

Hopes Too High
Jeff Landgraf

I want to tell you I love you
Truly I do
But I'm afraid I don't know anymore
What the word means.

Is love just a word you use
When you want to hurt yourself
More than you want to hurt
Anyone else?

I've feel like I spent my life
Swimming in surf
Curling so high above my head
I can't see shore.

I've lived for the rush
Of the swelling water
And for the exhilaration of being lifted
Wrapped in the swirling curl.

And even high in the mist already preparing for the inevitable
White water crash
And the gasping scramble for air
Under crashing water from so far above my head.

Only a fool could imagine
Skimming along the surface
Lifted high forever
But I am a fool.

A tired, tired fool swimming in water
Too deep
Swimming in hopes ---
Waves too high for my strength.