

Jennifer Kimball

"My New Vow"

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Walk back down the aisle -
No cameras, no flowers this time.
You will find your way back home, no one at your side.
Only absense will be your lover, regret your bride.

And this is my new vow
Not to have you or hold you
No more my arms enfold you
From this day on.

And with all that I am
And all that I have
I still honor you.

So go, take your records,
I want the plate from Mexico.
Go, and don't look back
To swimming in the azure blue.

We have lived and partly lived, not to let this happen
You took my hand, I gave it to you, I take it back.
Ten years could be a lifetime, now we count the ways
To leave the burning sameness of these days.

And just the other day
I saw it there
Gleaming in the attic twilight -

My wedding dress,
Still off-white, still my mother's,
As she must have seen it
When she left Dad.

So go, damn this whole thing,
I don't know how we got here.
Go, and don't look back, dear,
The way I always did.

And I still do.

