a tree weeping great tears. He Approached and asked why she cried so, she told him that her Human companion had sent her to this place to be happy and have fun, but she told him, her Human didn't join her there, so she looked back to see where he was, "My Human would always laugh when he saw me playing", she said, "But now I look at him and he is crying and his heart is broken, I think he must be displeased with me for playing. I have tried to run to him but I can't seem to get back and give him comfort, so I sat under this tree hoping he would see me".

The Bridge Keeper explained to the furbaby what had happened and that her Human will be with her again one day. He told her of the braveness her Human had shown by sending her to the bridge.

"How can I help him if I can't go to him?" she asked, "I know his heart better than anyone, and I can see he is thinking about doing something very silly to stop his heart from hurting". The Bridge Keeper told her that she would always be able to walk by her Human's side, but he would not see her, and that she would not be able to touch his hand until he joins her at the bridge, but she would be able to touch his heart, this he would feel, as joy and sadness, in the years to come.

"But" said the furbaby, "how can I be happy here while I worry about his very life"?

"Ok" said the Bridge Keeper, "there is a way, I can allow you to visit your Human in a dream, you will be able to talk to him as you talk to me now, but when the dream is over you must return here" - "I agree," she said.

She closed her eyes, and when she opened them again she was in a field with her Human and chasing a ball, they played for what seemed like hours. They both sat down beneath a tree and the furbaby spoke.

She told her Human that this was a dream and that he will wake up from it soon, but there were some things he needed to know.

She looked deep into his eyes and told him how much she loves him and that she understands why he had to send her to the bridge.

"I love you Dad" she said, "I have been given two wonderful gifts, the first one was being sent to you all those years ago, all my time on earth you took care of my every need, you gave me your heart and soul and in the end your love was so strong that rather than watch me in pain, you took all that pain into your own heart and sent me to the bridge where I am young and healthy again. You are much braver than me, I would have laid down my life for you, but, I could not have been brave enough to have sent you to a better place, I thank you so much for that, you are my hero".

She continued, "When we first met, did you not feel that it was right for us to be together? And when I went to the bridge, did you not feel the most terrible wrench in your heart?"

There is a reason for this, from the dawn of time our souls have been together, in one lifetime or another we have always been together, and so it will continue for all time. Some souls are attached to more than one other, some have many souls who are together in various lifetimes, that is why you can feel this deep sense of love for more than one other creature".

As time moved on, the furbaby realized she must soon go back to the bridge and her Human must wake from his dream and go about his business.

As they both sat and stared at the most beautiful sunset they had ever seen, her Human's eyes grew heavy, the furbaby blinked slowly at him and said, "It's time now my precious Human, I must return, and you must sleep again so that you may wake from this dream"

Her Human nodded and said that he understood, and asked the furbaby what her second gift was, she told him the second gift was to be able to come into his dream and tell him all these things.

She stared into his loving eyes once more and said, "Before I return I want you to know this - wherever you are, Whatever you are doing, I will always be at your side, you will not see me, but you will feel me from time to time".

A bright, beautiful rainbow arced across the sky and as the Human closed his eyes, the furbaby started to sing a lullaby, her voice was the sweetest sound her Human had ever heard. He drifted back into a deep sleep and the furbaby quietly walked toward the rainbow.

**The words she sang to him were these:**

From where I am I see your pain,  
For I still walk beside you.  
Your tears fall down like winter rain,  
But I still walk beside you.

You ask for my forgiveness friend,  
Yet I still walk beside you.  
But my time on earth was at an end.  
And still I walk beside you.

My heart was yours and yours was mine,  
So I still walk beside you.  
You ask if I can give a sign,  
Don't you see, I walk beside you?

From the dawn of time our souls were one,  
I've always walked beside you.  
And even though my body's gone,  
Just look, I walk beside you.

You're my life, my soul, my very being,  
That's why I walk beside you.  
You look and look not really seeing,  
But I'm here - I walk beside you.

## A Moment of Love

A moment of love can last for all time,  
And with one gentle word, you were all mine,  
Alone in that pen, I saw your soft eyes,  
You captured my heart with your pitiful cries.  
Your fur was all matted - you were such a mess,  
At that moment of love- the one word was “Yes”

I brushed you and fed you, then gave you a bath,  
Then you ran round the room, you did make us laugh.  
You trembled with fear, if I moved my hand fast,  
My dear little one, what had happened in your past?  
It would take many months for your trust to gain,  
To teach you a hand is for pleasure – not pain.

It didn't take long for you to work out,  
That my heart was all yours: without any doubt.  
Then what a reward when you finally knew  
That my love was sincere; and I would never harm you.  
You gave me a gift, one of love and of trust,  
The gift of your friendship, from dawn until dusk.

We've had many years now, and had so much fun  
Those dusty old photos show what we have done  
My, how time flies, yet it don't seem so long –  
Since we romped in the fields – where's our time gone?  
All much too soon, you will be called up above,  
So lets share this one moment – this moment of love.

## A Thousand Tears

A thousand times I said I love you, but only once I said  
Goodbye, years of love and happiness, now all I do is cry,  
A thousand times we kissed goodnight, but only once we  
Kissed Farewell,  
My days with you were heavenly, but now my life is hell.  
A thousand times I held you close,  
But only once I let you go,  
Your cherished soul is in my heart,  
You will leave me never more.

A thousand times I said a prayer - only one was answered  
True, to take away the pain you felt - then to the bridge  
You flew.  
A thousand years will come and go, but only one of you,  
So many times I've said "No more", and yet I always do.  
A thousand little furry babes, one thing is all they crave,  
To have a Mom or have a Dad, to share this love we  
Save.

A thousand people pass me by, but only one can see my  
Tears, You are the one who reads my words, who sees  
Beyond my fears.  
A thousand times I felt alone, my one true friend had left,  
My swollen eyes just could not see: my soul was so bereft-  
A thousand friends surrounded me, not one would leave my  
Side, So many other creatures were here, through all the  
Times I cried.

## My Time

Its time now my friend to let me go,  
In my eyes you see I love you so.  
Its now that we must say goodbye,  
Its time my friend for you to cry.  
In your eyes I see the love you hold,  
And now in your heart you must be bold.

Please hold me close as you let me go,  
Don't be ashamed of the tears that flow  
Our years together were perfect my friend  
This love we have shared, shall never end.  
In you I have placed my love and my trust  
You want to me stay, but leave you I must

My time here is over, and so I must leave,  
Its time now my friend for your heart to cleave  
I see a bright light and I hear Angels call  
I see love in your eyes as the tears start to fall  
I feel your strong arms, so comfy and warm,  
I feel your poor heart is so terribly torn

Your tears fall gently down on my fur  
Look to your heart, for I will always be there  
A moment or two is all that remains  
Till I draw my last breath, and your heart feels it's pains  
My final vision is of the face that I love  
“Goodbye my dear friend, till .....

## Night-mare

As I lay here awake on this cold winters dawn,  
My eyes still shut tightly; my heart feels so torn,  
My pillow still wet from the tears I have cried,  
And I scream, "O my God, my best friend has died"  
I think of your bed, so empty and cold,  
"Why God? Why God? My friend wasn't old.

It happened so quickly; you became very ill.  
And nothing would help, no medicine, no pill.  
My mind starts to race, I think of the past,  
How time has gone quickly, it went much too fast.  
The times by the fire, in the flames we would stare,  
All my problems and fears with you I would share.

You'd sit and just listen, your head on a tilt,  
Such love and such trust with you I had built.  
When I needed a friend, it was you I would seek,  
I would bear you my soul and my secrets you'd keep.  
I took you for granted; I know that I did,  
But you lived just for me, my little 'fur-kid'

I guess I should rise, and start this new day,  
How will I face it? For strength I will pray.  
As the mist of my sleep clears from my mind,  
I open my eyes, and what do I find?  
A wonderful sight, things are not what they seem,  
For you are still with me, it was only a dream.

## The Storm

Tears are the water that feeds the meadows of my heart,  
I cry and cry; for we did not want to part.  
'Longing' is the clouds that make this day so dull,  
Wishing and wishing my heart was not so full.  
I call your name with a mighty breath -  
That is the wind, which carries news of your death.

This storm in my soul is relentless and cruel,  
There is fire in my heart, and love is its fuel.  
My heart grows so cold like a deep winters day,  
My summer just ended when you went away.  
Like a raging tornado my mind spins around,  
I fall to my knees and my heart starts to pound.

This season of grief will be over one day,  
My sky will be blue and no longer grey.  
This pain that I feel is like the storm's thunder,  
Fearsome and loud, waking new life from slumber.  
When the storm passes by, a new day will start,  
And the sun will once again rise in my heart.

My heart will be freed, and my torment will end,  
I will find love again; I will find a new friend.  
You will never be gone from my soul or my heart,  
Your spirit will stay and never depart.  
After the storm of these tears that now flow,  
You will send me a sign- you will send a Rainbow.

## God's Visit to Rainbow Bridge

One day God paid a visit to the bridge, he stood on the banks of the great river talking to the Bridge keeper. The keeper asked why those Humans who are so cruel and do not love or care for the animals, are still allowed into his Kingdom. God told him that some of his Angels trade their wings for fur and come to earth to test Mans' love, some men do not love these 'Fur-Angels', yet it is true that they are granted a place in Heaven.

Those men who's hearts are touched by my Fur Angels, know the meaning of true love, but they also know the pain of it's loss, each tear they cry, I collect. With these tears I replenish the waters of this gentle river we stand beside here at the bridge, this river is a river of love.

The Bridge Keeper then asked why should man suffer the tears and pain of loss, when by not loving, and so not crying, still has a place in his kingdom. God explained, "Those men I pity, for they never know the joy of true friendship, they never feel the warmth of unconditional love. The place they hold in my kingdom is a place which reflects their own heart, and so is a cold and lonely place." "The ones who know the joy of loving my angels are the ones I give my love to, their place in my kingdom is within my own heart. These ones are also given a gift, some may not know they have it, but have it they do. This is a gift of 'sight', when they look into the eyes of one of my Fur Angels, their heart skips a beat, this is because they have seen my love and felt my hand touch their heart."

The Bridge Keeper then asked one more question, he asked God of all mans' days which day was his favourite, God replied, "My favourite day is each day that man breaks his own heart, and unselfishly sends his best friend back into my arms - this deed is done from love - the final and most precious act of love".

As God left the bridge, the keeper sat down by the banks of the river and wept, he was soon surrounded by Fur Angels who comforted him, he looked into the eyes of one of them, and truly he saw God's love.

## Minty's Dream

I cannot write a single word nor speak a sound in Human  
Voice, The only way to tell you things, is through my heart,  
I have no choice.

Through my eyes you can see what's in my heart, both the  
Love and sorrow, I can enter a dream and give a sign, but  
You will not understand until tomorrow.

When you call my name I will run away, and disappear into  
The mist of your dream,  
I see you sob and feel your tears, and it breaks my heart to  
Hear you scream,  
You are my Sister in Human form, and my Love for you  
Will never die,  
I know your little heart is broke, because you never got the  
Chance to say goodbye.

So I will come to your dreams until you are strong enough  
To say Farewell, Our spirits will remain together for  
Eternity, our love, Cemented in each tear that fell.  
Even Though I am gone from your Sight, I can still protect  
your heart from pain,  
So shed all your guilt and dry your tears, then say  
“Goodbye”, until we meet again.  
This will be my lasting gift to your broken heart, and this  
Gift will Set us free,  
So sleep now my girl and dream your dreams,  
“I love you, my Human Sister Minty”.

## Don't Think

Don't think that I left you; I am here in your heart,  
I have been here with you, right from the start.  
From the day we first met – till I took my last breath,  
From my moment of birth – to my moment of death.  
And now that my body has gone from this Earth,  
I am still here with you – as I was from my birth.

Don't think for a moment that I left your side,  
You feel I am here, by each tear cried.  
In silence I follow each step that you walk,  
I hear you soft voice, each time you talk.  
When you sleep I am with you, here at your feet,  
And one day, my friend, we will once again meet.

Don't think, my friend, that you betrayed my love,  
By letting me go, and sending me above.  
I could not stay one moment more,  
I tried to show you, by offering my paw.  
But through your tears, you could not see,  
From the moment we met, you belonged to me.

Don't think I can't see you, all the tears that you cry,  
I see your heart breaking, as your chest heaves a sigh.  
I feel all your sadness, and I know you miss me,  
But my friend I am happy, I am now running free.  
So look through your tears, reach out with your heart,  
I'm still here my friend - as I was from the start.

