

## **Carrie Newcomer** **"Betty's Diner"**

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Miranda works the late night counter  
In a joint called Betty's Diner  
Chrome and checkered tablecloths  
One steamy windowpane  
She got the job that shaky fall  
And after hours she'll write till dawn  
With a nod and smile she serves them all

Ch: Here we are all in one place  
The wants and wounds of the human race  
Despair and hope sit face to face  
When you come in from the cold  
Let her fill your cup with something kind  
Eggs and toast like bread and wine  
She's heard it all so she don't mind

Arthur lets his earl grey steep  
Since April it's been hard to sleep  
You know they tried most everything  
Yet it took her in the end  
Kevin tests new saxophones  
But swears he's leaving quality control  
For the Chicago scene, or New Orleans  
Where they still play righteous horns

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Jack studies here after work  
To get past high school he's the first  
And his large hands seem just as comfortable  
With a hammer or a pen  
Emma leaned and kissed his cheek

And when she did his knees got weak  
Miranda smiles at Em and winks

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B: You never know who'll be your witness  
You never know who grants forgiveness  
Look to heaven or sit with us

Diedra bites her lip and frowns  
She works the Stop and Go downtown  
She's pretty good at the crossword page  
She paints her eyes blue black  
Tristan comes along sometimes  
Small for his age and barely five  
But she loves him like a mamma lion

Veda used to drink a lot  
Almost lost it all before she stopped  
Comes in at night with her friend Mike  
Who runs the crisis line  
Michael toured Saigon and back  
Hair the color of smoke and ash  
Heads are bowed and hands are clasped  
One more storm has passed

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