

## How He Says Good-bye / *Linda Mae*

First he waits until I've  
finished my raisin bran muffin  
and I'm ten minutes late for my  
dentist appointment. Then somewhere  
between pushing the plate of crumbs  
away and  
picking up my coffee cup there are  
tears running down his  
face he's telling me we're  
not happy and my coffee cup  
stops  
in mid-air and won't go up  
or down because it is now part of  
another world  
far away like my toothache he's  
saying we're not happy which is  
true but  
beside the point, the point being  
we belong together  
regardless of how  
miserable it makes us we're not happy his  
lips are forming the words and my eyes are  
scared dry as they move from his  
wet face down to the  
coffee cup the coffee cup hanging in the  
air suspended between us like the  
future  
and somewhere  
from the far-away world  
a waitress appears  
growing larger and larger  
and now she's looming above our table  
coffee pot in hand **SOMEBODY ANSWER HER**

She wants to know if everything is  
all right.