

# Ellis Paul, Love's Too Familiar A Word

I stepped into the room late last night  
Because late is the time I keep  
You were sleeping warm as coal  
In a pocket of comfort and white sheets

But you don't startle anymore when I step into the room  
Though the hour is later than midnight  
And neither window can place a moon.

"i missed you," you say  
And it sounds like a promise  
When whispered half asleep  
Your skin still damp with sweat  
From thoughts your dreams refused to keep

I follow my memory to a switch on a light  
"shut your eyes" my voice cut short  
When darkness turns bright

"do you love me?" you say  
But love is too familiar a word  
For in this bed 10,000 times a phrase already heard  
But, "yes, I love you" speaks my reply  
Though I know I failed myself and you for not  
Matching how I feel with words of higher wealth

I know it's lonely in the world tonight  
Because here is more than what's deserved  
And the imbalance can't be summed in black and white  
Cause "love's" too familiar a word.