

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.
You 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, the 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