

## Nine Charms for Journeys

*Morning. Crank up the sun.  
Today will be a miracle.  
Put out the sneezes.  
Don't forget to feed the shadows.*

### Charm for Sidetracks

Believe that you're beautiful.  
Is that too much to ask?  
Does it help if I say  
I believe that you're beautiful?  
I do. And I know  
(though that's a lesser persuasion)  
you are. Does it help  
I've said it? I can't help  
saying it. You are.  
I can't help saying it.  
You are. I say it.  
I can't help saying it.  
You are. You.  
Beautiful You.

Now then.

### Charm for By Ways

Well dammit. I don't say that  
to everyone, do I?

Well dammit, even if I do  
You're just as you as always.

Dammit. Why do you want  
To be more than that

Anyhow? Isn't one or once  
Enough for you and me?

Damn Damn Damn Damn Damn.  
Let's not talk about it.

#### Charm for Footpaths

I'm not asking you to say you love me.  
That would be nice too, but never mind.  
I'm asking that you see you love yourself.  
This way is wide enough and nearly long  
enough for both of us together or not  
or in the trees along the outer side  
or in the stream that cuts it quite in two  
or in each other's arms beneath the sun?  
How come that doesn't make you smile?

#### Charm for Short Cuts

I know I've seen you before.  
Yo look an awful lot like me.  
Such a thing to imitate.  
You ought to know I'm not afraid  
Before you try to act like that.

#### Charm for Drive Ways

I admit it. I'm lost.  
Do you admit that you are?

You are. And that is what  
makes you beautiful for me.

I'm really sorry I told you.  
Aren't you sorry you made me?

Aren't you? Good. A little more  
and I won't be either.

A driveway ought to have a house  
at either end or none at all

to be inside before bedtime  
brings us off to sleep out here.

### Charm for Rail Road Crossings

Love is part of the stars that hang  
out there between your flaming ears  
apart from all the other stars  
that chase it round our universe,  
a part of those stars anyway  
and that's what makes them move:

find a way to never find a way  
to make your ends out there in here  
meet, and you can run all ways  
that you can find on iron wheels  
or forced out air until at least

you run into the water's edge  
and sink with all your final sounds  
of gas and gasping coals and clothes  
removed to make the going rough.

### Charm for Clover Leafs

Go away. You bother me. Yes.  
I don't care if I don't bother you.  
No. Where is your head anyway?  
Tucked under which armpit?  
Such a tedious out and insinu-  
ating of self is boring afterwhile.

Do you really come because you want to  
talk about it? Alright. Just lie  
down there, close your eyes, open your mouth,  
let it come anyway it can.  
Such a tedious out and insinu-

ating of self is boring afterwhile.

Pull off a leaflet, feel the pain, a petal,  
feel the pain, to color, feel the pain,  
throw your head away, no brain no pain  
come away you bother me yes.  
Such a tedious out and out insin-  
uating of self is boring afterwhile

### Charm for Deer Trails

That the hunting may be good  
We paint ourselves  
And painted part from painted part  
We hide, we wait, we walk afraid  
To fire or somehow jump the game  
That the hunting may be good.  
That the hart may not appear,  
That the hunt may not take place  
We feed on other flesh than that  
We want, we say we cannot see  
The game, the trail, the gun, the mind  
That the hart may not appear  
That the hunt may not take place.  
That the charm may work  
We sound it in our jaws  
Behind our teeth and tongues  
We sing it to ourselves  
Out loud in the sagging tent  
Stamping out the rhythm change  
That tells the earth around  
Before we step out in  
That larger brighter place  
That the charm may work.

### Charm for Bridle Paths

May you ride on gentle slopes  
May you always leap fences  
May you always land soft  
May you see the sun's long trail

May you be the elephant  
For he like you has obstacles  
Obstacles to overcome  
May you overcome them all

May you be the rat he rides on  
When you can't be him alone  
May you know the earth and sky  
Together always one one one

May you touch the evening weather  
May you feel the wind and water  
May you laugh and love the winter  
May you always come home safe