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Tragic Loss

Rita Nauman
St. John Fisher College

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Cover Page Footnote

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RITA NAUMAN

TRAGIC LOSS

There're a lot of broken-hearted people
in our country tonight,
people who have loved and lost,
people who never had the chance.
I don't know any of them,
and I know all of them.
People just like you,
and me,
and my lover-
except not my lover-
but somebody's.

Somebody just like me
has lost her lover.
She must be
a mess.
I can almost see her,
puffy-eyed and slouched
over,
clinging to his jacket.
I wonder if she turned her pictures
down.
I wouldn't even be able to look.

I've thanked God every night
that I am not her
and my baby is not gone.
Someday, he will be gone.
But not yet.
Not today.



MICHELLE BURNS