

**This Wild Beauty**  
**by Nikki Everts-Hammond**

This beauty plagues me of an afterthought  
Dreamt once upon a distant afternoon  
Lingers there the aroma briefly caught  
Of wisdom lost and found again too soon

Flirtatious truth evades my grasping wit  
But still I seek for depths unsung  
As the blind man turns his face to it,  
The unseen warmth of a prodigal sun

Now in the darkness of a covert sky,  
Beauty rids all falsity and bans  
The hasty opening of an unclean eye,  
I stumble forth into these brazen lands

Better not to see what mind will misconstrue  
Best trust the wind that brought me here,  
I lean upon the unfelt touch most true  
And sigh for words too difficult to hear

So stir me with the waywardness of stars  
Engage my sated soul with mystery's themes  
Entice my halting heart to wander far  
And find me once again within your dreams